

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

# Bulletin

Volume 46 Number 2

OCTOBER 2008 £1.20

Reaction to 1958 Regionals •  
Burns and Darwin stamps



Women of Distinction: Royal Mail honours the achievements of six outstanding women, in a new special issue this month.

## Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



**Cover** Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett with her husband Henry Fawcett, who despite his blindness was appointed Postmaster General in 1880. He introduced postal orders, parcel post and the sixpenny telegram, and campaigned for womens' rights. Painting by Ford Madox Brown, 1872. © the National Portrait Gallery, London.

**Availability** All items available from Royal Mail Talents House (address below). Selected items are available at Post Office branches and Post Office philatelic outlets at the main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, Lichfield, London (Eastcheap & Trafalgar Sq), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Princes Risborough, Southampton (High St and Hedge End), Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro and York.

**Royal Mail Talents House** 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30-17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: [www.royalmail.com/shop](http://www.royalmail.com/shop)

**29 September**

**Issue** 50th anniversary of Country (Regional) stamps miniature sheet, presentation pack, prestige book, press sheet, UK coin cover, stamp cards • Country collectors pack containing 2nd, 1st, 50p, and 81p stamps for each country (16 stamps)

**29 September**

**Issue** National (Machin) definitives stamp cards, 1p-£5 stamps plus NVI issues (24 cards) • Glorious UK generic sheet

**14 October**

**Issue** Women of Distinction stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards

**15 October**

**Withdrawal** Royal Diamond Wedding Anniversary stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards and press sheet

**28 October**

**Issue** Smilers for Kids sheets – Beatrix Potter, Flower Fairies, Noddy, and Mr Men

**4 November**

**Issue** Christmas stamps, miniature sheet, pack, stamp cards, stamp books (two versions 1st class, two versions 2nd class), generic sheet, Smilers sheets (four), re-introduction of Madonna and Child 1st & 2nd class stamps and 2006 Christmas airlifter

**5 November**

**Withdrawal** 2007 Christmas stamps (Angels), miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, generic sheet and stamp books

**6 November**

**Issue** Lest we Forget 3 x Poppy stamps (2006-08 designs) miniature sheet (No 3), pack, stamp cards (3 stamps, 3 miniature sheets), generic sheet, medal cover • Annual collections (Yearbook, Yearpack, Miniature Sheet and Presentation Pack Collections)

**11 November**

**Issue** Lest we Forget miniature sheet collection (2006-08 issues)

**14 November**

**Issue** Commemorative Sheet – Prince of Wales 60th birthday

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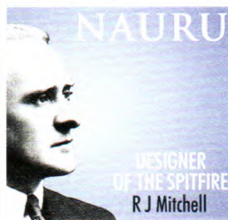


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**The British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.20 each from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group Ltd, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any articles should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail Letters, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Westerham Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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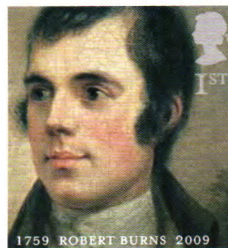


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## Stamp scene News and upcoming events: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted

**BPS enquiries** Write to: the Secretary, John Strachan, 12 Dunavon Park, Strathaven ML10 6LP; or email him at [johnen@stracml10.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:johnen@stracml10.freeseerve.co.uk)

**The British Postmark Society** is celebrating its Golden Anniversary this year, and anyone with an interest in this subject should be a member. The BPS exists to promote and to co-ordinate the study and collection of British postal markings, particularly of the 20th century and subsequently, and the means and mechanisms by which they are applied, and to publish and disseminate the results of their studies. Members' interests include hand and machine datestamps, slogan and special event postmarks, explanatory and instructional labels and markings, Post Office postage labels, Royal Mail SmartStamps and Online Postage indicia, and the printed postage impressions of Royal Mail and other licensed postal operators.

The BPS has some 240 members, the majority in the UK. They operate three circulating packets, hold two postal sales or auctions per year, and publish the quarterly *BPS Journal*, containing articles about British postal markings, current and past. Publications are available on loan from the BPS library, and the Society publishes reference on topics connected with postal markings. The Society's next meeting will be held at Philatex in London on 1 November 2008, and *Bulletin* readers are invited to attend. ●

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**Downstream Access** John Enfield, treasurer to the British Postmark Society, has responded to the Downstream Access feature in July's Stamp Scene. He has kindly clarified some confusion in what I recorded from the Hellmail website, and I am happy to set the record straight.

He writes: 'I was interested to read your article about UK Licensed Postal Operators and downstream access to the Royal Mail delivery network. However, I believe there has been some confusion between the licensing by the Postal Services Commission (PostComm) of postal operators, and the issue by Royal Mail of downstream access licences. The operators listed in the article and on the Hellmail website are those licensed by PostComm to provide postal services of various kinds; PostComm has allocated each such operator a "Code Identifier" (in the format CL101), which must be shown on mail items not delivered through the Royal Mail Delivery.

Not all PostComm-licensed operators have downstream access agreements with Royal Mail; conversely, some companies which are not licensed by PostComm do hold such agreements, granted by RM under Condition 9 of their PostComm licence. An example is the user of the c9 10018 indicium shown at top right of your illustration – Brightsource (formerly Target Direct Print), a direct marketing company. Other downstream access licences are held by financial institutions, which can then choose one or more carriers to distribute their mailings to Royal Mail sites – c9 10015, also shown in your article, is held by HBOS plc (Halifax/Bank of Scotland). The appearance of new licence numbers and logos is being recorded by the British Postmark Society in its quarterly journal, details of which can be found on the BPS website, [www.britishpostmarksociety.org.uk](http://www.britishpostmarksociety.org.uk)' ●

**Business customised stamp sheets** There seems to be no lessening of interest in BCS sheets, and regular issues continue to be sold, primarily by stamp dealers. To keep up to date with what has been issued visit [www.smilers-info.com](http://www.smilers-info.com) where an excellent site records each recent issue, and much more besides, of all Smilers-type products including those from the Isle of Man Post Office. At the time of writing this (early August), 2008 has seen issued or announced: six generic, 37 BCS, 2 commemorative, four customised, 41 themed, and 11 Isle of Man sheets.

The 50th anniversary of Country definitives is marked with a BCS sheet from Adrian Bradbury (shown at right). The border shows every pre-decimal regional stamp issued from 1958 through to 1968 with castles and regional emblems depicted on the 10 labels. The sheet is a limited edition of 1500 numbered copies, costing £30.

Rushstamps has issued a BCS product for the 120th anniversary of the New Forest Golf Club. The sheet is issued in an individually numbered, limited edition of 500, costing £29.95. Enquiries: Rushstamps (Retail) Ltd, PO Box One, Lyndhurst SO43 7PP, email [enquiries@rushstamps.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rushstamps.co.uk) or visit [www.rushstamps.co.uk](http://www.rushstamps.co.uk) •



**Bradbury BCS** Enquiries: write to A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Stoneygate, Leicester LE2 3RA, or order online at [www.bfcd.co.uk](http://www.bfcd.co.uk) quoting 27476 in the quick search box.

**Boots-type labels** Two further privately overprinted sheets have been issued by Rushstamps. The first is on a Boots branded label, to mark the Golden Anniversary of Rushstamps, which is appropriately applied in gold; while an unbranded sheet has been overprinted to publicise the London 2010 – Festival of Stamps, in red ink. Both are described as being limited editions, but available volumes have not been revealed. Each retailed at £3.

The Melbourne World Stamp Expo overprinted Boots branded sheet exists with the green shifted to the left, leaving the koala bear logo obliterating the stamp. It sold for £15 in Rushstamp's recent Cinderella listing •

**Society journals** The GB Philatelic Society's *GB Journal* for July/August includes features on the George v 2s6d Seahorses, and Queen Victoria 2d blue Plate 8. The accompanying Newsletter includes a report on a visit to the BPMA, pages from recent GBPS displays, and a profile of the early philatelist Charles Viner.

The *CSC Newsletter*, published by the Concorde Study Circle, always contains fascinating information about available items relating to this iconic aircraft. The Circle celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and there seems to be no let-up in the enthusiasm of its members and worldwide postal administrations, who continue promoting all things Concorde •

**GBPS enquiries** Peter Tanner, Highstandings, 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross SL9 7EN or see [www.gbeps.org.uk](http://www.gbeps.org.uk)

**CSC enquiries** c/o Brian L Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches SM5 4PQ. email [brianasquith@talktalk.net](mailto:brianasquith@talktalk.net)



The six topics most popular with ATA members: Animals, Famous Men, Sports, Medical, Plants and Religious.

**Enquiries** For information on collecting topical stamps or obtaining material mentioned here, write to ATA, PO Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004-0057, USA or email [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com)

**Top twenty themes** Animals on stamps is the most popular thematic (topical) collecting interest according to the American Topical Association (ATA). Although a formal survey of topical collectors' interests was not performed this year, members of the ATA replied with information to be placed in their 2008 membership directory. The top category this year was animals, which included that category by name along with several animal-specific categories. Most collected single type of animal was cats, which had exactly the same number of entries that it had in the last survey in 2003. In that survey animals came in second to plants on stamps. 5113 entries were tabulated to ascertain the top 20 most popular topics.

Falling off the top twenty this year were Architecture (20th), Performing Arts (19th), Cats (15th), Science (12th) and Scouts (10th).

