BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

50th Anniversary Year 2013

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

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Classic cars, cool vans, stately ships, steam trains, riverlife and... gorgeous Seahorses



GREAT PRIZES BUMPER QUIZ PREVIEWS THE GREAT MACKENNAL + FRESHWATER LIFE 3

Issues and withdrawals



Cover: Peter Devine

The Aston Martin stamp is one of the special issue of British Auto Legends issued on 13 August 2013. For philatelic specifications of British Auto Legends, see page 327 of July *Bulletin*. Read more here about the background to the special issue on pages 374 to 377.

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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 now available printed by De La Rue. If you have a regular order for Visible Changes you will receive your order on 2 August 2013.
8 August	**Issue** Andy Murray Wimbledon Champion Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.28).
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).

To order philatelic items, including those listed 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Special stamps are usually withdrawn a year after their issue date. However, all stamps relating to London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games were withdrawn on 31 December 2012.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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River dwellers Dip into the delightful detail of the next Post & Go Freshwater Life issue, the last set in a three-part series **359**

The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● Editor: William Doherty ● Price £1.50 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets (see opposite) ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address opposite) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world
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Superstar car The story of a British Auto Legend– the Aston Martin DB5 **374**

Stamping in Gloucester Photo-report on the recent annual Congress of British philatelic societies **378**

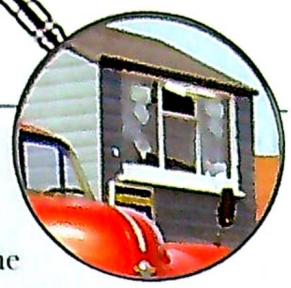


Bygone *Bulletin* Continuing our 50-year retrospective with stamp memories of 1973 **380**

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The beautiful game A reminder of the great Football Heroes **384**

Correspondence



First-class letter

Letting off steam

Europa-moper

In a recent edition of *Bulletin* you encourage readers to vote for their favourite stamps in the 2013 Europa series via the Posteurop website, which is now open for voters. Yet at the same time you announce that Royal Mail's contribution will not be issued until the 18 August – presumably meaning nearly four months of 'lost' votes for the UK stamp.

Furthermore, in contrast to the excellent range of stamps produced by the various European postal authorities, it appears the UK issue is to be a single stamp within a Miniature Sheet depicting a Morris Minor van from 40 years ago.

As a 'thematic' collector of postal transport on stamps this has been a bumper year for me, but the UK issue is frankly disappointing. Maybe we might be better off out of Europe after all!

AH Malony, Fareham

For this correspondence we are delighted to thank Mr A H Malony with two accolades – that of Star Letter and that of our favourite letting-off-steam correspondence. You see, this is the first letter passed to the editorial team in three years, on the subject of Europa stamps. And in that time we have grown ever more interested in the delightful Europa issues, while finding it hard to squeeze an article on them into what is, strictly speaking, a magazine for collectors of UK stamps.

To answer your points – the issue of Europa stamps from different countries is staggered over 12 months for many reasons. Some believe this helps the thematic collector, as he or she can mange their budget accordingly. Also there are two tiers of judging, for two awards, one reflecting the public vote and another awarded by a panel of experts judging after the closing date.

In the editorial pages of *Bulletin* we wish to encourage readers to vote in the 2013 Europa Competition, but at the same time we would not wish to influence their vote. Thus, we felt that by mentioning the possibility of voting even before the UK Europa stamp was issued, we would balance out any bias evident in this month's feature on page 368, which showcases the Royal Mail entry. Sorry to hear you are disappointed with it; we think it fits the theme perfectly. However, the more one looks beyond the Morris van, the more one wonders...

