BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

50th Anniversary Year 2013

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

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British Auto Legends Preview

• Douglas Myall on labels •



The Butterflies special issue flutters onto ten beautiful new stamps in July – see page 336

WIN GREAT PRIZES • PROFILE BUTTERFLIES ARTIST

Issues and withdrawals



Cover: photograph © John Larkin. The Small Copper butterfly, *Lycaena phlaeas*, appears in the ten-stamp special issue of Butterflies issued on 11 July 2013.

For philatelic specifications, see page 293 of May *Bulletin*. Read about the background to the special issue on pages 336 and illustrator Richard Lewington on page 338

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11 July	**Issue** Butterflies: Stamps (10 x 1st Class), Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class – 2 x Special and 4 x Definitives), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.
2 August	**Issue** Bangkok 2013 World Stamp Exhibition: Exhibition Stamp Sheet (20 x 1st Class).
2 August	**Change of printer for definitives** 78p, 88p and £1.88.
13 August	**Issue** British Auto Legends: Stamps (3 x 1st Class and 3 x £1.28p), Miniature Sheet (4 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.
19 September	**Issue** 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Bertram Mackennal: Commemorative Sheet, Seahorses Facsimile Pack, Seahorses Facsimile Pack Press Sheet.
19 September	**Issue** Merchant Navy: Stamps (3 x 1st Class and 3 x £1.28), Miniature Sheet (4 x 1st Class), Prestige Stamp Book, Presentation Pack, Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machins, 1 x Royal Mail Van, 1 x Royal Mail Ship).
20 September	**Issue** Post & Go Freshwater Life 3 – Rivers: Stamps.

To order philatelic items, including those listed on the above, contact Royal Mail Tallents House at the address below. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on the Royal Mail's website: **www.royalmail.com/stamps**.

Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, London (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Square), Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southend on Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro, York and Newport, Isle of Wight.

Special stamps are usually withdrawn a year after their issue date. Howerver, all stamps relating to London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games were withdrawn on 31 December 2012.

Royal Mail Tallents House
21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483.

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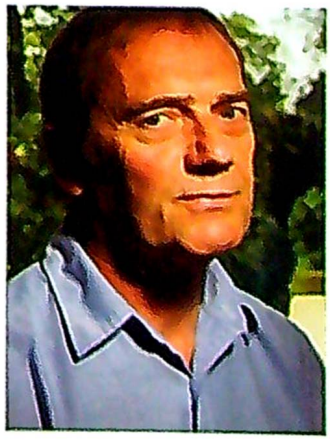
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Correspondence

Coronation memories

I have just been reading an item in *Bulletin* about 'Coronation Mementos' and thought I would share with readers an item from my collection (pictured right) which holds personal memories of my experience of Coronation Day.

I was in charge of FPO953, which served the Overseas, Commonwealth and Home Forces. At the time of the Coronation I was a reservist in the AER, and part of my training was to set up the FPO in Olympia to produce a postal service for the Forces that took part in the ceremonies. We were issued the Special Blues uniform and treated royally wherever we went. The Coronation was a special occasion which I shall never forget.

Alan Burton, Morecambe, Lancashire



1st class letter

A special collection

I was very interested to read Douglas Myall's 'Another View' in the March 2013 edition of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*. I, too, had been missing a proper listing of UK postal stationery, as years ago I used to purchase them regularly at the then Southampton GPO Philatelic Counter.

However, I now have a book on my shelf entitled *Michel Grossbritannien – Spezial 2009/10*. At the end, there is an exhaustive listing of items in a proper Prussian parade, a delight to see and with many aerogrammes in full colour.

I enclose a photocopy of the two items (pictured above) that stand out in my collection. The blue 1d QEII impression is an item that I have not seen listed anywhere, though I have not researched extensively.

The Printed Paper Post Card was posted in Hounslow in 1970 and served as an official insurance coupon. When I went to South America in 1965, I took with me some blank aerogrammes and used them to write home. My family kept my letters and as a result, I have items of postal stationery franked from various countries, including one from the Panama Canal Zone, as it was then known.



I hope these items may be of interest to your readers who collect postal stationery, and stir some nostalgia about the bygone Machins for those who do not.

P J Cupper, Gijon, Spain

Write to... The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or email bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

All readers' letters chosen for publication will receive a thank-you gift and the sender of the 'First-class letter' will receive the *Bulletin* binder.

Pictures on an exhibition plus an exciting stamp-design competition for schoolchildren and a prestigious award



Thai exhibition sheet A special commemorative sheet to mark the World Stamp Exhibition in Bangkok has been produced by Royal Mail. The sheet features 20 First Class Hello stamps with ten different labels and is issued on 2 August, the first day of the Exhibition.

The labels carry vibrant, colourful images of Thai life, as shown above, clockwise from top left: the traditional Wai greeting, farmers at work in a rice paddy, Nang Yai shadow puppetry, a floating market, costume of the Khon dance, Wat Mahathat temple, a Buddhist monk at his devotions, Ang Thong National Marine Park, golden Buddha at Wat Pho temple, and the Royal Paragon Hall in Bangkok.

Bangkok World Stamp Exhibition Sheet	
Date of issue	2 August
Number of stamps	20
Stamp	Hello stamp from the Smilers® range
Sheet design	Royal Mail
Sheet format	Landscape
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print Process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive
Price	£12.50

Nominated by the Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) as the host nation for the World Stamp Exhibition 2013, Thailand will be celebrating the 130th anniversary of Thai postage stamps and the creation of the country's postal service. The exhibition runs from 2 to 14 August. Commissioner Chris King can be contacted by email at chris.king@postalhistory.net •



Christmas stamp design competition – what does Christmas mean to you? Young artists have the chance for a brush with fame as Royal Mail unveils a national competiton for schoolchildren to design a Christmas stamp for 2013. Launched by children's author and illustrator Lauren Child, the competition is open to primary school pupils, ie aged four to eleven, though children aged 12 in their final year at primary school are also eligible. It will give two winners the chance to see their design used by hundreds of thousands of people sending festive greetings and gifts to friends and family across the country and beyond.

The winners will be chosen from 120 regional finalists and their work will feature on a first-class or second-class festive stamp. Entrants are invited to create a picture suitable for use at stamp-size on the theme: 'What does the Christmas season mean to you?'

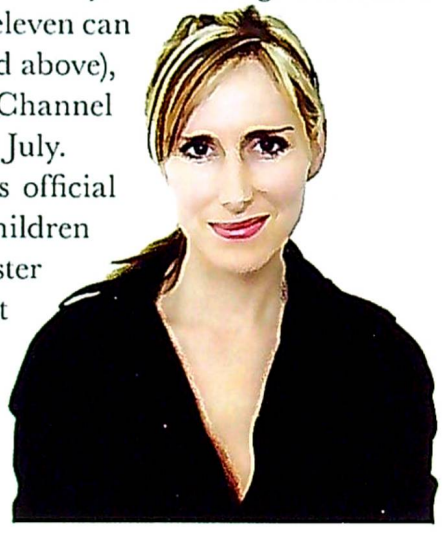
The winning designs will be approved by The Queen and, of course, appear on millions of envelopes during the Christmas period – a level of exposure for their work that any adult artist would envy! Each of the two overall winners will receive £1,000, and a further £1,000 for their school. Shortlisted pupils will also win prizes, for themselves and their schools.

Winners will be announced in the autumn and a total of 60 prizes awarded in both age categories – four to seven years and eight to eleven years. All children in the UK aged four to eleven can take part (or 12 in some cases as mentioned above), except those living in the Isle of Man and Channel Islands. The competition closing date is 19 July.

Only twice before has the Royal Mail's official Christmas stamp been designed by schoolchildren – in 1981 and in 1966, following Postmaster General Tony Benn's decision that the first special Christmas stamps should be designed by children. Visit www.royalmail.com/designastamp for full details of how to enter this year's competition •



Above; 'King of the Orient', the 1966 Christmas stamp, was designed by six-year-old Tasveer Shemza



Right; children's author and illustrator Lauren Child, creator of the much-loved Charlie and Lola characters, launched the stamp competition in June



Best dressed stamps The Great British Fashion stamp issue has won a coveted prize at the prestigious 2013 Design Week Awards. The set, which showcases the work of ten of Britain's finest designers, took first place in the Print Communications category. Major fashion photographer Sølve Sundsbø shot the clothes for the stamps, which were designed by top agency Johnson Banks. Among the big names featured are Zandra Rhodes, Jean Muir, Vivienne Westwood, Paul Smith and Ossie Clark. The awards ceremony was held at the Honourable Artillery Company in the City in June •

© iStockphoto



Legends on wheels Watch out for these British star cars, coming next month

The British Auto Legends special stamp issue celebrates some of the most stylish and iconic British vehicles ever. The issue date of 13 August is perfect timing – because this year is the centenary of the founding of Aston Martin, and Auto Legends features the classic DB5. It is also the 150th anniversary of the birth of Rolls-Royce co-founder Sir Henry Royce, and the issue aptly includes a Rolls-Royce stamp.

Auto Legends comes in two parts, a six-stamp Thoroughbreds set and four Workhorses on a Miniature Sheet. Thoroughbreds features luxury and sports marques from the 1960s and 1970s. Workhorses pays tribute to more humble but equally important names, including Land Rover and Morris Minor (represented by a Royal Mail delivery van). From high-speed supercars to supremely practical workaday heroes – meet the legends of the road…



FD1318TH



FD1318PL

Stamp by stamp The Thoroughbreds stamps feature a mix of values – First Class and £1.28. All the Workhorses stamps are First Class.