The ATA offers handbooks on several of these topics, in addition to over 520 checklists on various topics. They also supply copies of all articles which have appeared in over 59 years of publication of their journal *Topical Time*. The articles are now sorted by topic so that requests for everything in print about these topics can be furnished at one time. Although the handbooks and articles are available to all, the checklists are a member-only benefit of the ATA. The July/August issue of *Topical Time* contains its usual mix of interesting articles on various themes and news of special interest to members. If underwater archeology, Edgar Allan Poe, spurious topicals, Malaria or the Maharajah of Jaipur interests you, then be sure to obtain this issue ●

**The top 20 in 2008/2003** (- denotes not in top 20 in 2003; = denotes joint places)

|      |                                   |       |                                         |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1/2  | Animals                           | 11/-  | Fairytales/Folktales/Disney/Mythology   |
| 2/-  | Famous Men (not combined in 2003) | 12/9  | Fish/Marine Life                        |
| 3=2  | Sports                            | 13/6  | Space/Space Covers                      |
| 3=5  | Medical Subjects/Nursing          | 14/7  | Insects including Butterflies and Moths |
| 5/1  | Flowers/Plants/Products           | 15/-  | Earth's Physical Features               |
| 6/8  | Religion/Religious                | 16/13 | Music/Musicians/Composers               |
| 7/4  | Birds                             | 17/19 | Art/Artists (Fine Arts)                 |
| 8=7  | Railroads/Railways                | 18/-  | Literature, Journalists, Authors, Poets |
| 8=11 | Americana                         | 19/-  | Militaria/Wars                          |
| 10/3 | Ships on Stamps                   | 20/18 | Aviation/Flight Related                 |



**SG Ireland catalogue** Price  
£12.95 from Stanley Gibbons  
Publications, 7 Parkside,  
Ringwood BH24 3SH.

**Ireland stamp catalogue** Stanley Gibbons has published the 4th (2008) edition of its Ireland Stamp Catalogue covering all issues from the Provisional Government overprints of 1922 to the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue commemorative stamp issued in March 2008. The number of basic stamps and miniature sheets listed is 1887, approximately 25 stamps per year. This total, of course, excludes numerous varieties, given subsidiary numbers, mostly definitive issues. The GB provisional issues are rich in overprint errors (inverted, missing accents), and the 1922 and 1940-68 Sword of Light, Map, Arms, and Celtic Cross issues have watermark and perforation varieties aplenty. The 1968-70 'Gerl' definitives (Dog, Stag, Ox, Eagle) are quite straightforward but the decimal currency equivalents (1971-75 watermarked and 1974-83 unwatermarked) are much less so, with more complicated listings. The same is true of the subsequent 1982-90 Architecture, 1990-97 Heritage & Treasures, 1997-2000 and 2002-04 Birds (two currencies), and since 2004 the Wild Flowers issues. The number of varieties has increased with issues in different booklet and self-adhesive formats. All interesting for the specialist, but somewhat daunting for the less committed collector. The designs of most Irish definitives have been pleasingly conservative, with commemoratives strongly related to the country's history and culture, thankfully ensuing the tendency to issue stamps aimed largely at thematic collectors and to cater for the growing popular interest in celebrity. Furthermore many special issues still comprise a single stamp, and are now all at basic inland and European letter rates. Stamp books began in 1931 (the first issue now priced from £3000!), with some 143 issued to March 2008, plus a further eight 'Premium Booklets', sold at over the face value of the stamps, listed separately. The listings conclude with Postage Due Stamps (1925-88), and useful notes about postage due labels used in Dublin (1993). The listings up to 1970 have been extracted from the SG 2008 Commonwealth & British Empire Stamp Catalogue; later issues have been revised and updated specially for this edition, with a number of price increases among the more recent issues. The catalogue is illustrated throughout in colour and includes helpful 'General Philatelic Information and Guidelines', and an International Philatelic Glossary (English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian) •

**Exhibitions** The Efiro 2008 international, staged in spacious halls near Bucharest, 20-27 June, marked the 150th anniversary of the first Romanian stamp. Organised mainly by the Romanian Post Office, it was a tribute to their careful planning and efficiency, but sadly there were few 'local' visitors, perhaps because of the country's economic situation. The UK provided the main attractions – material from the Royal Philatelic Collection, the Cape of Good Hope 'Woodblock' error of colour loaned by Joseph Hackmey, and his Classical Romania competitive exhibit, which won the prestigious Grand Prix National. Large Gold medals were awarded to UK collectors Christopher Harman, Alan Holyoake, Alan Huggins, and Brian Trotter. A further five UK collectors won Gold, eight Large Vermeil, five Vermeil, and two Large Silver •

**Italia 2009** UK Commissioner, Richard West, 39 Waverley Avenue, Sutton SM1 3JX.

**Stampa** Visit [www.stampa.ie](http://www.stampa.ie) for further information.

**NY 2016 World Stamp Show**  
Write to: 22 East 35th Street,  
New York, NY 10016 USA,  
see [www.ny2016.org](http://www.ny2016.org) or email  
[info@ny2016.org](mailto:info@ny2016.org)

For details of submitting a competitive entry for the Italia 2009 international exhibition (Rome, October 2009) send £1 in stamps and a stamped addressed envelope to the UK Commissioner at the address opposite •

Stampa 2008 – the 37th Irish National Stamp Exhibition – will be held 10-12 October in the Serpentine Hall of The Royal Dublin Society (RDS) premises located at Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland. This is a friendly and enjoyable show that is small, but well-worth attending, especially if Irish philately is your specialism •

The NY 2016 World Stamp Show will celebrate the 100th anniversary of America's first international stamp exhibition, held in 1913, also in New York City, and held every ten years or so ever since. Enquiries: write to World Stamp Show, at the address given opposite •

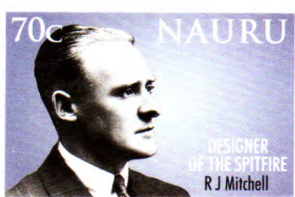
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**Post-Expo 2008** As this issue lands on the mat, this postal technology show is underway at the ExCeL exhibition centre in London's Docklands from 30 September - 2 October, and a report will appear in a future issue of the *Bulletin*. Royal Mail acted as host sponsor of this important industry event, which saw the biggest number of exhibitors ever •

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**Stamp Preview supplements** The kindness of our readers continues, as I have been made aware of, and supplied with, two further un-numbered Supplements: 7 October 1997 Golden Wedding issue (the third for this issue); and March 1998 The Definitive Portrait Prestige Stamp Book (Wildings). I was reminded by a reader of the predecessor to the *Preview*. It was called *In-Phil*, and ran from number 1 (June 1986 Medieval Life) to number 140 (August 1996 Women of Achievement). Like its successor, it too issued un-numbered supplements (called Stop Press), and at least two are known: September 1986 Parcel Post and September 1987 High Value Definitives. Note that issue 59 (November 1990) was issued twice. The first contained incorrect information, so was reprinted and corrected on green and yellow paper – I am unsure as to the incorrect version. Issue 96 (July 1993) exists on yellow or peach coloured paper with different issue codings, one of which was presumably incorrect.

Reports of any further *In-Phil* or *Stamp Preview* Supplements reported will be listed in a later Stamp Scene •



**Anniversaries** To celebrate the 90th anniversary of the RAF, recent stamps from Nauru and Solomon Islands feature some famous names in RAF history. The five 70c stamps from Nauru feature: Sir Sydney Camm, designer of the Hawker Hurricane; Air Vice Marshal 'Johnnie' Johnson, fighter ace; Sir Douglas Bader, flying legend; Sir Frank Whittle, inventor of the jet engine; and R J Mitchell, designer of the Spitfire. The Solomon Islands five \$4 stamps depict Sir Charles Portal, Bomber Command; Sir Hugh Trenchard, Father of the RAF; Sir William Sholto Douglas, Coastal Command; Sir Hugh Dowding, Fighter Command 1936-40; and Wing Commander Guy Gibson. Some of these greats have already featured on British stamps of 1986 and 1994.

Next year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, and no doubt there will be numerous TV programmes and newspaper articles about the great, if controversial, scientist. Royal Mail will issue stamps in February (previewed on page 50 of this *Bulletin*), and we can expect more from other countries. Cayman Islands have recently issued stamps for the Darwin Initiative, announced by the UK Government at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, to assist those countries which are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity. Full details of the Darwin Initiative, and its many projects, can be examined on the defra (Department of the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs) website. The Cayman Islands stamps feature: Land Crab (Wetland Swamp, shown at right); Needlecase (Freshwater Pools); a Little Cayman Green Anole (Shrubland, shown at right); Cayman Brac Ground Boa (Shrubland); and White-shouldered Bat (Primary Forest).

To mark the 25th anniversary of stamps for Alderney, Guernsey Post issued on 14 June six attractive pictorials featuring island views and a handsome £5 stamp showing the Alderney lion, printed in litho with silver foil embossing and spot varnish. Enquiries: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Envoy House, La Vrangue, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1AB, e-mail [philatelic@guernseypost.com](mailto:philatelic@guernseypost.com) •



**Australian Printers** A detailed tender process for the printing of Australian stamps, which began in 2007, was recently completed. As a result, Australia Post has appointed two new printers. Energi Print and McKellar Renown Press join Pemara as approved stamp printers for Australian and Australian territories stamps •

## Royal Mail news New issues and products

The list of 2009 issues in the September *Bulletin* wrongly gave the year as (20)08 in the dates; we apologize for any confusion caused.