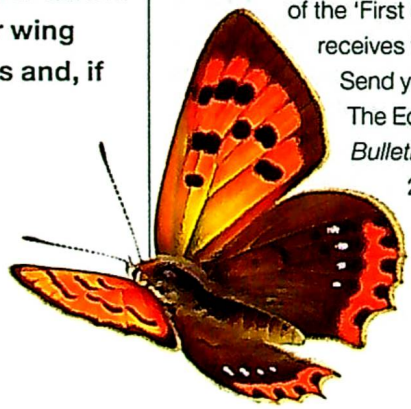
Before we seek the designer's explanation, we would like to ask readers what they think is going on in the background (see enlargement above)? Has the postie been viewing a new dwelling, or perhaps delivering a poster to a self-publicising herring-smoker? Please send us your ideas and opinions about this and other Europa matters •

A spot of confusion

I was very pleased to to see my photograph of the Small Copper butterfly on the cover of July *Bulletin*. But I notice that the Small Copper on the stamp has four white spots on the lower wing section. Does this indicate a sub species and, if so, which is true *Lycaena phlaeas*?

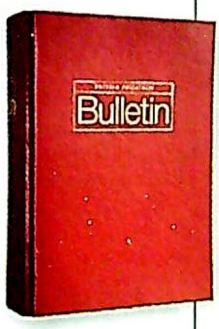
John Larkin, London

We are confident that there will be butterfly experts among *Bulletin* readers who will be able to explain? •



Keep the mail coming...

The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive philatelic delights as a thank-you. The writer of the 'First Class letter' award receives the *Bulletin* binder.



Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

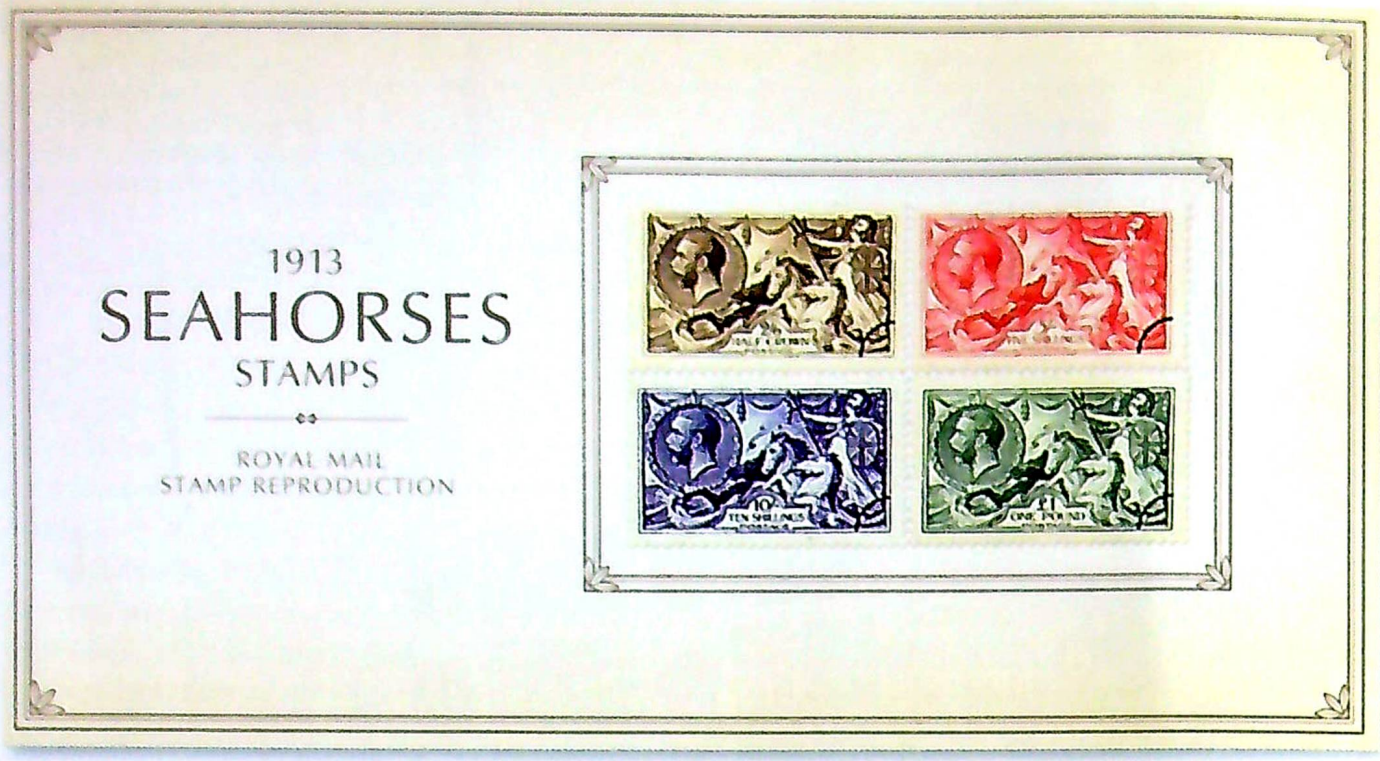
Remember you can send emails to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com