The Thoroughbreds

1961 Jaguar E-Type Stylish, sleek and fast, the 150mph E-Type caused a huge stir when it was first unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show in March 1961. With advanced monocoque construction and independent rear suspension, this 3.8-litre beauty was a game-changer. It outshone all of the established GT cars, proving an instant winner on the track as well as the road. More than 70,000 E-Types were produced, and the model continues to influence Jaguar and car design as a whole. *First Class* ▸



Above: issued on August 13, British Auto Legends Thoroughbreds celebrates cars from the 1960s and 70s that are among the greatest cars of all time

Below: Alwalton was chosen for special postmarks because is was the birthplace of Sir Henry Royce

1962 MG MGB This iconic sports car swiftly became the world's most popular roadster. Cool, lithe and of the moment, the MG MGB was also inexpensive with a launch price of just under £950. The familiar overhead valve 'B-series' engine came from the earlier MGA but was bigger and more powerful. *£1.28*

1963 Aston Martin DB5 Forever engrained in popular culture after its appearance in the James Bond film *Goldfinger*, the Aston Martin DB5 remains the archetypal luxury grand tourer. A 4-litre engine with the optional Vantage pack powered up the DB5 to 150mph at314bhp. Some 1,021 DB5s were produced up to 1965, of which 123 were convertibles. *First Class*

1965 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow Rolls-Royce Motors famously claimed it made the finest cars in the world and the 1965 Silver Shadow was a magnificent case in point. It offered a captivating blend of old-world charm and new-world technology. With an all-aluminium 6.2-litre V8 engine, the Shadow featured hydraulic self-levelling suspension for a luxuriously smooth ride. *First Class*

1968 Morgan Plus 8 For over 50 years Morgan has crafted sports cars in small numbers for a discerning global audience – and the 3.5-litre Plus 8 was a superstar. It mixed handsome 'pre-war' styling with headline-grabbing levels of performance: the aluminium Rover V8 engine achieved a maximum speed of 125mph for a thrilling driving experience. *£1.28*

1976 Lotus Esprit Lotus founder and engineering genius, Colin Chapman started out in 1948 in a workshop next to his father's pub and took on the motor-racing establishment with the Lotus Esprit. Powered by a mid-mounted 2-litre, 16-valve 4-cylinder engine, it ultimately evolved into the 1996 twin-turbocharged V8 edition. The Esprit was used in Bond movie *The Spy Who Loved Me* when it famously transformed into a submarine. *£1.28*



FD1318 NP

Auto Legends Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	13 August
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Why Not Associates
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 21mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	30/60
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

Auto Legends issue – Prices	
Presentation Pack	£8.55
Miniature Sheet	£2.40
First Day Cover Stamps/overseas	£7.24/£6.04
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet/overseas	£3.36/£2.80
Stamp Cards, set of 11	£4.95

Jaguar E-Type image is reproduced by kind permission of Jaguar; design of Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow courtesy Bentley Motors Ltd, grille and Spirit of Ecstasy appear courtesy Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited; the image of the Aston Martin DB5 is reproduced by kind permission of Aston Martin; MG MGB appears courtesy MG Motor UK; Morgan Plus 8 image is reproduced by kind permission of Morgan Motor Company; the image of the Lotus Esprit is reproduced by kind permission of Group Lotus PLC. Stamp photography, James Mann.

The Workhorses

Morris Minor Van Launched in 1953, the Morris Minor Light Commercial Vehicle range proved hugely popular thanks to the vehicles' ease of use and carrying capacity. The Royal Mail Morris Minor van became a British institution, with bright red Minors delivering mail into the late 1970s.

Austin FX4 Introduced in 1958, this much-loved 'black cab' was initially powered by a 2.2-litre, 4-cylinder engine. The FX4 proved a rugged workhorse in a trade where six-figure mileages were the norm and practicality and ease of maintenance were key.

Ford Anglia 105E The Anglia was one of a number of different vehicles used to meet the growing need for motorised patrol cars in police forces across the UK in the 1960s. In addition to being modestly priced, it was reliable, economical to run and easy to manoeuvre.

Land Rover Defender 110 The original Land Rover entered production in 1948 and since then countless variations have followed with different wheelbases and body styles. It has long been favoured by the British Army and by farmers because of its agility off-road.

Presentation Pack This stylishly designed product features ten mint stamps, comprising the six Thoroughbreds stamps and the four Workhorses stamps that make up the Miniature Sheet. Written by classic car expert, Richard Heseltine, with stamp photography of the Thoroughbreds by James Mann, the Presentation Pack provides a mini biography for each of the classic cars included in the issue. The Presentation Pack includes a Miniature Sheet Carrier Card, also written by Richard Heseltine, it comprises a pen-picture of each of the classic Workhorse vehicles.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 13 August. As an alternative to the Tallents House postmark, pictorial and non-pictorial Alwalton, Peterborough postmarks show a speedometer and a steering wheel •

PLEASE NOTE: at the bottom right corner of the selvedge on both 1st and £1.28 British Auto Legends Stamp Sheets the sale date is incorrectly printed as 19-Aug-2013. It should be 13-Aug-2013. Royal Mail will not be reprinting the sheets and apologises to customers in advance for this unfortunate error.

Morris Minor Van courtesy of The British Postal Museum & Archive, copyright Royal Mail Group Ltd 2013; Austin FX4 © British Motor Industry Heritage Trust; Ford Anglia 105E used by permission of Ford; Land Rover Defender 110 © Land Rover, photography by Nigel Millard

Auto Legends Miniature Sheet – Specifications

Number of stamps	Four
Design	Robert Maude and Sarah Davies
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Sheet size	180mm x 74mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



Left: one of the vehicles on the British Auto Legends Workhorses Miniature Sheet is the contribution to the PostEurop theme of 2013 (the Post Van)



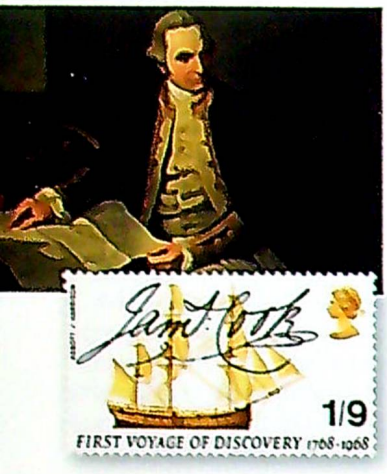
Stamp Scene John Holman keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

Events

6 July Midpex, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way, Leamington CV31 1XN, 10am-5pm. Information: www.midpex.co.uk.

12 July Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1. Information: 020 8946 4480 or www.stampshows.net.

12-13 July ThematiX (Britain's National Thematic Stamp Show), King George Field Indoor Bowls Club, Jubilee Way, Chessington KT9 1TR. Friday 10.30am-5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Information: 012566 415699 or www.thematix.co.uk.



12-13 July GB Philatelic Society regional meeting, Holiday Inn, Caton Road, Lancaster. Booking and details: www.gbps.org.uk.

13 July National Philatelic Society AGM and members' displays, Welsh Centre, 157 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, 2.30pm.

19 and 20 July York Racecourse Stamp & Coin Fair, York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX, Friday 11am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm.

2-14 August International Stamp Exhibition, Bangkok.

10 August National Philatelic Society display 'Captain Cook' by Harry Wright, Welsh Centre, 157 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, 2.30pm.

16 August Strand Stamp Fair •

Stamp-related exhibitions and events

Six Decades of Royal Portraits stamps are now on sale, celebrating the 60th anniversary of The Queen's Coronation. And a number of exhibitions also mark the event. 'Coronation!' is showing at the Chapter House at Westminster Abbey until September. Free admission, no booking required. The recently restored Coronation Chair can be seen in a new display at St George's Chapel, and a rare collection of Coronation Chair miniatures is on display in the Abbey's museum.



Robes and jewellery worn by The Queen and other members of the Royal Family at the Coronation are on display during the annual summer opening of Buckingham Palace from 27 July to 29 September. For more information, phone 020 7766 7300.



A stamp featuring Benjamin Britten was included in the Great Britons set in April. An exhibition, 'Poetry in Sound: The Music of Benjamin Britten', is on at the British Library (Folio Society Gallery), London NW1 until 15 September. Various events are being arranged in association with the exhibition – see www.bl.uk/britten for details.



The first major London exhibition of the work of artist LS Lowry is taking place at Tate Britain, Millbank, London SW1 until 20 October. 'Lowry and the Painting of Modern Life' features about 80 of his works, to 'reassess Lowry's contribution to the art world'. Lowry paintings featured on British stamps in 1967 and 2005: see James Mackay's article 'Paintings on Stamps: The Tate, Lowry and philatelic connections', in the May 2000 issue of *Bulletin* •

New Books

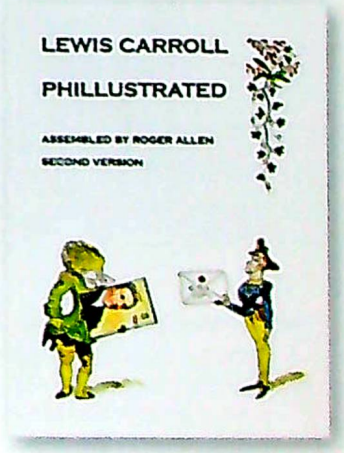


The 2013 edition of the GB Concise Catalogue is now available from Stanley Gibbons (price £32.95 paperback or £39.95 in limited-edition hardback). Order by phone on 01425 472363 or email orders@stanleygibbons.com. The catalogue lists all GB stamps from 1840 until early 2013. This new 28th edition is stitched with lay-flat binding, making it far easier to use than previous editions.

Prices are given for both unmounted and mounted mint stamps issued between 1887 and 1935 and on-cover prices are provided up to 1911. The catalogue also contains a simplified listing of PO Telegraph stamps, based on listings in the GB Specialised catalogue, a useful table of postage rates since NVI (Non-Value Indicator) stamps were introduced in 1989, and a commemorative design index. Decimal Machins are listed in a single section, which makes for ease of use.

The famous stamp firm of Marini has recently celebrated its centenary. The company was founded in April 1913 by Ernesto Marini. While on holiday in Genoa that year, he noticed a stamp shop which rekindled his childhood interest in stamps. Unable to find stamp album pages in Milan, he started producing his own and sold them to a shopkeeper, and so his business started.