**Special issues** This month's special issue, which celebrates the achievements of six famous Women of Distinction (14 October), was previewed here in July (page 340). The colours and plate numbers are: w1 grey w1 greenish grey w1 gold w1 black w1 phosphor. Perforation gauge is 14 × 14.5. The stamps are all-over phosphor with the year of issue 2008 ('hidden date') reversed out of the phosphor. Printing was in sheets of 50, two panes of 25, yielding vertical gutter pairs of stamps. Panes of 25 will be supplied to Post Office branches, full sheets, with gutters, to Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

In this *Bulletin* we preview the Robert Burns miniature sheet and Charles Darwin stamps, to be issued respectively on 22 January and 12 February •



**New philatelic handstamp** Shown here is a new Royal Mail philatelic handstamp featuring the clock tower of Big Ben, introduced on 24 August. It is one of 44 permanent handstamps in use at Royal Mail's five Special Handstamp Centres. Others for London depict Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, Nelson's Column, and St Paul's Cathedral. Full details are given in each issue of our *British Postmark Bulletin*. Collectors wanting impressions of the new Big Ben datestamp should send covers bearing at least 1st class postage to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB, requesting handstamp no 11067 •

**Commemorative sheet for Prince's birthday** To mark the 60th birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales, Royal Mail will issue a commemorative sheet on 14 November. This will bear 10 1st class Wales country stamps (self-adhesive) with labels depicting scenes from the Prince's life, including his christening, investiture, and military service. It will be supplied in a special folder illustrating further events in his life, including his education, painting, playing polo, as family man, involvement with the Prince's Trust, and his interest in architecture. The sheet was designed by Sedley Place, and printed in litho by Cartor. Price £14.95, available from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic and postshop outlets. This is the third commemorative sheet, following issues for the Territorial Army (April), and London 1908 Olympic Games Centenary (July) •

**Year Collections** The 2008 Yearbook and Yearpack, containing all of the year's special stamps, will go on sale on 6 November and will remain available until the end of 2010. Both contain all the special stamps of 2008 and the Lest We Forget miniature sheet. The standard version of the Yearbook costs £58, or £95 for the de-luxe, leather-bound version.

The colourful Yearpack, price £52, includes concise background information on each of the special issues, with technical details of the stamps and illustrations of the alternative 'First Day' postmarks for each issue.

2008 Miniature Sheet Year Pack and Presentation Pack Collections will also be available from 6 November, priced £29.99 and £59 respectively •



**Smilers for Kids** A new product aimed primarily at children under 12 goes on sale on 28 October. Smilers for Kids will form part of an occasional series of products which will consist of sheets of 10 stamps with corresponding labels, sold in a pack with other material designed to appeal to younger folk – the stamp collectors and philatelists of the future. The labels adjoining the stamps and the sheet background will show popular children's characters: Beatrix Potter, Flower Fairies, Mr Men/Little Miss, and Noddy.

The Beatrix Potter sheet comprises 10 'New Baby' stamps with two images of Peter Rabbit on the adjoining labels. The sheet will be sold in a pack which includes five baby announcement cards with a place to position a photo. The card will be self-seal, so there is no need for an envelope. The stamps and labels will be particularly appropriate for use on Christening cards and invitations.

The Flower Fairies pack will include 10 'Flower' stamps with the Flower Fairy 'Almond Blossom' on the attached labels. An image of Almond Blossom is included in the pack – this is designed to be cut out and can be placed in the garden, or used to decorate a bedroom. The Flower Fairies stories are particularly popular with 7-11 year old girls. The Mr Men and Noddy sheets have the 'Balloons' stamp; they will be shown next month.

The packs will be available by mail order from Royal Mail Tallents House, and can be ordered from the Royal Mail website ([www.royalmail.com/shop](http://www.royalmail.com/shop)), price £7.95. The Smilers for Kids sheets are printed in litho by Cartor.



**Smilers for Kids** The packs will be available from selected Post Office post shops and by mail order from Royal Mail Tallents House, priced £7.95. The sheets are printed in litho by Cartor.

Collectors pack containing one of each of the current country stamps.



Coin cover for anniversaries of country (regional) stamps and the introduction of the £1 coin.



**New definitive and country stamp products** Four new products are now on sale. A new collectors pack contains one of each of the current 2nd class, 1st class, 50p, and 81p stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland (16 stamps in all), price £8.30. A set of Machin definitive stamp cards reproduces the 17 current valued stamps from 1p to £5, plus seven NVI stamps – 24 cards in total, price £9.60. All these stamps were shown in the April *Bulletin*, page 233.

A new ‘Glorious United Kingdom’ generic sheet contains five of each of the 1st class self-adhesive stamps for Wales, Northern Ireland, England, and Scotland plus appropriate scenes on the adjoining labels, all set against the background of the Union Flag (‘Union Jack’). This attractive sheet (see August *Bulletin*, page 365), designed by Neon design agency of London, was printed in litho by Cartor. Price £7.75.

A UK coin cover, shown above, commemorates both the 50th and 25th anniversaries of country (regional) stamps, and the introduction of the £1 coin. It bears the country stamps miniature sheet cancelled by a special London sw1 postmark, the 2008 £1 coin, and illustrations of the designs of £1 coins depicting the thistle (Scotland), leek (Wales), flax (Northern Ireland), and oak tree (England). The insert provides a history of the stamps and coins. Price £13.95 ●



This year's Christmas Generic sheet. The adjoining labels contain pantomime cries such as 'He's behind you!', 'Oh no it isn't!' and 'Hiss!'.

**Christmas Generic and Smilers sheets** This year's colourful Christmas Generic sheet contains eight each of the 1st and 2nd class, and four 81p Christmas stamps with adjoining labels showing a pantomime townscape, pantomime characters such as Captain Hook, and pantomime cries including 'He's behind you!', 'Oh no it isn't!' and 'Hiss!'. Price £8.85. There will be four Smilers sheets for customers wishing to have their own image on the attached labels. These sheets contain 20 1st class or 2nd class, and 10 1st class or 81p stamps. The sheet backgrounds include backdrops to pantomime productions, theatre curtains and popular pantomime audience responses. The background colours to these sheets are similar to the predominant colour of the relevant stamp – blue 2nd class, gold 1st class, and purple 81p. The Generic and Smilers sheets were all designed by Bristol-based so design group, and printed in litho by Cartor (the stamps in standard sheets are gravure by De La Rue). Smilers sheet prices are: 1st class £13.50 (£12.50 each for two or more sheets); 2nd class £8.50 (£8 each two or more), and 81p £13.50 (£12.50 two or more). The 1st class stamp in sheets of ten cost £7.50 each.

For those interested in 'hidden dates' on our special issues, the year '2008' is reversed out of the phosphor bands on all this year's Christmas stamps •

**New collectables** The first in a Silver Stamp Collection, reproducing the designs of the Cathedrals stamps, is now in preparation; details will be announced shortly •

**Coming off sale** The stamps marking the 60th wedding anniversary of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will come off sale on 15 October. The 2007 Christmas Angels stamps will be withdrawn on 5 November, but the Madonna & Child stamps remain on sale •

The Lest We Forget Miniature Sheet Collection, to be issued 11 November, will be available from Tallents House, priced £18.95.

**Lest We Forget Collection** An attractive folder containing the three Poppy stamps (printed se-tenant) and the 2006, 2007, and 2008 Lest We Forget miniature sheets will be available from Armistice Day, 11 November. The Poppy stamps will be affixed to the folder and cancelled by a special hand-stamp; the miniature sheets will be mint, displayed in transparent mounts. The folder includes a 'Lest We Forget' postcard in the style of embroidered First World War postcards. Three of these delightful cards are shown, also a photograph of ladies embroidering cards. There are well-illustrated sections on the postal service 'at the front' and at home, where women were brought in to take over the jobs of men. The Central Telegraph Office in London was bombed but the skill and bravery of the staff meant little disruption to this vital service. Letters to Royal and Merchant Navy ships were first addressed to the ship's name, but later sent care of 'GPO London', where up-to-date top secret information from the Admiralty ensured mail was forwarded to the waiting ships. The handsomely produced folder is enclosed in a poppy-coloured envelope within a protective sleeve •



Clive Abbott 1933-2008

**Clive Abbott: a personal tribute** It was with great sadness that I heard about the death, on 8 June, of one of the UK's finest graphic and stamp designers, Clive Abbott. I knew he had been ill for some time with an inoperable brain tumour, so his passing was no surprise – and yet it still came as a shock.

I had known Clive for nearly 40 years, having been a great enthusiast of his work, especially the superb designs he produced for Royal Mail (then the General Post Office) in the 1960s and early 70s. These were clear, clean and superlatively simple – designs belonging in the 'premier league' of philatelic art. So I felt tremendously privileged to be invited by the Crown Agents to work alongside Clive in two most exciting projects: to prepare special Omnibus issues for the 25th Anniversary of the Coronation of HM The Queen and, later on, the 21st Birthday of Diana, Princess of Wales.

For the 'Coronation' issue, my basic design for a se-tenant set of three stamps was used. These showed a new portrait of The Queen, flanked by a Royal Heraldic Beast on one side and a local heraldic creature on the other. Clive and I worked on roughly half the number of issues, interpreting the designs in our own way, and Clive also prepared a central strip showing the Coronation procession between the two sets of se-tenants.

However, for the Princess Diana issue, the roles were reversed: Clive's basic design was accepted. We each worked on about four or five different countries, each showing photographs of the Princess (including scenes from the Royal Wedding), as well as the participating country's coat of arms. I was also asked to prepare line drawings in black of different Welsh castles for the central panel between the rows of five stamps; these drawings were flanked by the Prince of Wales' Feathers on the left side, and by the Welsh Dragon on the right, in a pale warm grey. I also designed the First Day Cover, whereas the 'Coronation' covers were basically Clive's. In working on both of these projects, not one single word of disagreement passed between us, but just positive and constructive criticism or suggestions. It usually ended up with my asking Clive for advice!

Besides Clive's superlative professionalism, I also admired him for his character: generous, kind and very funny too. He was a brilliant cartoonist, and I have several delightful Christmas cards he sent over the years, depicting his cat (both alive and in the Happy Hunting Ground).

Sometimes when I would visit the Crown Agents in Sutton, and met Clive there, we would invariably repair to the local hostelry for a beer and a sandwich – and he always stood me lunch. My great regret is that I was unable to return his hospitality in Adnams country!