Left: the Bertram Mackennal Commemorative Sheet explores his life and works, through images on ten stamp labels and text written by Douglas Muir

Royal Mail news Marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of Bertram Mackennal

He was a philatelic legend, a true design original. Now sculptor Sir Bertram Mackennal, creator of the groundbreaking 'Seahorses' definitive stamps featuring his effigy of King George V, is being commemorated in a new Royal Mail Commemorative Sheet, Facsimile Pack and Press Sheet. They mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Melbourne-born Mackennal, whom The King famously described as a 'very clever Australian sculptor' after their first meeting. The Mackennal range shows the famous Seahorses ▸



Below: a Seahorses transfer roller from the £1 master die created by Harrisons. Below right: engraver's drawing of the Mackennal profile approved by King George V

stamp design, first issued by the Post Office on 30 June 1913. The design was seen as rather cutting-edge for introducing an image next to the monarch's head. The Mackennal profile also replaced the three-quarter-view head of George, created by court photographers W & D Downey.

The series of Mackennal items is released on 19 September – watch out for more background details in a future issue of *Bulletin* •

150th Anniversary of the Birth of Bertram Mackennal – Prices	
Commemorative Sheet	£14.95
Seahorses Facsimile Pack	£8.95
Seahorses Press Sheet, hand-numbered limited edition	£59.95

Please note that the Seahorse stamp facsimiles are not valid for postage.



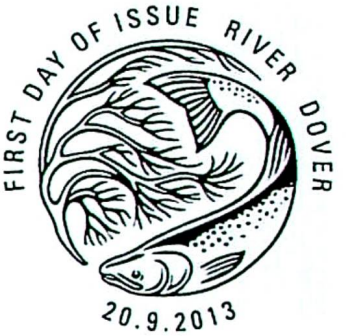


150th Anniversary of the Birth of Bertram Mackennal – Commemorative Sheet Specifications	
Date of issue	19 September
Number of stamps	10
Stamp	Royal Mail 'Wax Seal' 1st class
Sheet design	hat-trick design
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing, Meaucé, France
Print Process	Lithography
Gum	Self-adhesive
Pack and commemorative sheet design	Silk Pearce
Pack and commemorative sheet words	Douglas Muir

Profile and roller images: BPMA

Stop press: Royal Mail is marking Andy Murray's historic win in the Gentlemen's Singles final at Wimbledon with a set of special stamps. On sale from 8 August, 2 x 1st class and 2 x £1.28 stamps carry photographs of Murray, set in a horizontal mini-sheet format. For first-day details see www.royalmail.com/tennis. Your next issue of *Bulletin* features full philatelic specifications •





FD 13 26



FD 13 26NP

Above: as an alternative to the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark, pictorial and non-pictorial RIVER, DOVER postmarks will also be available for this issue

River dwellers The third set of the Post & Go Freshwater Life series surfaces on 20 September

Next month's new Post & Go Freshwater Life stamps feature denizens of UK rivers. Three endangered species are showcased – Atlantic Salmon, River Lamprey and White-clawed Crayfish – and three common species: Brown Trout, Blue-winged Olive Mayfly larva and Minnow. As with parts 1 and 2, Ponds and Lakes respectively, a First Day Cover and packaged Stamp Set are available, in which all values are First Class with a philatelic Post & Go code.