In 1995 the firm opened up international markets, becoming a supplier to many postal administrations, selling albums and supplements to Royal Mail and yearbooks to the Isle of Man Post Office. To mark Marini's centenary, a lavishly produced history – *Marini 100 Anni: 1913-2013, Un Secolo di Filatelia Italiana* – has been published, with many illustrations of the Marini family, products, the company's premises and manufacturing machinery. The text is in Italian, with an introduction in English. This hardback book costs €30 and is available from Ernesto Marini srl, Via Struppa 300, 16165 Genova GE, Italy. Information: info@albummarini.com or www.albummarini.com.



Collector Roger Allen has published *Lewis Carroll Phillustrated*, based on his study and collection of stamps featuring the works of Lewis Carroll.

The origin of the book was a meeting arranged by the Lewis Carroll Society in 1990. There Roger produced a pamphlet featuring most of the characters and scenes in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Through The Looking Glass* and *The Hunting of the Snark*, illustrated by postage stamps of the world from his collection.

The new booklet also includes 'phillustrations' of Carroll's Silvie and Bruno. Some 40 pages from Roger's collection are reproduced, covering topics such as The Pool of Tears, White Rabbit's House, Caterpillar, Hatter, Alice's Evidence – The End, Jabberwocky, Garden of Live Flowers, and The Snark. As well as postage stamps, the album pages contain many Cinderella items, all with appropriate captions.

For any philatelist with an interest in Lewis Carroll's works, this book will be much enjoyed, and would make a good present for such a collector. Price: £12.50 including postage and packing. Available from Roger Allen, 29 Solomon Drive, Bideford, Devon EX39 5XY •

London 2015 exhibition



London 2015 EUROPHILEX will be held at the Business Design Centre in Islington from 13 to 16 May 2015, with patronage from the European Federation of Philatelic Associations and recognition from the world philatelic body FIP. There will be 1,400 frames for competitive exhibits in the following classes: Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Thematic Philately, Open, Revenues, Postal Stationery, Youth Philately and Literature. Rules for competitive exhibits are now available at www.london2015.net. An application form can be downloaded from the website. The form should be submitted, through the National Commissioner in the relevant member country, by 31 January 2014.

Exhibits need to reach the required standard to qualify for entry – each item must have achieved at least Vermeil in five frames at a national exhibition in the last five years. The last opportunity to qualify in the UK will be at Autumn Stampex, on from 18 to 21 September this year.

London 2015 EUROPHILEX is the only European international show planned in the next few years •

Scottish Philatelic Congress

The 84th Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies has been held in Perth, and was hosted by the Alba Stamp Group at the city's Dewar's Centre. Two Post & Go machines (A3 and A4) and the printing of Smilers® Sheets were popular attractions. Two types of Smilers were available – the 'standard' version with the overprint of the painting of a panda alongside either a Machin or Union Flag, and one with the first-class Saltire. The panda image was from a painting created for this event by acclaimed local artist Claire Harkess. Claire attended the Congress, which took place on 19 and 20 April, and signed sheets for collectors.

The awards were presented by Marie Turnbull, the wife of Mike Turnbull, President of the ASPS and the Alba Stamp Group. The winners were: Scottish Thematic Rose Bowl: Bill McKinlay, Gold Medal exhibit of 'Gears – The Wheels of Industry'; Carson Trophy of Traditional (GB) Class: Archie Hunter for '1984-85 Royal Mail Postage Labels'; William Ferris Memorial Trophy for Traditional (non GB) pre 1900: Alan Blakeley for 'Newfoundland – Evolving Stamp Design'; Bridge of Allan Trophy for Traditional (non GB) post 1900: Alexander McCulloch, Gold Medal exhibit of 'New Zealand – 1970 Pictorial Issue'; Glasgow 800 Cup for General Postal History: Paul Stephens for 'WWI Civilian Re-Sealing Labels of Sudan'; Bruce Auckland Centennial Quaich for Scottish Postal History: James Crawford for 'Parcel Post Labels – Dumbartonshire'; Iain T. Boyle Vase for Social Philately: Alan Blakeley for 'The Life of an Insurance Policy'; Aerophilatelic Shield: Dr Robert Clark – Gold Medal exhibit of 'Disruption of BOAC Services in June 1940'; Jean Osborne Cinderella Award: Jean Osborne – Gold Winning exhibit of 'Labels of the 1908 Franco British Exhibition'; Robson Lowe Award for Literature: Roy Erskine for his publication Wilsons of Bannockburn; Cowal Salver for Best First Time Entrant: Alan Blakeley for 'Life of an Insurance Policy'; Dr Hirst Bowl for Best Presentation: Bill McKinlay – Gold Medal exhibit of 'Gears – The Wheels of Industry'; Scottish Postcard Trophy: Robin Sherman for 'Edinburgh Zoo'; and Robert Burns Quaich for the most

outstanding exhibit within the Host Society Members' Displays: Jean Osborne for 'Glasgow Exhibition 1901'.

In the Junior Competition, a high standard was achieved by all, including a number of first-time entrants. The awards went to: One Sheet Competition for children aged up to ten years: Neil Foster for 'Lifeboats'; One Sheet Competition for children aged ten to 15: Alistair Jackson for 'Birds of Liberia'; Alba Salver Group A (four sheets): Neil Foster – Gold Award for 'On the Buses'; Group B (eight sheets): Amelia Russell – Gold Award for 'A Flair for Fashion'; Group C (12 or 16 sheets): Rachel Foster for 'Aspects of China'. The Alba Salver winner was Amelia Russell for 'A Flair for Fashion'. Medals were awarded to Neil Foster (Group A), Amelia Russell (B) and Rachel Foster (C).

At the ASPS AGM on 20 April, the following were elected: President: David Kindle (Scottish Postal History Society); Vice President: Jean Osborne (Falkirk PS); Secretary/Treasurer: Alan Watson; National Exhibition Officer: Keith Robinson; Junior Competition Organiser and Publicity Officer: Colin Campbell; Development Officer: Sandie Robb; Accounts Examiner: Derek Fisher; ABPS Representative: Ian MacPherson; Keeper of the Book of Scottish Philatelists: Jeff Stone; SPTA Representative: Alan Watson •

International exhibitions

The Thailand exhibition in Bangkok, from 2 to 14 August, marks the 130th anniversary of the first Thailand stamps and the country's postal service. It is also the tenth anniversary of Thailand Post Co Ltd, formed by the privatisation of the Communications Authority of Thailand in 2003. Thailand has hosted international stamp shows three times in the past – in 1983, 1993 and 2003. There was also a World Youth Stamp Exhibition in 1999. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the exhibition's patron, will preside over its inauguration, and stamps from her personal collection will be on show. The organisers hope to attract up to 100,000 visitors. Royal Mail is issuing an exhibition sheet for the event. See page 325.



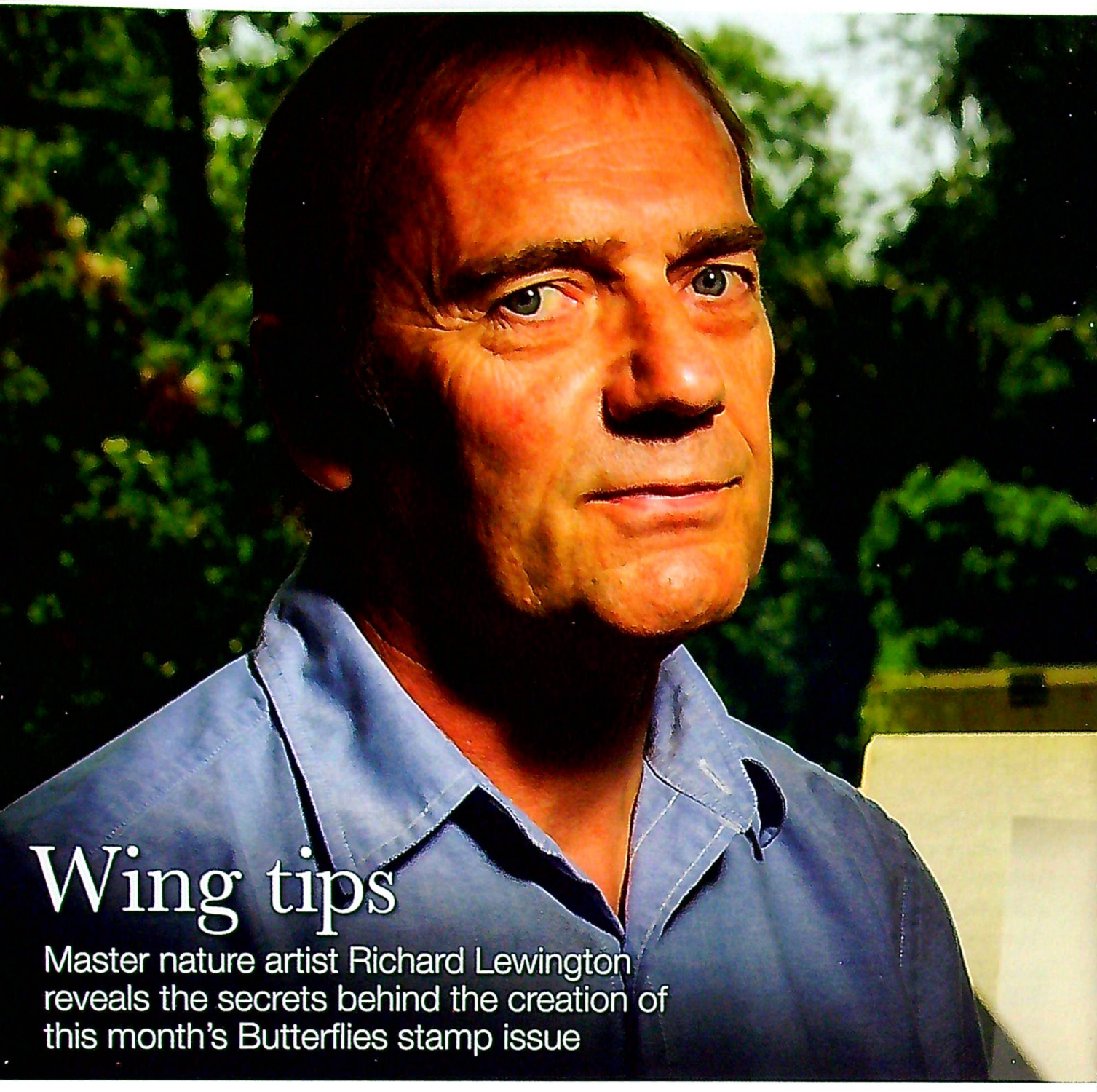
Rio de Janeiro hosts an international exhibition from 19 to 25 November. The MonacoPhil exhibition is at Monte Carlo from 5 to 7 December •