It was a very great privilege to know Clive and to work with him, and the philatelic world will be the poorer for his loss. He will be greatly missed by all ● *Jennifer Toombs*

**Submitting covers** Readers are reminded that when submitting covers for special handstamps to Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres, the outer cover must bear full postage. Mail posted without payment, marked 'Free-post' (not applicable to SHCs) or sent in the Royal Mail plastic 'see-through' envelopes used to return covers to collectors may be subject to delay and refusal. Please also remember that covers/cards submitted for handstamping must bear a return address; Royal Mail reserves the right to return un-addressed items uncanceled. The address can be typed, handwritten (ink or pencil), rubber-stamped, or on an address label. However 'Post It' notes should not be used for this purpose as they can easily become detached ●

**British Postal Museum & Archive** A BPMA exhibition, entitled 'Last Post: Remembering the First World War', will be held at the Churchill Museum & Cabinet War Rooms, London SW1 from 6 November 2008 to 14 February 2009. It will explore the tremendous contribution the Post Office made to the war effort, sending thousands of workers to fight on the front line and providing vital means of communication to keep soldiers in touch with home. The censorship operation monitoring correspondence helped catch spies and control the dissemination of military information. The exhibition will display important objects from the BPMA and Imperial War Museum collections, including the VC awarded to Post Office Rifleman Sergeant Alfred Knight for his bravery at the battle of Wurst Farm Ridge

The BPMA is open Monday-Wednesday and Friday 10.00-17.00, and on Thursdays 10.00-19.00. It will also be open on Saturday 11 October and 6 December, 10.00-17.00. See our Events listing for lectures and film shows ●

**BPMA** For more information telephone the BPMA on 020 7239 2570, see website [www.postalheritage.org.uk](http://www.postalheritage.org.uk) or write to Freeing House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

## Prize draw Win a Christmas collection

THIS MONTH's prize is a Christmas collection: blocks of four of the 2008 Christmas stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, first day cover, stamp books and generic sheet. Four runners up will receive the presentation pack. To enter, write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Christmas Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ to arrive by 31 October. Good luck ●

## Robert Burns A tribute to a national poet

### ROBERT BURNS 250TH ANNIVERSARY



The miniature sheet is shown here smaller than actual size (146 x 74mm).

A MINATURE SHEET commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, Scotland's national bard, will go on sale at Post Office branches, philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 22 January, three days before the anniversary of Burns's birth. The sheet contains two new special 1st class stamps and the four current Scottish country stamps (2nd, 1st, 50p and 81p). The new stamps feature Burns ploughing, with his famous line 'A Man's a Man for a' That' (in a similar design to 1996 stamps), and a portrait of Burns by Alexander Nasmyth. The sheet background features Burns's birthplace at Alloway, near Ayr. The sheet was designed by Tayburn design group of Edinburgh and printed in gravure by Enschedé.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Orders for serviced first day covers with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Alloway must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for the Tallents House postmark), or to their nearest Special Handstamp Centre (for the Alloway postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0903' (Tallents House) or 'FD0904' (Alloway). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Alloway postmark.

Details of sponsored special handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe, £24.95 elsewhere). If you would like to receive a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

#### Robert Burns miniature sheet prices

|                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Miniature sheet                   | £ 2.66 |
| Presentation pack                 | £ 3.20 |
| First day cover envelope          | £ 0.30 |
| Serviced FDC (UK customers)       | £ 3.60 |
| Serviced FDC (overseas customers) | £ 3.07 |
| Stamp cards set of three          | £ 1.20 |
| Press sheet                       | £75.41 |
| Coin cover                        | TBA    |

THEN LET US PRAY, THAT COME IT MAY,  
 AS COME IT WILL FOR A' THAT,  
 THAT SENSE AN' WORTH,  
 O'ER A' THE EARTH,  
 MAY BEAR THE GREE  
**AN' A' THAT.**  
 FOR A' THAT, AN' A' THAT,  
 IT'S COMIN YET FOR A' THAT,  
 THAT MAN TO MAN,  
 THE WARLD O'ER,  
 SHALL BROTHERS BE  
**FOR A' THAT.**

ROBERT BURNS



**Burns on stamps** This is Royal Mail's third issue honouring Robert Burns, with two stamps in January 1966 and four in 1996 on the 200th anniversary of his death. In addition he has featured on two Scottish airmailers (aerogrammes) issued in 1975 and 1989, and on a number of special hand-stamps and slogan postmarks. Burns has also been depicted on stamps from Rumania and Russia and on many privately produced labels since the 1960s. To accompany the 1966 stamps, the *Bulletin* issued a commemorative booklet, and a new version of this was published when the 1996 stamps were released (Bulletin Publication no 3). The 1996 publication, written by the late Dr James Mackay, a noted biographer of Burns, featured relevant philatelic material as well as details of Burns's life •

The presentation pack, above left, features Robert Burns's poem *A Man's a Man for a' That*, written in 1795. Above: the first day cover.

## Charles Darwin A special issue celebrating



THE THIRD SPECIAL ISSUE of 2009 pays homage to the naturalist Charles Darwin, who was born in Shrewsbury 200 years ago on 12 February 1809.

Six stamps, a miniature sheet and a prestige stamp book go on sale at Post Office branches, and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 12 February, the actual anniversary of Darwin's birth. The stamps feature Darwin and different aspects of his studies: 1st class, portrait of Darwin (from Natural History Museum, photographer unknown); 48p, marine iguana (zoology); 50p, finches (ornithology); 56p, atoll (geology); 72p, bee orchid (botany); and 81p, orang-utan (anthropology). These self-adhesive stamps will be of particular appeal to collectors who like unusual formats in that they are perforated to resemble pieces of a jigsaw which can be fitted together.

The miniature sheet contains four additional stamps: 2 × 1st class showing a Flightless Cormorant and Giant Tortoise and Cactus Finch, and 2 × 81p, a Marine Iguana and Floreana Mockingbird – all set against the background of a map of the Galapagos Islands, surveyed by Captain Robert Fitzroy and the officers of HMS *Beagle* in 1835. The miniature sheet measures 115 × 89mm.

The stamps were designed by Hat-trick design group of London, and the miniature sheet by Howard Brown, who needs little introduction to collectors of modern British stamps having several issues since 1991 to his credit. Both sheet stamps (gravure) and the miniature sheet (litho) were printed by De La Rue.

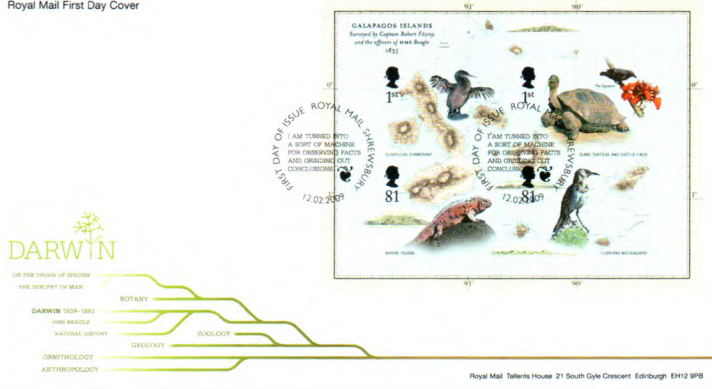
**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** The FDC, designed by Hat-trick, features a graphic design representing the different strands of Darwin's scientific endeavours. Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the date of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark) or to the nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Shrewsbury postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0905' or 'FD0906'.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. For a free sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

# the 200th birthday of a great British scientist



Royal Mail First Day Cover



**Prestige stamp book** A new book, titled *Charles Darwin 1809-1882*, contains four panes of stamps: Darwin 48p, 50p, and 56p stamps; Darwin miniature sheet; Darwin 1st, 72p, and 81p stamps; Top row 5p, 10p, and 48p definitives, middle row two 1st class definitives separated by label showing Darwin, bottom row 48p, 10p, and 5p definitives.

The Darwin stamps in the book are gummed, as opposed to the sheet stamps which are self-adhesive. The panes containing Darwin stamps are printed in gravure, the miniature sheet and definitive panes in litho. First day covers will be serviced bearing the label pane.

The portrait of Darwin featured on the label pane is from the Natural History Museum, London. It was reproduced from a photograph, taken in 1874, which was bound together with Darwin's correspondence in the Museum's General Library. Colour was added to the photo electronically. The book was designed by Howard Brown and printed by De La Rue.

Illustrations of the book will be included in a future issue of the *Bulletin* •

## Charles Darwin prices

|                                                   |        |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Set of stamps                                     | £ 3.43 |
| Miniature sheet                                   | £ 2.34 |
| Miniature sheet press sheet                       | £37.90 |
| Presentation pack (stamps and miniature sheet)    | £ 6.30 |
| Prestige stamp book (PSB)                         | £ 7.75 |
| First day cover (FDC) envelope                    | £ 0.30 |
| Serviced FDC stamps (UK customers)                | £ 4.51 |
| Serviced FDC stamps (overseas customers)          | £ 3.84 |
| Serviced FDC miniature sheet (UK customers)       | £ 3.23 |
| Serviced FDC miniature sheet (overseas customers) | £ 2.75 |
| Serviced FDC PSB pane (UK customers)              | £ 2.80 |
| Serviced FDC PSB pane (overseas customers)        | £ 2.39 |
| Stamp cards set (11 cards)                        | £ 4.40 |
| Theory of Evolution coin cover                    | £19.95 |

# Mainly Machins A review by Douglas Myall



**Above:** Flight Lieutenant Julie Allen Gibson was the first female regular officer to graduate as an RAF pilot in 1991.

**Left:** A female technician conducting a detailed inspection of an engine using a boroscope.

Apart from the nursing service, which became Princess Mary's RAFNS, all servicemen were used down in 1920. In 1939 when the Second World War began, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) was formed.

Women were trained in a large range of trades than in the previous war. WAAFs operated ground RADAR, and wireless equipment; they plotted the course of air battles in Operation and Father Knows Best, done all types of jobs, served in the heavy work of Barrage Balloon units and as meteorologists, safety-equipment technicians, dental orderlies and many other roles. Their contribution was recognised in 1948 by the revival of the title Women's Royal Air Force, lasting until women were fully integrated into the RAF in 1994.

From 1991 women have been awarded the coveted RAF Flying Badge – the Pilot's Wings – and since that time a female recruit has graduated in all classes of aircraft currently in service.