Orders for First Day Covers should be received by 20 September, at the Tallents House address on page 354. As an alternative to the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark, pictorial and non-pictorial RIVER, DOVER postmarks will also be available. All handstamps for this Post & Go series have been designed by Jack Renwick Studio •

Post & Go Freshwater Life 3: Rivers – Prices	
Stamp Set with Carrier Card	£3.60
First Day Cover UK	£4.80
First Day Cover overseas	£4.00

Post & Go Freshwater Life 3: Rivers – Specifications	
Date of issue	20 September 2013
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Kate Stephens
Stamp illustration	Chris Wormell
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm (w) x 25mm (h)
Printer	Walsall Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Kiss die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive







FD1319NP

Above: the plain CLYDEBANK postmark commemorates a famous ship-building centre

Ship ahoy! Salute the work of the Merchant Navy in a commemorative issue launching next month

They were queens of the sea who ruled the waves for centuries – and now the pioneering ships of the Merchant Navy are celebrated in a special stamp issue. The wandering 19th-century merchantman battling for trade and helping to forge the British Empire; the iconic *Cutty Sark*; the liner *Queen Elizabeth*; the chugging cargo ship pressed into action against the Nazis. All these are commemorated in the six-stamp Merchant Navy issue released on 19 September. Accompanying the set is a four-stamp Miniature Sheet, called The Atlantic and Arctic Convoys, marking the contribution the Merchant Navy made to the Allied victory in the Second World War, transporting crucial supplies in flotillas to deter enemy attack. Appearing on these stamps are some of the Royal Navy warships that escorted the cargo vessels, and a fleet of Merchant Navy ships cutting through the North Sea. In all, this issue represents 200 years of British seagoing endeavour.

Merchant Navy Stamps – 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	£4.50

Merchant Navy Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	19 September
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Silk Pearce
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	30/60
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



Stamp by stamp The Merchant Navy set features a mix of values – both First Class and £1.28. The four Miniature Sheet convoy stamps are First Class.

Atlas 1813 Chartered to the famous East India Company, *Atlas* made her first voyage to Madras in India and Whampoa in China in 1813. An East Indiaman of the largest class, she boasted 1,267 tonnage, and was 134 feet long, with a beam of 42 feet. 'Ship-rigged' (three-masted with square sails on all three masts), *Atlas* was equipped with a single deck of guns for defence against French corsairs and pirates. She made a further voyage to Madras, Penang and Whampoa before the end of the Napoleonic War in 1815, carrying an outward cargo of various goods as well as mail, letters of credit and bullion, all of which facilitated trade. On her way back, she brought a shipment of tea, porcelain and silk. After nine voyages, her commander Captain Charles Otway Mayne sold *Atlas* for £4,100 in 1830, when she was considered fit only to be broken up. *First Class*

Britannia 1840 *Britannia* was the first of Samuel Cunard's fleet of four paddle steamers to carry post to Canada and the United States after the Nova Scotian business tycoon secured a £60,000 mail delivery contract from the British government. This 207 foot-long wooden vessel left Liverpool on 4 July 1840 to be greeted at Halifax, Nova Scotia, 12 days later by cheering crowds. Cunard was among the 63 passengers, and when the ship anchored at Boston he received 1,800 dinner invitations. Cunard, of course, went on to found the famously five-star Cunard Line. As the first steamer to carry letters under contract to Royal Mail, *RMS Britannia* added the abbreviation 'RMS' – Royal Mail Ship – to the nautical lexicon. *First Class*

Cutty Sark 1870 Built for the China tea trade, *Cutty Sark* was named after the chemise worn by the witch Nannie in Robert Burns's poem *Tam O'Shanter.* A 963-tonner capable of 17 knots, she was designed to carry her valuable cargo fast enough to catch premium prices at the start of the seasonal tea market in London. With the gradual loss of the tea trade to steamers after the Suez Canal opened, *Cutty Sark* moved into the Australian wool trade, and made good passages home via the stormy Southern ▸