Letterbox postcard

The North of Ireland Philatelic Society has published its 20th postcard. It features a Hexagonal Acanthus Top VR box in English Street, Downpatrick. Price: 50p mint or £1.25 serviced (postage and packing £1). Some of the earlier cards issued since 1987 are still available – send an SAE for list. All orders and enquiries: Norman Scott, 49 Kingsdale Park, Belfast BT5 7BZ •

Obituary

We are sorry to report the death in May of William Anthony (Tony) Wiseman. Born in 1926, Mr Wiseman was a specialist collector of GB departmental stamps, and the author of Great Britain: The De La Rue Years 1878-1910 (Vol 1 1984, Vol 2 1990). He received the Rowland Hill Philatelic Writers award in 1999. Educated at St John's College, Oxford, Mr Wiseman was a research chemist before setting up his own scientific instrument company. Away from philately, his many interests included antiques, railways and history. He served as Chairman of Berkshire County Council from 1989 to 1992. His collection of GB departmentals was auctioned by Stanley Gibbons in June •



Wing tips

Master nature artist Richard Lewington reveals the secrets behind the creation of this month's Butterflies stamp issue

Richard Lewington captures nature's most beautiful creatures but he does it with a brush, not a net. This master artist lovingly crafts every gleaming, glorious detail of his subject whether it is a butterfly or a bird.

His work for the stunning ten-stamp Butterflies issue is an exquisite case in point (he also wrote the Presentation Pack text). Each species in the series, released on 11 July, is so finely illustrated it seems to shimmer with life. And no wonder. Richard insists that every picture he creates is as scientifically accurate as it is beautiful. He will go to great lengths to achieve this – from painstakingly photographing his subjects in the wild to determinedly resisting any designer's well-intentioned suggestion that their

Photographs: Conor Masterson



bodies were 'enhanced' a smidgen for extra impact in the small space allowed by a stamp.

'There were one or two discussions with the designer who thought we could tweak things here and there, make the antennae just a bit more curvaceous rather than straight, or extending the wings a tiny bit,' Richard reveals. 'But I argued that scientifically we had to get it right. My view was more concerned with the scientific side rather than the aesthetic one.

'My main aim in being involved with stamps is to introduce people to the wonders of the natural world by illustrating my subject as accurately as I possibly can.'



Above: the orginal illustration for the cover of a book which took Richard seven years to complete

Richard worked with photographs to produce the illustrations, but in some instances he had to go out and take new images: 'I didn't have a photo of the Brimstone butterfly because it only settles with its wings shut, but I managed to convert several out-of-focus photos into a sharp image of a butterfly in flight.

'I also went to an area on the Berkshire Downs where I knew there were plenty and took as many photos as I could of them settling and taking off.'

Indeed, the illustrations for the stamps are technically precise 'diagrams', not just pretty pictures. Richard mainly illustrates wildlife guidebooks, and is aware that he often has an expert audience who would be disappointed by the slightest inaccuracy.

'There are a lot of naturalists around that rely on these books – they are very knowledgeable, and will let you know if you get it wrong. It really is important to know your subject thoroughly in this area,' says Richard, a keen conservationist who works with the environmental groups Butterfly Conservation and Buglife.

The artist's attention to detail is clear when you learn the painstaking process of deciding, with Royal Mail, the final approach to depicting each species on the stamps. Richard narrowed down the list of butterflies Royal Mail supplied him with to ten – a cross-section of common and rare species in a range of colours: 'Royal Mail wanted to show the butterflies on a ▸









Richard works next to a window to ensure maximum natural light. While his studio contains the tools of a scientist, it is his eye for detail, steady hand and love of nature that inform his amazing skill as an illustrator

white background, in flight rather than on plants,' he explains. 'I was happy with that, but it is rather unusual, as you normally associate butterflies with flowers and plants.'

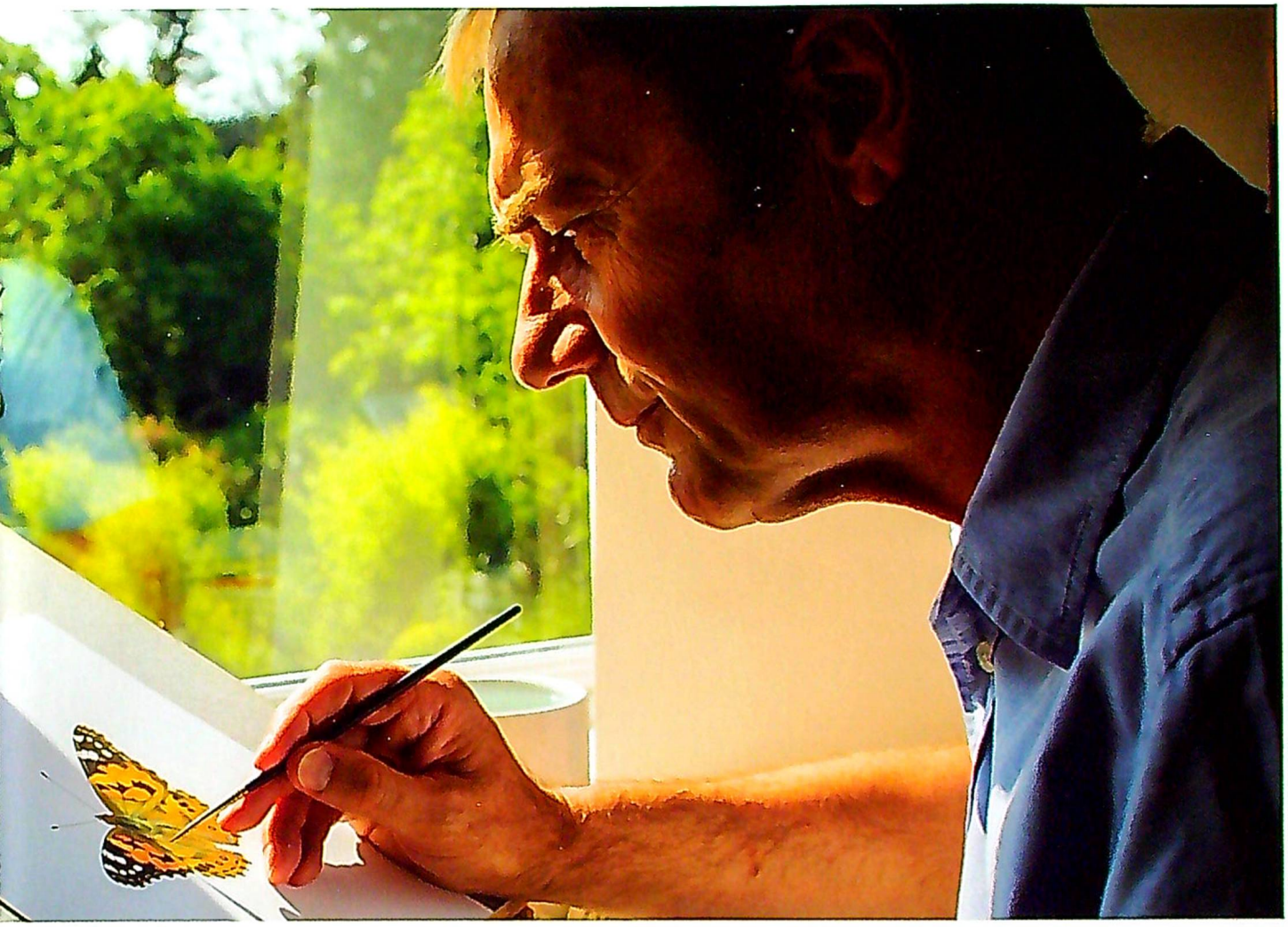
Royal Mail approached Richard in October 2010 at the start of planning for the Butterflies issue, but it was only after three months that he received the commission. First, he had to persuade Royal Mail to go with illustration rather than photography.

'Generally people think that the camera never lies and you can get a nice sharp image that will reproduce well for stamp printing,' Richard says. 'Actually this is very hard to achieve, particularly for a subject like butterflies, because the depth of field is so shallow that nearly always some part of the image is out of focus.

'But with illustration you can recreate the perfect specimen, from the right angle. Top field guides are always illustrated because you can make clear the defining points of each species.'

He adds: 'With stamps you've got a very small format and the advantage of illustration is that you can make the most of the area by tilting things slightly, extending wings or changing angles, making the most of the restricted shape.

'For a stamp you need to make the image as big and as bold as you possibly can, because people are only going to see the image small – so making sure



the image is clear and fills the whole area is important. Anyway, Royal Mail were happy to go with illustration, particularly because they had various photographs that showed them quite clearly what I was talking about!

'Initially I submitted two paintings, of a Chalkhill Blue and a Painted Lady. After some months, involving several Stamp Advisory Committee meetings, I was informed that I had won the contract to produce the stamps.

'I worked on each butterfly species one at a time and did a series of roughs for each stamp, showing how I thought they could appear.'

He then took a further three months to complete the ten illustrations. While Richard executed the art, designers worked on the general format of the stamps, looking at details such as placing The Queen's head.