The RAF Uniforms definitives pane includes four 1st class and four 2nd class NVIs alternating around a central label.

**RAF Uniforms** The second of three prestige books featuring military uniforms was issued on 18 September. Called *Pilot to Plane*, the text was written by Andrew Cormack of the RAF Museum. It tells of the origins of the Royal Air Force and how its uniforms evolved from the special clothing needed by pilots of all kinds of aircraft. The cover is a dull grey-blue similar to the colour used for RAF uniforms and flags. Known as 'air force blue', this is popularly believed to represent the sky, but the Royal Flying Corps, being then part of the army, was intended to wear khaki. Instead, according to contemporary rumour, a large order of light blue cloth intended for the uniforms of the Tsar of Russia's bodyguard, was not needed because of the 1917 revolution and was snapped up for the new service at a good price.

Like their sheet equivalents, the six special issue stamps were printed by Walsall in lithography, as were the se-tenant pane of definitives. The usual lithographic screen resolution was employed, so the James Bond prestige book remains the only source to date of the fine-screen lithographed 1st class NVI. Nevertheless, the 1st class stamps are Walsall's first lithographed printing of the gold NVI. The 2nd class blue stamp has been printed by this firm by this method many times; on FCP gummed PVA in 1989, on FCP gummed Dextrin in 1992, on OFNP gummed PVA with yellow fluor phosphor in 1993, with blue fluor phosphor in 1995 and the following year with the blue phosphor having a long-wave afterglow as well as a short-wave one. The new stamp is the same as the 1996 one, but with the central band 4.5mm wide instead of 4mm and in that respect only, is new. The label is the same as that in the Speed prestige book issued on 13 October 1998 except that that was printed in gravure. An official first day cover was provided for this pane. It also yields four horizontal se-tenant pairs and four vertical ones; you will need four books to get all eight.

**Wilding 'Regionals'** The present reign has seen many golden anniversaries, which would make an interesting collection in themselves. The latest is the 50th anniversary of the first country definitives, then called regionals. This is being celebrated in many ways. A fascinating exhibition by Postal Heritage called 'Lions, Leopards, Unicorns and Dragons' can also be viewed online at: [http://postalheritage.org.uk/exhibitions/lions/index\\_html](http://postalheritage.org.uk/exhibitions/lions/index_html).



A superb booklet, no 14 in Royal Mail's series, written by *Bulletin* columnist Martin Robinson, is an illustrated account of the origins, conception, designs and background of the Wilding designs, in use for 13 years before decimalisation saw them replaced, first by Machins and then by pictorials. The nine designs used in 1958 for 3d, 6d and 1s3d stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have been adapted as 1st class xv1s and issued on 29 September as a miniature sheet and as panes in a prestige book.

**The Wilding miniature sheet** This was printed in gravure by De La Rue on coated unwatermarked paper. The nine stamps are in their original colours of violet, purple and green although they are different shades because the paper was printed with an all-over yellowish background. A label in the centre of the first row makes up two rows of five se-tenant. The sequence is three 3d designs at the left corner, three 1s3d designs at the right corner and three 6d designs in the middle of the bottom row. The phosphor bands on the stamps are 13mm wide and are vignetted, a feature never seen on the pre-decimal stamps. The sheet was also issued in a presentation pack.

**The Wilding PSB** Titled *The Regional Definitives, Heraldry and Symbol*, the text was written by Douglas Muir of the BPMA, who also wrote the text in the miniature sheet pack. The cover has a wonderful composite design of the national emblems of the three countries plus those of the three islands of Guernsey, Jersey and Man for which 3d stamps were also issued in 1958. These do not feature in the anniversary issue because their postal administrations are now independent and new stamps issued by Royal Mail would not be valid there. Another composite design featuring only the floral emblems of the three UK countries appears on the official first day cover.

All four panes feature the Wilding xv1s and were printed in lithography by De La Rue on a coated unwatermarked paper. Because there is no overall yellow tint they are distinctly different shades from those on the miniature sheet. A pane of nine contains all of the new designs se-tenant in three rows of three; there is no label. Each column contains the stamps of one country; from left to right, these are Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. Each of the three panes of six features the stamps of one country. ►

Two of the stamp panes from the Regional Definitives PSB, and the anniversary miniature sheet.

Below: emblems for the three countries and three islands in the 1958 issue, from the PSB cover (top), and the emblems of the three countries only, as featured on the FDC.



These contain the three Wilding designs se-tenant with the relevant country 1st class pictorial NV1 on current sale but printed in lithography. These country pictorial stamps were previously printed in lithography by Enschedé and issued in the Army uniforms prestige book on 20 September 2007. This is the first time they have been printed by this method by De La Rue except for the Northern Ireland stamp which was issued in sheets on 14 October 2003. The stamps from the two printers differ by the width of the phosphor bands: Enschedé 9mm, De La Rue 13mm. As is normal with lithographed stamps, the phosphor bands are not vignettéed.

**Wilding FDCs** An official cover, illustrated in the July *Bulletin*, was provided for the pane of nine. It could also be used for the miniature sheet. Some collectors may wish to have both, since the stamps were printed by different processes and have other differences mentioned above. If you do not collect the stamps of more than one country, the panes of six provide a convenient means of having them on cover together with the appropriate new pictorial definitive.

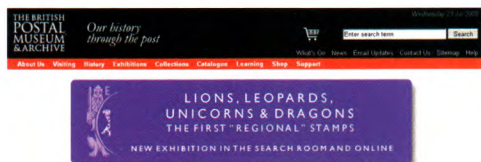
**Wilding se-tenant pairs** The miniature sheet and the prestige book panes provide an extraordinary number of these. The sheet yields 13 pairs: eight horizontal and five vertical. The pane of nine yields 12: six horizontal and six vertical. Each of the panes of six yields seven pairs: three horizontal and four vertical. None of the vertical pairs is common to both sources but three horizontal pairs are. These are the three Wales/Scotland pairs, but, of course, specialists will treat them as different since they were printed by different methods. On this basis there is a grand total of 46 pairs. To obtain them all you will need three miniature sheets and four prestige books.

**Stamp cards and packs** The nine Wilding stamps and the miniature sheet are reproduced on a set of 10 stamp cards, issued on 29 September. Also issued on that date is a set of 24 cards, picturing the whole of the current Machin definitive range. Only two of these, the 1st gold and the 40 grams Europe airmail, have previously been issued as cards. They had an incorrect perforation count, so it will be interesting to see if this has been corrected in the new set.

As well as the presentation pack containing the Wilding miniature sheet, another new pack was issued on 29 September. It contains the four current pictorial definitives for each of the four countries – 1st, 2nd, 50p and 81p. I had not seen this pack at the time of writing, so I do not know if the value stamps differ from those in pack 79 that was issued on 1 April 2008. If they do, I will mention it next time ●



# Philately online Ron Negus revisits the BPMA's catalogue



British postal communications helped to shape the modern world. The British Postal Museum & Archive illuminates the lives of people in the Post Office, the messages carried by Royal Mail, the history we all share. Our history through the post.

Records in The Royal Mail Archive are designated as being of outstanding importance. Find out more about designations.

Site highlights

Hear this page read aloud

Download this page audio

News

12 Jul 2008

Due to extensive abuse on 12 July 2008, the BPMA site has been temporarily disabled.



What's on

Events at a glance 2008

Everything from walking tours, family events and lectures to classic film screenings, exhibitions and Christmas sessions.

**www.postalheritage.org.uk** The British Postal Museum and Archive is located in Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Full details of travelling arrangements and a map are given on the website, and these particulars are also given there in French, German, Spanish and Welsh.

My last review of the Royal Mail Heritage website was made three years ago, in October 2005. This home of the British Postal Museum & Archive (or BPMA) has retained its overall layout since then but the content has expanded considerably. As I mentioned in my previous review, the easiest way to navigate the site is to click on the heading 'Sitemap' which appears in the upper right hand section of the main title bar on the Home page. This reveals a contents list grouped by main and sub-sections which summarises all the pages to be found on the site. Selecting any of the headings here takes a user directly to the appropriate detail page.

The archives cover the period from 1636 to the present day, and its material mostly originates from within the Post Office, the generic title that covers the Royal Mail and all its predecessor bodies. There is an active acquisitions policy in place, and frequent additions are made to the various collections.

One of the most significant parts of this site is the online access that is provided for the main catalogue to the holdings. This index contains more than 50,000 individual records, many of which have a direct relevance to postal arrangements that are of great interest to philatelists. All of the items in the Royal Mail Archive are classed as public record material, and are subject to a thirty-year closure period unless requested under the authority granted by the Freedom of Information Act.

Some records in the catalogue relate to items that are held at other institutions. Their location is stated in the repository field on the relevant

records, and usually arrangements for access to them can be made. More general information about the scope of the holdings is provided on the site under the main heading of 'Collections'.

The classification system used to arrange the catalogue records follows that which was set up at the beginning of the 20th century. Within this system, series of records were given a title and a unique POST class number. For example, POST 10-28 covers all Inland Mails and Services, whilst POST 43-51 are the classes for Overseas Mail. A keyword search facility is available to allow easier use of the online catalogue.

Access to any actual material which has been identified as held at the BPMA via the catalogue records can only be achieved by a personal visit. Depending upon material involved, some access is restricted, and full details on accessibility are given on the catalogue page under the heading of 'Frequently Asked Questions'. Travelling instructions on how to reach the BPMA are also given on the site.

A notable exception to the need for a trip to London is access to the Reginald M Phillips collection of the Victorian stamps of Great Britain. This whole 45-volume collection has been digitised, with the financial help of the Heritage Lottery Fund, and can be examined on the BPMA's site. Entering 'R M Phillips' into the search box at the top of the Home page will direct you to the opening page for starting to view this excellent collection (see also *Bulletin*, January 2007, where I reviewed this site).

The BPMA site is certainly worth a visit, and contains far more information than can be adequately described in a single review such as this. An e-mail Newsletter, which can be ordered via the website, draws collectors' attention to both new and updated features as they occur ●

## Reaction to Regionals Richard West looks at differing opinions on the 1958 issues

IN THE MID 1950s there was some debate as to whether Britain should have pictorial definitives, the argument in favour led by Lord Elibank. However, the Post Office was being cautious, a fact that upset the British Travel and Holiday Association, as it expressed in a letter to the Postmaster-General (PMG) in May 1956. As there had not been a special issue since that to celebrate the Coronation in 1953, one can imagine the reaction to a clearly 'planted' question in the House and the response by the PMG on 18 July 1956 that there would be new stamps for Guernsey, Isle of Man and Jersey (2½d for each), and for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (2½d, 4d and 1s3d for each). The announcement added that The Queen's portrait would be the dominant feature, with appropriate symbols or designs in the borders. Would the stamps in some way meet the wish for pictorial designs?

What is certain is that the news was greeted with a great deal of comment, even though no designs had at that stage been conceived, the idea being to appoint local committees to advise on such matters. *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* for September 1956 declared that these 'Regional Stamps' were 'An astounding innovation', but wondered why such stamps were needed, adding that 'the great majority of collectors who have written or contacted us since the announcement are against such issues'. It expressed concerns that other stamp-issuing authorities might feel a similar need to split themselves into smaller units in order to justify separate stamp issues. Would the stamps be seen as an attempt to balance the Post Office budget, or an indication that the United Kingdom was splitting apart? As a strong advocate, Gibbons reiterated its view that 'one ordinary series of attractive pictorial stamps for all values...is much to be preferred'.

The magazine returned to the argument two months later, suggesting that the Regionals be withdrawn after a year, to be replaced by 'pictorials depicting places in all parts of the United Kingdom'. It felt concern that there would be no distinctive stamps for England, adding that news of the stamps had generally not been met favourably, although quoting the *Yorkshire Post* that they could 'introduce a welcome variety in British stamps'.

The omission of England was a point raised by *Stamp Collecting*, which, published weekly, was able to bring the news to its readers in its issue dated 27 July 1956, stating that it felt sorry for 'The patient, uncomplaining people of England, whose interests seem to have been forgotten in this flash of magnanimity towards nationalistic tendencies in the far-flung parts of the Kingdom.' The magazine quoted Lord Elibank: 'The Postmaster-General's proposals completely fail to meet our case.' However, Ken Chapman, the Editor, did agree that 'they will add a little variety to British collecting', adding that he hoped 'the stamps are well designed and each bears an inscription to show from which part of Britain it comes' (citing the fact that the two stamps marking the anniversary of the Liberation of the Channel Islands had left many baffled).

# GIBBONS STAMPMONTHLY

EDITED BY  
C. P. RANG

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C. P. RANG

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C. P. RANG

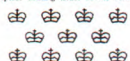
## REGIONALS RAMPANT

N the presence of the P.M.G., Mr. Marples, who was settling off in Rome in his holiday caravan, a Press conference at G.P.O. Headquarters to launch the new Regional stamps was briskly conducted by Mr. Thompson, with the assistance of a P.M.G., with a nucleus of well-trained Post Office officials at his elbow. Mr. Thompson stated the case for regional stamps in a manner which was both logical and disarming to the critics, who indeed barely had time to digest the literature, photographs, posters and actual specimens of what one newspaper has described as a "positive torrent" of new stamps. His remarks were anticipated the most likely questions.

The aims, he said, was to please those who liked stamps and those in the regions with which the stamps were associated. The Queen had approved the stamps which had been approved the stamps which retained the predominance of Her Majesty's portrait, and depicted various national associations with the various countries and islands, and the P.M.G. was assisted by Stamp Advisory Committees in each region. The Council of Industries Development was involved in this exercise "which however, had been a big and difficult job for the printers; the cost so far was estimated at £200,000. "One of the nearest is another's poison," said Mr. Thompson, but he thought the new stamps were a valuable and attractive addition to the collection. The quality was desirable in stamp design, and it was a good thing for national characteristics to be known and

For Wales and Monmouthshire

Questioned about English stamps, he said England was "the heart of it all" and he thought the existing basic designs were sufficiently representative. A plea for Yorkshire stamps amused Mr. Thompson; he comes from Lancashire. The regional stamps, he said, would be permanent and would replace existing issues in the various



The new watermark for all British stamps.

regions. They were valid for postage in all parts of the United Kingdom, and the denominations represented the bulk of stamp sales ; other values were not contemplated, neither at present were booklets, coil stamps or stationery.

The new stamps are printed on paper

[webb-site-a.mps.watermark.com/paper](http://webb-site-a.mps.watermark.com/paper)

of a multiple pattern of St. Edward's Crowns, which is to be introduced for all stamps as existing paper stocks are used up.

These things appear to us to be something of a hodgepodge, with some better than others. Some break various unwritten laws of design, e.g. that appalling vertical lettering on the Welsh 3d, while on others such as the Jersey 3d, and the Scottish 1s. 3d, the Queen's head is too closely hemmed in by the border elements. The Queen's portrait, by the way, is something to be proud of; a variety of tilts: compare the forward tilt on the Scottish 1s. 3d, with the backward tilt on the Guernsey 3d. In fact, the whole series suffers from a complete lack of consistency in style, purpose and presentation. How could it be otherwise when, with the exception of Wales,

three arts are required to produce three individual designs for one region! The dragon stamps were made by the moonshire were the work of Mr. Reynolds Stone, who must now quit care on dragons; he designed the Empire Games j.d. stamp. The dragon stamps were made by the vegetable, and the Welsh Dragon turns tail off it (18. pd.). The Dragon has been an emblem of Welsh legend since earliest times, while St. David, being the official nation, is reported to have worn very early on his back. Welsh soldiers are said to have worn "leeks in their Moonmouth caps" at Crecy in 1346. Of course, the lettering on the stamps is much too large. The Scottish stamps are little more interesting; the St. Andrew's Cross or Saltire is altogether too dominant for the Crowned Thistle (Her Majesty's Royal Arms) corner of the Gornalston Huntly's design for the j.d., but the

Queen's head is nicely proportioned in relation to the inscriptions. Mr. J. B. Fleming's Thistles (bd.) are in danger of being mistaken for shuttlecocks and the ornamental frame is a revelation to the j.d. and i.j.d. stamps of King George V, a period to which it rightly belongs. The 12. j.d., designed by Mr. A. B. Imrie, has two crowned and collared Unicorns to flank the Queen's head, and is a bolder, more imaginative conception with neatly balanced inscriptions and lettering. But the standards should not have been permitted to encroach upon the oval enclosing the Queen's portrait. Unicorns are not the royal arms of the Scottish Crown and the one on the left supports a flag showing a Lion Rampant (Her Majesty's Scottish ensign) and that on the right a flag showing the St. Andrew's Cross.

The stamps for Northern Ireland, designed by the Right Hand of Ulster, an ancient symbol associated with the seal of the O'Neills, Kings of Ulster, the flag of the linen industry (Ulster has grown more than 1,000 acres of flax this year, the lowest acreage ever recorded); the coat of arms of the Ulster, supported by "typical Ulster pillars" (Mr. W. Hollywood's sprays of flax, *jd.*) look rather untidy and the stamp has a cluttered-up appearance as if the design were made of too many components. The 6d., by Mr. L. Pilton, has partitioned borders with stylized flax plants stiff and stark against a background of white, and is set upon a background of linen woven in a diamond pattern. But you would never guess it was linen and the crisscross pattern is reminiscent rather than reminiscent of a portmanteau. The 1s. (*is. jd.*) has kept his emblems well away from the portrait which is effectively predominant, but the field area is a second-rate, as national emblem.

So we come to the three "three-pennies" for Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man, and perhaps the most original designs of the whole series. Simplicity was obviously the aim of Mr. E. A. Piprell who placed the Queen's portrait on the right of the Guernsey stamp and filled the remaining space with the Crown of William



**For Northern Ireland**

the Conqueror and a stylised flower of the Guernsey lily. The Crown comes from the silver penny of William I, Duke of Normandy, minted during the period 1069 to 1072, and the Guernsey lily (*Nerium arvensis*) is said to have been taken root in the island when bulbs were washed ashore from a ship in distress. The Jersey stamp has a regal appearance, fit for a Coronation. But Mr. William M. Gardner has set the Royal Mail of Jersey (left) and the Coat-of-Arms and foliage (right) much too close to the Queen's portrait. An all-round reduction in size of these features would have been advantageous.

The Mail was presented by King Charles II to Jersey in 1663, while the Arms date from 1270, when King Edward I granted a Public Seal to Jersey. Mr. John H. Nicolson's design for the Isle of Man is one of the neatest and least cluttered of all the regional stamps. By keeping his Celtic ring chain border on the outside edge of the design and adopting a smaller version of the Queen's portrait, at the same time tucking the "Legs of Man" shield in the top left-hand corner to balance the "3d" in the bottom right, he has evolved a stamp which could well have been the *outstrip* for all the others. The

be the pattern for all the others. The "Legs of Man", armoured and spurred, are the arms of the ancient Kingdom of Man, while the ring chain pattern is taken from decorative carvings on Manx runic Crosses, dating from the Norse period.

So here we have at long last the fruition of the Post Office scheme which

many people believe was devised to by-pass Lord Elibank's plan for small pictorials. It would be useless now to repeat our previously-voiced doubts on the soundness of the policy of Regional stamps; we can only hope that it will not bring too many complications in its train.