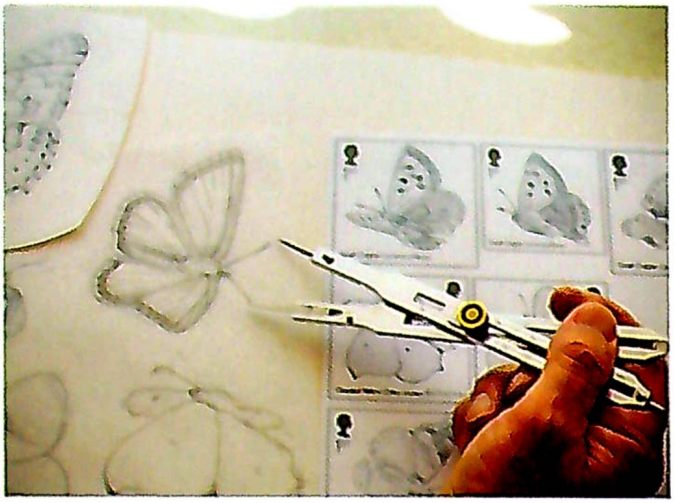
'The work was carried out in bits and pieces. I'd start off with one design, send off the roughs to Royal Mail, and then do various other roughs, and then I'd get the go-ahead for one of them, and so on,' says Richard, who studied graphic design at Berkshire College of Art and Design.

'I did about six to ten roughs for each stamp, showing the butterflies in different postures and attitudes. It was a long, drawn-out process, but I think in the end they all came together pretty well.'

His quest for accuracy, however, belies a passion for nature that runs in the family – brother Ian is one of the world's leading bird illustrators.

'As far back as I can remember I was walking in the fields, observing ▸

birds and butterflies and drawing them,' Richard recalls. 'My father loved being in the countryside looking at birds and butterflies and flowers, mainly for aesthetic reasons. My grandfather was also a keen countryman, and one of my earliest memories is of visiting his house in the appropriately named 'Cricket Hill' in Finchampstead, Berkshire, where I would race to a small cabinet in the corner of the living room, to stare at my granddad's modest collection of butterflies and moths.



'At school I started off painting birds, and then the odd butterfly. And now I don't do birds very often – my younger brother Ian does them a lot better!'

And what is Richard's favourite butterfly? 'It's difficult to choose one in particular ... but probably the Orange-tip (which features on one of the stamps in the new Butterflies issue). This butterfly is the one of the first to appear in spring – as soon as you see an Orange-tip in the garden, you know that spring has arrived.'







Top: Richard makes precisely accurate measurements Above: the Orange-tip butterfly features in Royal Mail's new stamp issue. And examples of Richard's stamp illustrations on the Isle of Man Butterflies Collection of 2011 and Bee Fauna of 2012

Interestingly, butterflies are not Richard's first love. They come second and dragonflies third on his top of the zoological pops.

'It's actually moths first – they are more diverse than butterflies,' says Richard, who has illustrated two books on moths. 'There are about 2,500 species, whereas there are only about 60 species of butterflies in Britain. The diversity of moths is truly amazing; they are very interesting creatures.

'I would love to do a stamp set on moths – they are fantastically beautiful, yet people usually just associate them with their clothes or their carpets being eaten. But I find them even more beautiful than butterflies. I would love to introduce more people to the wonders of these creatures that often gets such a bad press!'

Richard has previously designed stamps. He illustrated the stamps for the two issues, the Isle of Man Butterfly Collection series of 2011 and the 2012 Bee Fauna of the Isle of Man set. He has also provided information for Presentation Packs, including one for the Royal Mail's Insects: UK Species in Recovery, of 2008. Other stamp illustration work includes wildlife stamps for Fiji, the Solomon Islands and the Seychelles.

It is a book project, however, that stands out in his memory: 'I think the most prestigious job I did was the book, *The Butterflies of Britain and Ireland.* Professor Jeremy Thomas, the country's leading expert on butterflies, did a fantastic job with the text.

'My job for the book was to breed the British butterflies myself and depict them right through from the egg to caterpillar to adult. That was probably one of the best books I have done. It took a total of six to seven years because I had to get all the eggs of the butterflies.'

Now that shows true dedication to his art – and to nature•

Want to save butterflies and other insects? Take part in the Big Butterfly Count – see following pages and visit www.butterlyconservation.org and www.buglife.com

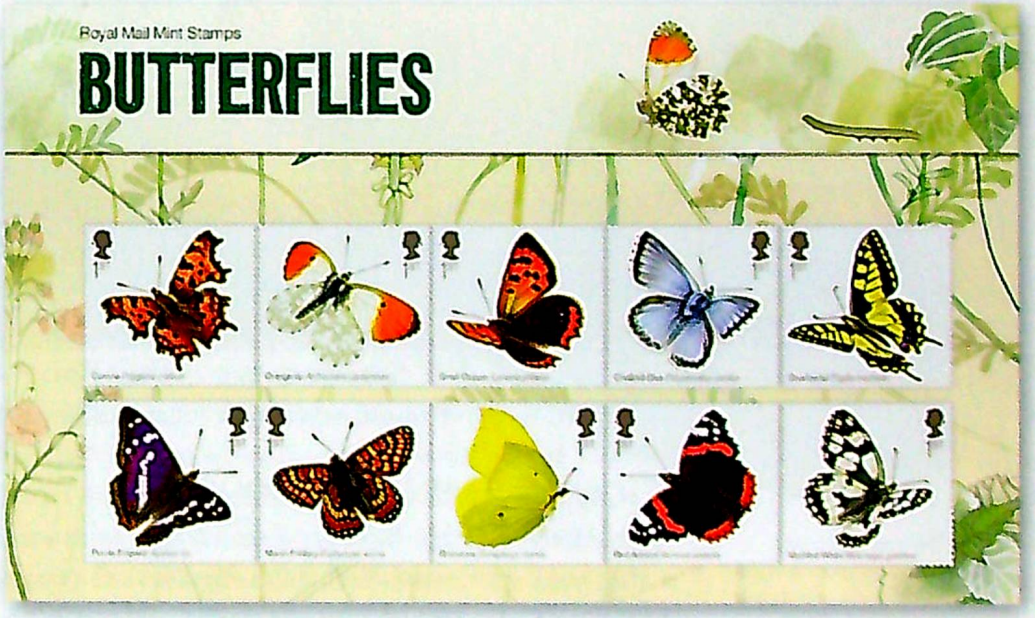
Butterfly time

Ten British butterflies are released on this month's new stamps, just in time for the nation's annual Big Butterfly Count. Will you spare 15 minutes to help these beautiful creatures thrive?

WHO CAN RESIST A LINGERING LOOK when a beautiful butterfly flutters by on a summer's day? Their exquisite beauty in miniature form makes butterflies one of the most popular topics for thematic stamp collectors. This month's Butterflies issue celebrates the British love of butterflies with an exceptionally pretty set of ten stamps, illustrated by the renowned expert and artist Richard Lewington (see Profile, page 334).

Royal Mail features at least one set of stamps on wildlife each year, and in recent years has often chosen to highlight the plight of endangered species. The Butterflies set is no exception. It includes a mix of endangered butterflies and more familiar ones.

The timing of the issue is significant. Shortly after the Butterflies stamps go on sale, the Butterfly Conservation charity invites the nation to participate in the annual Big Butterfly Count, which takes place from 20 July to 1 August.



Above: Hennie Haworth was commissioned to illustrate various elements of butterflies' habitat, while Richard Lewington's illustrations show life-cycle stages to complete this informative Presentation Pack

Chrysalis crisis

Some species of butterfly are struggling to survive and up-to-date data on their distribution has never been more important. Apart from a few species, notably the Comma and the Orange-tip, the numbers of most butterflies are declining, some very rapidly. Changes in their natural countryside habitat, including increasingly intensified farming, has fragmented Britain's butterfly population. Last year, in particular, was a catastrophe for butterflies, the worst on record, because of the heavy rain. This year's spring came very late and was the coldest for half a century, which adds to growing fears about the future of our most colourful insects. British butterflies need just 15 minutes of your time – turn over and find out how to help them. ▸

How to help

Brimstone
Gonepteryx rhamni

To take part in the Big Butterfly Count, just choose a warm day and a suitable place – in your garden or a local park, for example. Stay there for 15 minutes during bright, preferably sunny weather and make a note of butterflies that you see. At www.bigbutterflycount.org you can download a Butterfly Identification Chart to print out and keep handy to help you identify and record the butterflies you spot. There is lots of information about butterflies on the website and you can also look at the results of last year's Big Butterfly Count – if you tap in your postcode you can see at a glance what butterflies were spotted in your area in 2012.

The Big Butterfly Count is a nationwide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment. It was launched in 2010 and has rapidly become the world's biggest survey of butterflies. Last year 25,500 people took part, counting 223,000 individual butterflies and day-flying moths across the UK.

For more information and inspiration watch 'Butterflies and Moths; Springwatch Special', due to air this month on BBC Two television.

The Big Butterfly Count is run by the charity Butterfly Conservation, in association with Marks & Spencer as part of their Plan A commitments to encourage sustainable agriculture and help to protect the environment.

Shown here are the ten Butterflies illustrations that appear on the new stamps. Of these, the Marsh Fritillary is the most endangered

Countdown to the count

- Check the weather forecast: a sunny day, or at least 20°C, 68°F if possible.
- Pick your spot: south-facing flowers and tall grasses are good.
- Stand still or move slowly: butterflies will spot your shadow.
- For more tips, visit www.discoverwildlife.com/british-butterflies.

Where to enjoy the sight of a swarm

A selection of UK butterfly farms. (Not for your Big Butterfly Count time of course!)