But these stamps are a poor substitute to permit us to share the experience of a person who has been behind prison walls. The stamps are like a postcard from a distant past, just introducing a landscape along a road that has been travelled. They do not mean the composition of a design that would be attractive to look at, they are interesting to collect. It meant a break with the tradition of surrounding the subject with a decorative and superfluous ornamentation or obscure heraldry. It meant the realisation of a new aesthetic, one that is reminiscent of Wales than a spiky dragon; a Scottish look more redolent of a thistle; a look that is not a yard more representative of Northern Ireland than a five-barred gate. It meant the use of a symbol that is not its pseudo high-brow mania for obscure symbolism to a level of plain good sense. It meant the use of a symbol that is not a symbol: "It is no exaggeration, for we ask, is the world at large, or even the world of letters, or even the United Kingdom outside the particular region concerned, likely to identify the stamps?" It meant the use of a symbol that is not regional, but is national, to most people the stamps are captured to be confusingly

We can only hope that this latest batch of enigmas coming on top of the incomprehensible Empire Games issue will finally convince the Post Office of the error of its ways. They will certainly provide Lord Eltham with fresh justification to continue his campaign for simpler and more inspiring British stamps, a single issue to emphasise the unity of the United Kingdom and, at the same time, by the pictorial subjects selected, giving satisfaction to ardent "regionalists" as great as, if not greater than, is given by these new issues.



100



### Key Concepts

**Keywords:** *Self-esteem, self-esteem threat, self-esteem threat sensitivity, self-esteem threat sensitivity scale, self-esteem threat sensitivity scale-2*

and the Isle of Man.

*Sanders' Philatelic Journal* also favoured pictorial designs: 'let us have some really attractive pictorials which all of us can use and appreciate, whether we live in Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man or (if it comes to that) the Isle of Wight. Such a scheme would, we think, have more appeal to collectors than the prospect of adding to their collection half a dozen 2½d stamps all basically of the same design and differing only in the corners'.

Letters to *Stamp Collecting* were equally condemning. H B Macmillan of Derby thought the proposal 'would do much towards bringing us down to the level of certain Central American countries', while James M B Ruffle of Salisbury stated 'The action of the Postmaster-General has at one blow shattered the very high reputation and the finest traditions that this country has held in the philatelic world.'

**The national press** The national media was even more forthright. *The Times* declared 'rarely has there been anything more silly than the announcement by the Postmaster-General that we are to have special Scottish, Welsh, Ulster and Channel Islands stamps', wondering if they were intended to curry favour with philatelists or nationalists. 'Her Majesty's stamps are rather noble things. They deserve better than to be cheapened, for the sake of popularity, down to the level of "Souvenir from Brighton" or "Blackpool rock".' The *Evening News* stated 'Though Britain has a glorious philatelic past (the Penny Black is very properly revered whenever albums are displayed) her present is threatened. So, at least, some conservative collectors believe. They have risen up in anger against the Postmaster-General's proposal.'

Reproduced from the official GPO publicity photograph of the 1958 regional stamps.



## WALES & MONMOUTHSHIRE



## SCOTLAND

Not all comment was negative. *The Southern Daily Echo* said 'The outstanding dullness of British philatelic designs seems at last to have been recognised by the Postmaster-General. We believe that the majority of people would be glad to see, in time, pictorial stamps showing something of the famous places and buildings in the United Kingdom. We hope that the infinitesimal changes announced by the Postmaster-General mean that time is gradually approaching.' *The Yorkshire Observer* said 'Dr Charles Hill has ensured that his name will be remembered as the Postmaster-General who made an historic change in British stamp policy.' It added, however, 'one of the reasons behind the move is the desire, shared by Monaco and other small States who turn stamp issues into a paying business, to make a little money'.

*The Scotsman* felt that 'we are inclined too much to hide our light under a bushel. A large part of the world... is ignorant of the fact that the jet engine was invented here. That is an example of the kind of information that might on an appropriate occasion be publicised on a postage stamp.'

Charles Jewell, in *The Daily Telegraph* on 15 September 1956, mistakenly described the stamps as 'locals', adding 'Fines would be the smallest inconvenience of using them for mail and airmail to Dominions and foreign countries.' Incensed members of the Leatherhead and District Stamp Club wrote to the PMG on 17 September, 'urging the adoption by the Post Office of pictorial stamps for the low values', and 'deploring the proposal to issue special stamps for Scotland, Ireland etc, drawing attention to *The Daily Telegraph* of 15 September that these local stamps cannot be used for overseas mail, or if that is wrong, clearly there is confusion in the public mind.' Frank Langfield replied for the Post Office on 27 September: 'We have come to the conclusion that, as Lord Chesham said in the House of Lords on the 24th July it would be wrong that in stamps for everyday use we should depart from the honoured and accepted tradition that the Queen's head should be the dominant feature.' He added that any suggestion that the Regionals could not be used on overseas mail was 'entirely unfounded'.



## NORTHERN IRELAND



## GUERNSEY

## JERSEY

## ISLE OF MAN

**Welcomed on release** It seems the concerns were largely dismissed once the designs were revealed, and it was only Reginald W Davies of Romsey, writing in *Stamp Collecting*, who expressed a negative view: 'Surely such a ramshackle conglomeration of bits and pieces has never before been gathered together on any stamps? The "symbolists" have certainly gone to town, and produced what must be an all-time low in the standard of stamp design.' Another reader, C E Britton of Salisbury, countered these remarks: 'Mr Davies could hardly be more jaundiced if he himself had submitted designs which the Committee had summarily rejected.' In the issue dated 29 August 1958, the Editor commented 'on the whole people like the new stamps, and we have yet to meet anyone who agrees with the comments [of Mr Davies]'. The magazine carried no further letters on the subject, either criticizing or praising the new designs. The only further correspondence focused on the direction of the Legs of Man, whether the Red Hand of Ulster should be the left or right hand, and whether the daffodil or leek should represent Wales.

It was left to certain Editors of the philatelic press to be more scathing. Tom Morgan, of the *Philatelic Magazine*, felt that 'Broadly speaking, the designs are far too fussy, too much is crammed into too little. Best design of them all is that for the Isle of Man – bold and simple with an attractive border.' The magazine added 'Unless a collector abroad is familiar with the symbols and various districts of the British Isles, he will never know the sources of the Regional stamps. The British Post Office persists in its smug attitude of not putting the name of the issuing country on our stamps, and apart from symbols, the Regionals bear no sign of recognition.'

C P Rang in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* commented, 'The designs appear to us to be something of a hotchpotch, with some better than others. Some break various unwritten laws of design, eg, that appalling vertical lettering on the Welsh 3d [an increase in postage rates meant that the intended 2½d stamps became 3d, and the 4d became 6d], while on others such as the

Jersey 3d and the Scottish 1s3d the Queen's head is too closely hemmed in by the border emblems. In fact, the whole series suffers from a complete lack of consistency in style, purpose and presentation.' The Editor continued with a detailed criticism of every design, reiterating the wish for stamps that 'would be attractive to look at, easy to recognise and understand, and interesting to collect. To describe these designs as "obscure symbolism" is no exaggeration, for, we ask, is the world at large, or even the majority of residents of the United Kingdom outside the particular region concerned, likely to identify the stamps correctly?'

In contrast, Robson Lowe, as Editor of *The Philatelist*, took a more positive view. 'The excellent definitive stamps of the United Kingdom have provided a new standard of philatelic art in this country for the designs are simple and easily understood, the Royal Portrait is charming, the colours are pleasing and do not clash, and the whole issue produced by Harrison's provide a perfect example of a utilitarian issue which is of artistic merit.' He shared the view held by many as to which was the preferred design: 'The stamps for Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man enjoy the advantage of losing "REVENUE". The last of the three is outstandingly good and Mr John Nicholson, the designer, earns our congratulations for producing the best of the twelve stamps.'

*The 1958 designs were reissued as 1st class stamps in a miniature sheet and prestige book on 29 September. It will be interesting to see what today's collectors think of the designs.* ED ●

Text © Richard West 2008

## Commemorative covers New this month

ANNOUNCEMENTS about commemorative covers are, from this month, being included as part of the *Bulletin*, rather than as a separate supplement as formerly. This will enable us to save a substantial amount on production costs and so help keep the *Bulletin* viable ●



**Bluebell Railway** A 25p railway letter stamp featuring loco 21C123 *Blackmoor Vale*, issued 19 May. **Prices** In sheets of eight £2; imperforate sheet £6 or £8 signed; FDC with railway letter stamp cancelled Sheffield Park and Royal Mail 1st class cancelled East Grinstead £3.50; first day maximum card £2. Postage 50p or send 9.5 X 7in stamped envelope. Remittances to P A Forrester Smith. Minimum order £1 ●



**Nene Valley Railway** Three 25p railway letter stamps, issued 28 June for Special Events, featuring locos *Mayflower* and *Green Arrow*, passengers in 1940s dress, and Aveling Porter road roller. **Prices** Stamps in sheets of nine £2.25; FDC with three stamps and Thomas the Tank Engine stamp tied with NVR cachet and 1st class Royal Mail definitive cancelled by NVR TPO datestamp £3. Postage 50p ●

### MID-SUFFOLK LIGHT RAILWAY VINTAGE BUSES DAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2008



**Mid-Suffolk Light Railway FDC** (edition of 75) for Vintage Buses day, 6 July 2008, featuring 1949 Bristol L4G bus and loco *Little Barford*. Royal Mail Buses stamp cancelled by special 70th anniversary *Mallard* speed record handstamp; two of the six labels issued for the day are tied with a MSLR logo cachet. **Prices** FDC £3.25; mint buses labels £1.50 block of six, £3 A5 sheet, £6 A4 sheet perf or imperf. Postage 60p UK, £1.10 Europe, £1.50 rest of world. Remittances to B R Reynolds ●

### Operation Sabre ~ 31st July 1945 Cutting the submarine cables off-screwing SINGAPORE-LONDON-NEWYORK-BEING



**Cambridge Stamp Centre** A cover featuring midget submarine XE4, which cut Japanese undersea telephone cables on 31 July 1945. **Price** £24.95 plus postage, signed by Vernon Coles, Engineer Artificer on XE4 ●



**M Tanner** A maxicard (edition of 10), to mark Princess Diana's birthdate, 1 July 1961. 26p Diana stamp and 11p Winnie the Pooh stamp with special Diana, Kensington 1st July 2008 postmark. **Price** £10 plus £1.50 postage ●



**Benham BLCS 5000** cover for the Women of Distinction issue, featuring Millicent Garrett Fawcett and two campaigning Suffragists. **Prices** FDC cancelled with a special Downing Street London SW1A handstamp £10.95 plus postage £2.50. Media code BPE08010A, product code BLCS409A ●



**GB Covers FDC** (edition of 35) for the Beijing Olympics issue, featuring an athlete. **Prices** FDC cancelled with a special Olympic Way Wembley handstamp, signed and numbered £15; FDC (edition of 35) with both British and Chinese stamps £19.50. Postage £1.50. Cheques payable to GB Covers ●



**Buckingham Covers** Limited edition Women of Distinction FDC featuring Barbara Harmer, Britain's only female Concorde Captain. The six stamps are cancelled with a special one day postmark. **Prices** £9.95 or autographed by Barbara Harmer £24.95. Postage £1.65 ●

### Orders and enquiries

**The Benham Group** Unit K  
Concept Court, Shearway  
Road, Folkestone CT19 4RG.  
Telephone 08708 500 654.  
Online orders: [www.benham.co.uk](http://www.benham.co.uk) (enter product code in the Quick Search box on the home page).