- **Buckfast Butterflies and Dartmoor Otter Sanctuary** www.ottersandbutterflies.co.uk
This website has a downloadable workbook for children. Tel 01364 642916.
- **Tropical Wings World of Wildlife, Chelmsford**
www.tropicalwings.co.uk
Tel: 01245 425394.
- **Stratford Butterfly Farm**
www.stratford.co.uk/attractions/butterfly-farm
Tel: 01789 299 288.
- **Felinwynt Rainforest Centre, West Wales**
www.butterflycentre.co.uk
Tel 01239 810250.
- **Edinburgh Butterfly and Insect World**
www.edinburgh-butterfly-world.co.uk
Tel 0131 6634932.
- **Butterfly World, Isle of Wight**
www.butterfly-world-iow.co.uk. Tel 01983 883430.
- **Magic of Life Butterfly House, Aberystwyth**
www.magicoflife.org. Tel: 01970 880928.

Illustrations: Richard Lewington



20 Presentation Packs to be won

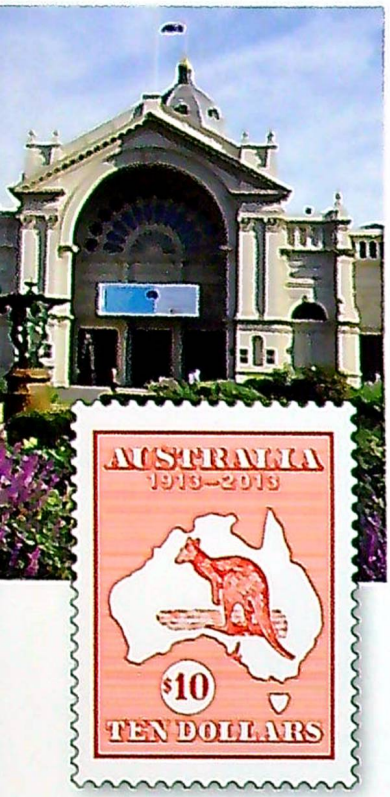
For your chance to win the Royal Mail Butterflies Presentation Pack, go to Butterfly Brainteasers on page 351.



Australia 2013 World Stamp Expo

Yvonne Wheatley reports





Above: Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne; the Kangaroo and Map stamp, Australia's first-ever, was issued 100 years ago.

A HIGH ATTENDANCE estimated at 15,000 rewarded the hard work of the organisers of Australia 2013 World Stamp Expo, held in Melbourne from 10 to 15 May. The event marked the centenary of the Kangaroo and Map stamp, which was commemorated in a special stamp reprint, on a miniature sheet and on the awards medals.

The exhibition was staged in Melbourne's prestigious Royal Exhibition Building, which accommodated the majority of the exhibits on the balcony level and the dealers and remaining exhibits on the ground floor. With a total of 684 exhibits, this was one of the largest International Exhibitions held for some time.

There were many presentations on the stage, mainly in connection with Australia Post, and also book launches, specialist society meetings, social events to encourage new recruits to the hobby, and an illustrated talk entitled 'Philately through the microscope – forged or counterfeit.'

Below: Royal Mail's Exhibition Sheet (full details on page 284 in May *Bulletin*).



Congratulations to UK exhibitors It was particularly pleasing to see two UK entries in the Youth Class. Claire Mitchell exhibited 'Is it a bird? Is it a plane?' while her sister Lynne showed 'Bobbing along on the Canal'. Claire's intriguing title enabled her to show animal flight, excluding birds. It included mechanical flight from the first manned flight to space travel. On the other hand Lynne's imaginative title enabled her to include birds including the Mallard Duck bobbing along on the water. Claire received a Silver Bronze Medal and Lynne a Bronze Medal.

The UK-registered exhibitors showed an impressive 44 exhibits and the results were just as impressive. There were ten Large Gold

Dreamstime; Y Wheatley; JA Murray

Medals, including The Grand Prix National won by Arthur Woo with 'Western Australia – The Classic Stamp produced from the Perkins Bacon plates' and by Hugh Feldman with 'Mails Carried by Water in the USA (1813 – 1875)' in the Championship Class. The British entrants also gained 17 Gold Medals and of the remaining entries, 12 attained Large Vermeil or Vermeil Medals. In addition Great Britain took away 12 special prizes, which amounted to 25 per cent of the total. Another accolade was the fact that three Large Gold Medals went to ladies, Pat Grimwood-Taylor, Birthe King and Lesley Marley.

Grand Prix Winners Emil Buhrmann of South Africa received The Grand Prix International for his exhibit 'Cape of Good Hope – the Hope Rectangular Design during the Victorian Period'.

The Grand Prix D'Honneur was awarded to Koichi Sato of Japan for his 'Tasmania: Imperforate Stamps from Courier to Chalon Head.'

GB Commissioner, Richard West MBE and his assistant John Jackson are to be congratulated on taking so many exhibits to the other side of the world and bringing them back safely.

Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL has been awarded this year's prestigious ABPS Congress Medal for her contribution to organsied philately, in particular the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.



Left: luminaries of the UK philatelic scene gather at the Expo, including, left to right: Michael Sefi, Andrew Hammond and Richard West

Royal Mail Down Under Two Post & Go machines were transported to World Stamp Expo and it was the first time they had been used abroad. The machines dispensed 'Australia 2013 Stamp Expo' inscriptions on both the Machin and Union Flag designs.

Royal Mail's Julie A Murray was there to see the queues: 'The Post & Go machines caused great excitement amongst philatelists. We saw many of the same customers coming back for more stamps every day of the show. The Royal Mail Exhibition Sheet also proved very popular.



'The exhibition was a huge success. It was a great opportunity to meet postal administrators and collectors of UK stamps from around the globe, to discuss the forthcoming stamp programme and gain insight into the plans and activities developing in other countries.'

Julie Murray Head of Marketing Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles



2013 Australia World Stamp Expo Post & Go's

Post & Go Collectors Strips were available at the Expo in six rates: 1st up to 100g, 1st Large up to 100g, Europe up to 20g, Worldwide up to 10g, Worldwide up to 20g and Worldwide up to 40g, featuring the print string A5GB13 B1. They are available from Tallents House at the address on page 322 or online at www.royalmail.com/stamps Price: £6.42. Order code: ZS022

Another view Douglas Myall's concise history of modern labels – an integral part of the Machin stamp story



1



2



3

THE WORLD'S FIRST ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMPS were originally called labels. I'm not sure how and when they came to be called stamps, but today there is a clear distinction between the two terms. A postage stamp is a receipt for the cost of sending an item through the post. A label, even if it is attached to a stamp, has no independent postal validity. Yet there have been many kinds of label designed and printed during The Queen's reign and they can make a colourful and interesting sideline to a modern stamp collection.

Stamp books with labels inside As long ago as King George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935 panes of airmail etiquettes were found in counter books as well as stamps. In more modern times, other kinds of label have been included for a variety of reasons.

The first labels with Machin stamps were on panes of four in 2s (two-shilling) machine-vended stamp books issued in September 1968. They were used for slogan advertisements from firms who had taken advertising space on the interleaves and covers (1). This pattern was followed in counter books. Panes of six had been a common layout in pre-decimal days as they suited what was then a duodecimal currency. This format continued after decimalisation, but, as five stamps were more suitable, the redundant sixth unit was a label, used as a vehicle to sell advertising space (2).

When no advertiser came forward, labels were used for official slogans and many urged the public to make use of the postcode system (3). Some labels were left blank, although early ones had phosphor bars that meant they could potentially be used as stamps, as far as the mail sorting machines were concerned. But that was soon changed.

It was a logical step from using labels to attract advertisers to getting firms to sponsor whole books. The first, a £1 book titled Stamps for Cooks, appeared in 1969. It was followed by books sponsored by firms such as Wedgwood and Stanley Gibbons. These did not have any labels; all the advertising was on the interleaves and covers. They proved popular with the public and later books with themes became known as Prestige Stamp Books, sometimes called PSBs.

The first Prestige Stamp Book to have a label was The Scots Connection, issued in March 1989. This established the convention that such books had a pane of nine with eight stamps around a non-phosphor central label. In this case, the label depicted the Scottish lion (4). It was followed by one for Wales in 1992 (5) and one for Northern Ireland in 1994 (6). England is still waiting for hers.

The Prestige Stamp Book issued in 2007 for British Army uniforms had seven labels, five of them on one pane, but the books with the most labels were those with Greetings stamps issued from January 1989 to August

1998. These were put together in various ways, but common features were a pane of ten large format special stamps in two rows of five, usually for the first-class inland letter rate, and the inclusion of panes of labels with appropriate greetings such as Congratulations, Best Wishes, Happy Birthday, With Love and Thank You.

At first these labels were in separate panes of 12 but from March 1995 they were in panes of 20 which were attached to the stamp panes and stuck into the covers by a central gutter which carried the cylinder numbers. The extra labels gave scope for more messages and some rather strange ones appeared, such as 'My, what big eyes you've got!' and 'Being a failure isn't as easy as it looks...'. Sometimes these little messages had floral illustrations as well, especially those in the Flowers Greetings Books which ended the series.



12

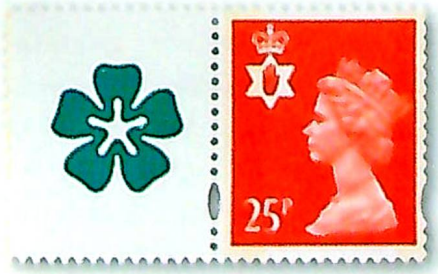
Very colourful and attractive designs can be found on labels used to illustrate the theme of the stamp book. Among my favourites are: Tolkien's monogram (7), Profile on Print (8) and the inverted Machin as seen through a camera eyepiece (9), issued in the Fortieth Anniversary of the Machin Prestige Stamp Book.



4



5



6

A variation of the concept of using a label to illustrate the theme of a book was introduced in 1994 with a book marking the tercentenary of the Bank of England. This had a pane of four first-class NVIs attached to a large label. There were ten books in this series. Among them is one with a label for The Queen's 70th birthday and, popular with young collectors, Postman Pat (10).

Labels have occasionally been used on miniature sheets. One that stands out is Jeffery Matthews' monogram and palette (11) on the souvenir sheet issued for the London Stamp Show 2000.

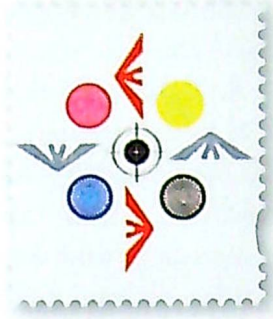
Sometimes practical reasons led to the inclusion of labels in stamp books. This



10



7



8



9



11

happened with the series of machine-vended books with folded covers for the K and L machines. These were coin operated and delivered a book for 50p or a £1. The stamp content had to total these amounts. Although panes of six were common, it was found that, when folded, they did not provide an even surface and so occasionally caused the machines to jam. For this reason it was decided to standardise the higher value panes to have eight units. It was official policy to include a good mix of values in these books so that people could choose whether to post their mail by the first- or second-class service. However, if this was not practicable, the extra units were made up with labels. (12, see previous page)

Another example of labels being added to make up the required number of units occurred with the coils printed for the G machines. These delivered five units at a time. A 10p coil issued in 1980 consisted of an 8p and two 1p stamps plus two postcode labels.

Post & Go machines Since 2008 Post & Go self-service machines have been provided at most post offices to vend stamps for basic inland and overseas services. These are often referred to as labels but the original name was Faststamps and this is preferred by many, including me, so as to maintain the distinction between stamps and labels.

From 2009, Horizon machines have been installed at post offices and deal with almost all unstamped mail handed over the counter. The machines overprint blank Machin labels with details of the service paid for, the amount paid, the date and the name of the office. Horizon labels are a popular subject for stamp collectors. The number of different labels to date is a staggering 615.

So labels are an integral part of the stamp story. They are a boon to collectors of se-tenant pairs. In my view, a pair consisting of a stamp plus a label, or vice versa, has a legitimate place in a collection of se-tenants •

This month in history John Holman marches into the glorious past with the British Army Uniforms issue...

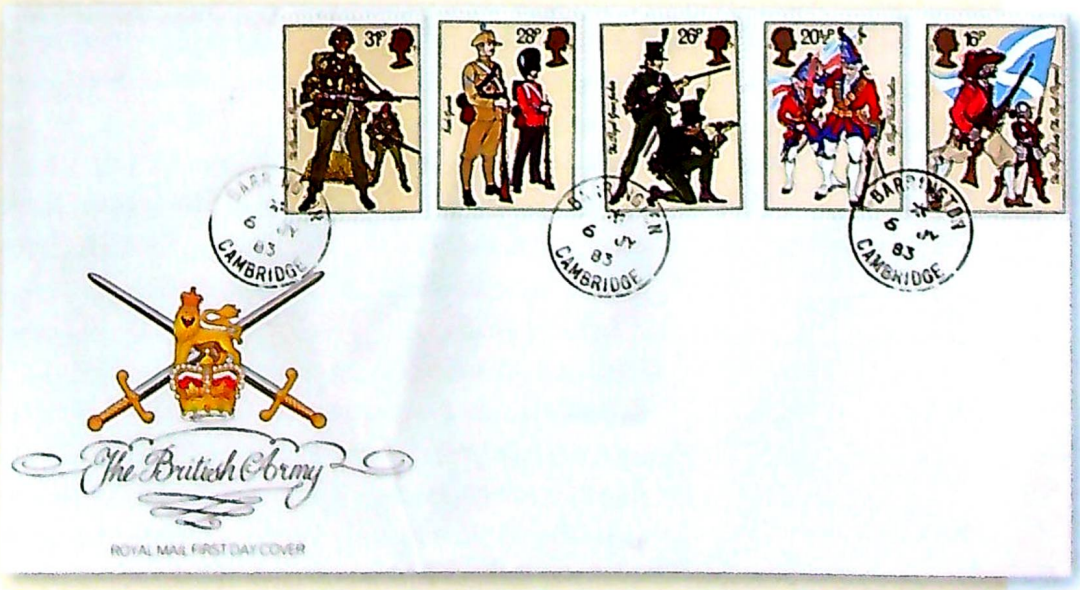


Above: a parade of military history spanning 350 years was represented by the British Army Uniforms issue of 1983

On 6 July 1983 the Post Office issued five stamps featuring army uniforms, the set marking the 350th anniversary of the Royal Scots, the senior infantry regiment of the line. The issue featured: a musketeer and pikeman of the Royal Scots (16p – First Class); fusilier and ensign of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers (20½p); riflemen from the Royal Green Jackets (26p); a sergeant and guardsman of the Irish Guards (28p); and paratroopers from the Parachute Regiment (31p).

The uniforms ranged in date from 1633 to 1983. The stamps were designed by Eric Stemp who had, in 1979, designed the Sir Rowland Hill centenary issue. The stamps were printed in six colours (20½p in five), with The Queen's silhouette in gold. The silhouette was positioned at top left, facing right on the two lowest values, and at top right, facing left on the others. The value was positioned alongside The Queen's silhouette and the stamps were captioned with the name of the army unit. The 26p and 28p stamps are known imperforate, but no missing colours are recorded.

Numerous special postmarks were sponsored for use on the day of issue and first day handstamps provided at the Philatelic Bureau and Aldershot. Particularly scarce (and highly priced in FDC catalogues) are covers cancelled by the slogan postmark 'Join Territorial Army 75th Anniversary'. The usual Presentation Pack and PHQ (Postal Headquarters) Stamp Cards were issued, together with a 33in x 23in philatelic wallchart sold at £1.25. The stamps were withdrawn from sale after one year, with numbers sold ranging from 7,323,700 of the 31p to 41,007,000 of the 16p •





5 decades of **Bulletin**

Golden years: 1983

In his journey through 50 years of *Bulletin* John Holman revisits editor Charles Gown's debut issue – packed with stories on strange postboxes, army stamps, commemorative covers and more

WE CONTINUE OUR CELEBRATION of five decades of *Bulletin* with a look back at the July 1983 edition. The front cover featured the 20½p stamp from the British Gardens set that was issued the following month. Details of the issue formed the centre spread of the magazine. The attractive stamps featured well-known gardens in Kent, Staffordshire, Oxfordshire and Scotland.

This edition was the first *Bulletin* overseen by Charles Gown, the editor from 1983 to 1986. He introduced himself in his editorial by telling readers he had, for three years, provided the 'Gems from the R M Phillips Collection' feature while working at the National Postal Museum. Charles noted that an issue frequently raised by collectors concerned the positioning of cylinder numbers. To tackle the problem of obtaining cylinder blocks, he asked readers if they would be in favour of cylinder numbers being printed twice (or more) on each sheet, promising to pass on constructive comments to the printers.

The definitive statement

Also on the editorial page was an announcement to refute rumours circulating in several philatelic magazines that Machin definitives were to be replaced by landscape designs. The announcement stated: 'Whilst speculation is an inevitable and welcome part of collecting, adding interest and a touch of mystery, it is no part of Post Office plans to replace definitives with landscape designs. We are very proud of our present definitives which we regard as the British "philatelic signature".'

Below: the British Gardens issue of 1983





A feature article looked at British Army uniforms in association with the new Army stamps issued on 6 July, and a British Army philatelic wallchart was announced.

Information on new Royal Mail issues included details of new presentation packs of definitive and country stamps, a Scottish pictorial aerogramme, and a £1.30 high-value stamp and postcards for the London, Midland and South East postal regions. Such postcards were popular with many collectors.

Malcolm James, a pseudonym of James Watson, a noted contributor of the time, continued his 'Postcard Stories' series with a picture postcard showing the donkey used to deliver mail in the Devon village of Clovelly. The Phillips Collection article reproduced the notice sent to 'All Postmasters' from the GPO in Edinburgh in April 1840. Attached to the notice were two examples of the Penny Black, described as 'Penny adhesive Labels'.

Article 101 in the 'British Special Stamps' series covered the European Architectural Heritage issue of 1975. 'Seldom,' explained James Watson, 'have British commemorative stamps had such a grand title, though it will be seen that it is merited by the grandeur of some of the architectural gems depicted on them.'



The July issue also marked the culmination of a three-year campaign by the Council of Europe to awaken Europeans' interest and pride in their common architectural heritage.

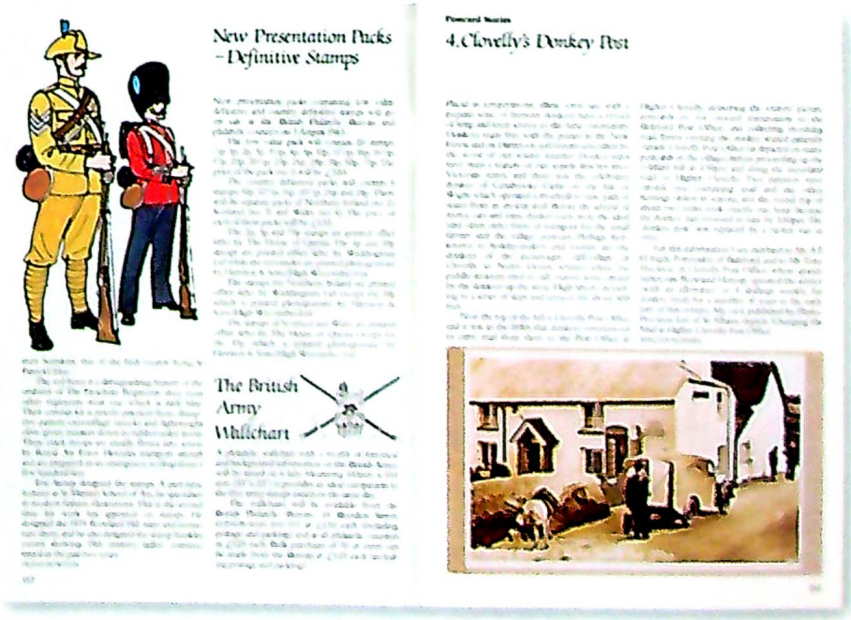
An explosive story

The 'Posting Boxes' article showed a photograph of a strange pillar box in the New Forest in Hampshire. Resembling a chimney or funnel more than a posting box, it was made of iron and erected close to a gunpowder factory in the late 19th century so factory personnel would have their own collection point nearby.