**Bluebell Railway Letter Service** 64 Gordon Road,  
Carshalton SM5 3RE. e-mail  
[blumailat64@aol.com](mailto:blumailat64@aol.com)

**Buckingham Covers** Warren  
House, Shearway Road,  
Folkestone Kent CT19 4BF  
Telephone 01303 278137.  
Fax 01303 279429. Website  
[www.buckinghamcovers.com](http://www.buckinghamcovers.com)

**Cambridge Stamp Centre**  
9 Sussex Street, Cambridge  
CB1 1PA. Telephone 01223  
363980.

**GB Covers** 102 Regal Way,  
Kenton, Harrow HA3 0RY. e-  
mail [derek@gbcovers.co.uk](mailto:derek@gbcovers.co.uk)

**Mid Suffolk Light Railway**  
B R Reynolds, 74 Edgecomb  
Road, Stowmarket IP14 2DW.  
e-mail [barry.reynolds@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:barry.reynolds@tiscali.co.uk) to order by credit card,  
via PayPal

**Nene Valley Railway  
(Stamps)** Wansford Station,  
Stibbington, Peterborough  
PE8 6LR. Telephone 01780  
784444.

**M Tanner** 180 Whitehorse  
Road, West Croydon CR0  
2LA. Fax/Answerphone 020  
8684 9757 (credit card orders  
only). Send SAE for details of  
rare Diana maximumcards.

Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words in the style above. Text should describe the cover, stamps and postmarks, and give retail prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis, and may be modified or shortened. Copy for consideration for the December 2008 *Bulletin* should be sent to The Editor (address on page 35) by 7 October. Copy for January should arrive by 7 November. The Editor regrets he cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning covers announced here.

## Competitions Win the 2008 Yearbook in two competitions



**July identify** The detail was from the 1996 20p Women of Achievement stamp (Dorothy Hodgkin). The winner was L Canderton of Hertfordshire.

**July knowledge** Answers: 1) Marjorie Saynor; 2) Six; 3) 1969. The winner was M Tauru of Finland.

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 October *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to October *Knowledge* Competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees

**1** Who designed the 1982 Charles Darwin stamps?  
**2** What was the total face value of the 1993 Swans issue?

**3** Which society's journal celebrates its centenary this year?

Send your answer (addressed to either October *Identify* competition or October *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 14 November will each receive a 2008 Yearbook. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, FDCs, or stamp cards will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

## Events

**10-12 October** Stampa exhibition, Dublin. See page 40. **Enquiries** [www.stampa.ie](http://www.stampa.ie)

**11 October** Thatcham & District PS Stamp Fair at Memorial Hall, Thatcham. Dealers, young collectors welcome, valuations. **Enquiries** 01635 866942.

**11 October** Assn of Sussex PSs Ardingly Stamp Fair & Sussex Convention, Ardingly Showground, 10.00-16.30. **Enquiries** J Wright, 01323 438964

**16 October** Talk 'The People's Bank' (Girobank 40th anniversary) by Tony Benn at Royal Mail Archive, Freeling House, London WC1. Call 020 7239 2570 or email [info@postalheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@postalheritage.org.uk) for bookings.

**17-18 October** Scotex 2008 (annual Scottish Stamp & Postcard Fair), Dewars Centre, Perth. **Enquiries** A Wishart, 01698 356337, or visit [www.spta.biz](http://www.spta.biz)

**25 October** North West Federation Convention and Annual Stamp Fair, Bolton. **Enquiries** 01204 307252.

**25 October** Kingston upon Thames & District PS 80th anniversary Stamp Fair, Claygate. Dealers, display of Surrey Federation Mason Cup entries, meeting of Surrey Postal History Group and Federation of Surrey PSs AGM. **Enquiries** Brian Sole 01372 467652, email [brian.sole@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.sole@btinternet.com)

**30 October - 1 November** Philatex (London International Stamp & Cover Show) at Lawrence Hall, Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1. Admission free. 110 dealers. **Enquiries** [www.stampshows.net](http://www.stampshows.net)

**31 October** Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture – From the Azores to New Zealand by Patrick Maselis, Royal Philatelic Society, London W1. Send SAE for ticket to D F Tett, PO Box 34, Wheathampstead AL4 8JY ●

## Late news



The Royal Mail stand at the Beijing 2008 exhibition. Rachel Lonsdale, the Stand Manager, reports that single stamps and cachets were the big sellers, the cabinet glass was smashed twice, and many customers wanted the staff's signatures.

**Christmas stamps** Cylinders and colours for this year's Christmas stamps are D1 magenta D1 yellow D1 cyan (blue) D1 black D1 phosphor (2nd, 1st, 50p, 81p) and 2nd and 1st stamp books.

Cylinders for the 'Large' stamps are the same plus D1 bright blue (2nd), or D1 gold (1st). The Madonna and Child 2nd and 1st class, issued in 2007, have been reprinted and will be reissued on 4 November. The same cylinder numbers were used. Collectors will identify these new printings by their printing dates in the right sheet margin. Stamped and cancelled first day covers with the Country Definitives miniature sheet, Women of Distinction, Christmas, and Lest we Forget miniature sheet will be sold at selected Post Office branches on the day of issue only •

**Society anniversary** The Civil Service Philatelic Society celebrated its diamond jubilee this year. Special displays at February and March meetings included, among others: Poland 1914-45, North-eastern Airways and 1971 Postal Strike Mail, GB postage due stamps, GB and Empire Jubilee issues 1887-1935, and a history of telecommunications. A Summer Grand Auction was held, and a special edition of the Society's 'Bulletin' published. The Society, which meets monthly in London, is open to all serving and pensioned civil servants from departments and agencies, and permanent employees of British Telecom and Royal Mail. For further details contact Ian Briant – e-mail him at [greenewarf@btinternet.com](mailto:greenewarf@btinternet.com) or see website <http://www.mynetserices.co.uk/csps/> •

**Olympic success** Several UK collectors received high awards for their exhibits at the recent Olympex – Olympic Expo Beijing 2008. In the Traditional Philately Class, Alan Sabey received a vermeil medal for 'The 1948 Olympic Games Issue'. In the Open Class, Robert Wilcock received a vermeil for 'London 1908 Franco-British Exhibition and the Games of the 1vth Olympiad', and a Special Prize for 'The Games of the 1vth Olympiad London – The Marathon Race' (a two-frame exhibit adjudicated in conjunction with the previous five-frame exhibit). Robert Farley received silver for 'The Road to London 2012'. In the Thematics Class Jack Murray's 'The World of Football' won a Bronze Medal, as did Robert Farley for 'Canada Post and the xvth Olympic Winter Games Calgary 1988' in the Postal History section •

**New Reply Coupon** The Universal Postal Union has announced that a new international reply coupon (IRC) will be introduced on 1 July 2009. The new design is by Rob van Goor of Luxembourg Post, who interpreted the theme of the design competition 'The postage stamp: a vehicle for exchange' by depicting the world cradled by a hand, and the perforated outline of a postage stamp. It replaces the current coupon, on sale since July 2006, which is valid until 31 December 2009. The new coupon should be valid until 2013. IRCs are exchangeable in all UPU member countries for one or more postage stamps representing the minimum postage for an ordinary priority letter-post item or an ordinary airmail letter sent abroad for the reply. Some 2.2 million are sold each year by 121 postal administrations, although all 191 UPU member countries are required to exchange them. The current IRC, and some earlier issues, was shown in an article by Michael St J Wright published here in October 2007 •

**Auctions** Spink will hold auctions of GB stamps and postal history on 8 October and 4 December. For details call 020 7563 4000, or see website [www.spink.com](http://www.spink.com) •

# Colourful collections from Royal Mail



## Prices and order codes

Machin postcard set £9.60  
(DQ021)

England postcard set £1.60  
(EQ007)

Scotland postcard set £1.60  
(SQ007)

Wales postcard set £1.60  
(WQ002)

N Ireland postcard set £1.60  
(IQ006)

Country Stamps pack £8.30  
(CR002)

Handling charge: £1.45 UK,  
£1.55 Europe, £2.15 else-  
where



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

Telephone orders:  
UK 08457 641 641  
overseas +44 131 316 7483

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colour red are registered trade  
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The current range of Machin definitives will be available as postcard reproductions from 29 September. The set of cards includes all 17 valued stamps, from 1p to £5, plus seven NVI stamps covering the main UK and overseas rates. A colourful set of 24 cards.

Also available from 29 September is a Country Stamps pack containing one of each of the current range of 2nd, 1st, 50p and 81p stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Stamp cards showing the 2nd, 1st, 'E', and 68p country stamps are still on sale.



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