The edition concluded with reviews of five new books, and details of nine commemorative covers marking, among other events, the centenary of Newcastle upon Tyne Diocese, the 1983 Norfolk Scout Jamboree and London Transport's Golden Jubilee. There was also information on forthcoming stamp fairs and the weekend organised by the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle at Pendley Manor in Hertfordshire. Details of the event were available from Martin Robinson, who later became *Bulletin*'s regular contributor on post boxes and post buses.

At the time of the July 1983 edition, the *Bulletin* office was based at the Postal Headquarters at Finsbury Square in London, and the magazine was printed by the Cripplegate Printing Company. The annual subscription was then £3.50 (£5.75 airmail) •

Next month we travel back another ten years to recall the 'British Philatelic Bulletin' of August 1973. The following month we look at the first ever 'Bulletin', published in September 1963.



Left: an unusual post box in the New Forest, Hampshire

Below: an article about the British Army Uniforms issue of 6 July 1983, and the delivery donkey from Clovelly

Monarch and Mallard Special stamp sheets remembering a warrior king and a king of steam

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A vivid tribute to the life and times of Richard III

This rich and colourful stamp sheet commemorates the reign of Richard III following the discovery of his remains in Leicester earlier this year.

The beautiful illustrations by Adrian Bradbury follow his life and times, from his birth at Fotheringhay to his defeat and death at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485.

The sheet, commissioned by the Richard III Society to a limited edition of 2,500 copies, features the facial reconstruction of Richard, his Great Seal and signature. The ten stamps show the English flag, which appears on the Yorkist King's standard.

Beneath the stamps is an illustration by The Queen's Scribe of an armoured Richard on horseback. He holds his monarch's sceptre and his crowned shield is surrounded by the Garter. On the grass are white roses for York and Plantagenet broom flowers.

Price: £30, including worldwide p&p ●

Remembering the roaring success of a true steam star

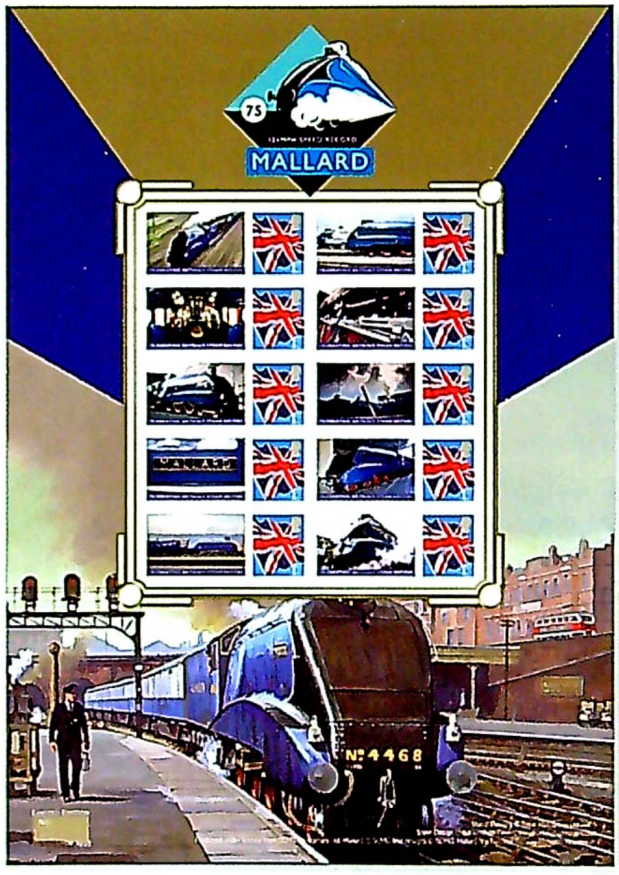
On 3 July 1938, A4 class locomotive *Mallard* roared into history with a new world speed record after a 126mph run at Stoke Bank, Lincolnshire – and the record still stands today.

To mark this great achievement Buckingham Covers has created a stunning stamp sheet presentation pack and cover, both featuring a classic painting of the *Mallard*.

Price: £28.90. A philatelic cover is also available, price £11.90.

On 3 July 2013, the National Railway Museum hosts a never-before-seen gathering of all six surviving LNER A4 class locomotives, including the *Mallard*. To celebrate the event, a stamp sheet presentation pack (not shown) is available, with artwork by John Wigston and ten firework stamps paired with illustrated labels. A commemorative cover features the famous 1985 stamp of the *Flying Scotsman*.

Prices: Pack £28.90, cover £11.90. All prices shown include p&p ●



Cover producers wishing to announce recent or forthcoming covers and sheets should submit an image and up to 75 words. We have space to publish only two or three announcements each month. The choice will be made on a first-come, first-served basis or around a theme, and always at the discretion of the Royal Mail Editor in maintaining fair representation of as many cover producers as possible. Please send submissions for the September edition of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* to arrive by 2 August. Post to the Tallents House address on page 322 or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.

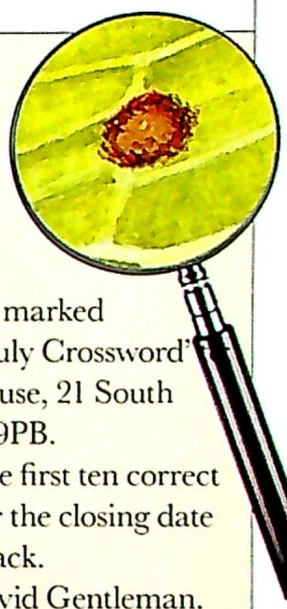
Butterfly brainteasers Earn your philatelic wings

a 

b 

c 

d 



Butterfly quiz

a) What distinctive part of this butterfly is the inspiration for its common name?

b) The Red Admiral is found throughout Britain, but which two continents does it hail from?

c) This butterfly appeared in a four-stamp set issued in 1981. Who designed the stamps?

d) One of the butterflies on new Royal Mail set is named after a punctuation mark. Which one?

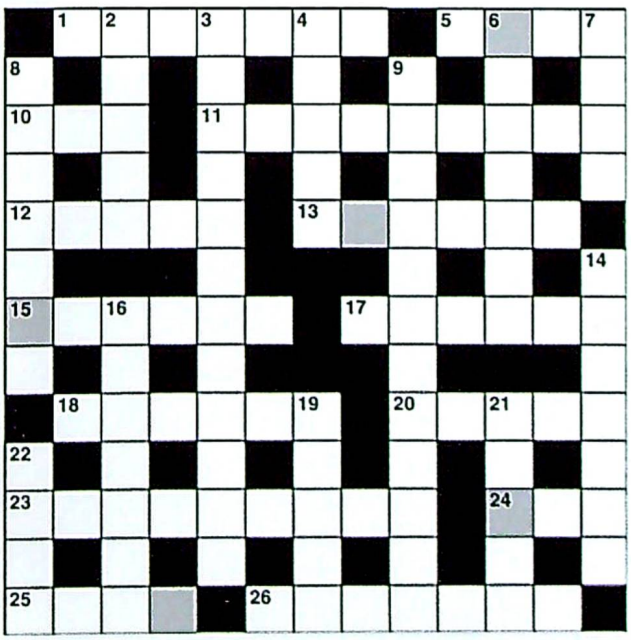
Name That Stamp Can you name and date the butterfly stamp from the detail shown right?

How to enter: Send your answers, marked 'Butterfly Stamps Quiz' and/or 'July Crossword' to Bulletin Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Closing date: 29 August 2013. The first ten correct entries drawn in each section after the closing date win the Butterflies Presentation Pack.

April Decades Quiz *Solution*: a) David Gentleman. b) Post Office Strike c) None. d) 26p. e) 2007. *Winner*: D Hanson, Malaga, Spain •

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD Complete the puzzle below, then rearrange the letters in the grey squares to form a stamp-related word. Send that word, with your name and address, to 'July Crossword' at the address above. The first three correct entries drawn after 29 August wins Butterflies issue.



CLUES ACROSS

1 South American diplomacy helps to keep the peace (4,3)
5 Part of the Burma-Siam landmass (4)
10 Lubricant to ease head off painful swelling (3)
11 Outwit remaining contact (9)
12 Bad broth produces a palpitation (5)
13 Little bird held by PM, not fifty (6)
15 'It's a season', one adds? (6)
17 A game to come across (6)
18 Support the Spanish drive forward (6)
20 Singers, one entering basic job, shortly (5)
23 Restaurant serving up pie before a riot breaks out (9)
24 A ship's donkey (3)
25 Last ones in, except Henri, consumed whisky neat (4)
26 Holds up picnic baskets (7)

CLUES DOWN

2 Lazy person awfully riled (5)
3 Boos splutter out where there's strife (7,5)
4 Squashed peach not expensive (5)
6 Biased social worker in vehicle (7)
7 One outside hospital needing treatment for this (4)
8 Challenge cheat over exam (7)
9 Crisp term, raw agony for author's affliction (7,5)
14 Once more, urge to keep down (7)
16 Dream I'm involved with a fabulous creature (7)
19 Immature insect right inside molten rock (5)
21 Where happy person walking when broadcasting? (2,3)
22 Re-correction to most of a cowboy's hat? (4)

Prize draw rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date.



Left: the complete Kings and Queens stamp collection, individually mounted and displayed in a traditional wooden frame measuring 33cm x 43cm. Price: £75 (including VAT)

Kings and Queens framed collection

Ever wondered what it would be like to have royalty hanging out in your living room? Now you can – this stylishly framed set of Kings and Queens stamps offers a stunning reminder of the six Royal Houses that have coloured our history since 1399. To order visit www.royalmail.com/stamps or write to Royal Mail, Tallents House, address on page 322 ●

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