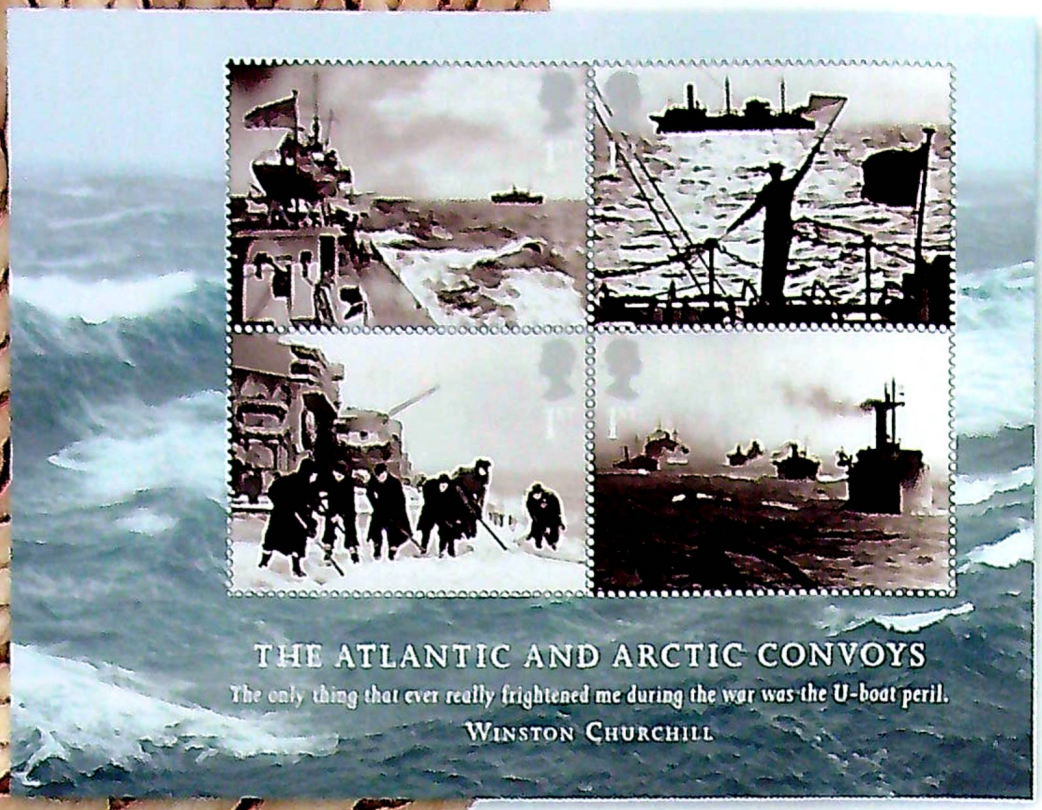
FD1319PL

Above: the CLYDEBANK crane symbolises the glory days of these legendary shipyards on the pictorial postmark

Merchant Navy Retail Stamp Booklet	
Issue date	January 2014
1st Class Stamp format	Portrait 20mm x 24mm
Book format	4 x 1st Class, 2 x 1st Class special stamps
Printer	Walsall
Print process	Gravure
Phosphor	Double bar
Gum	Self-adhesive



Left: this Retail Stamp Booklet, to be issued in January, contains four first-class stamps, the *RMS Britannia* stamp from the Merchant Navy issue and the Europa stamp from this month's British Auto Legends Workhorses Mini Sheet (see page 368). Slogans from postal history and nautical artwork decorate the backgrounds of the special stamps



Merchant Navy Miniature Sheet – Specifications	
Number of stamps	Four
Design	Silk Pearce
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Sheet size	115mm x 89mm
Printer	Joh. Enschedé Stamps
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

Ocean. Acquired for the nation in 1922, she is now a stunning exhibit at Greenwich. *First Class*

Clan Matheson 1919 Launched on 18 February 1919, *Clan Matheson* was powered by a triple-expansion steam engine and weighed in at 5,613 tons. Almost 400 feet long, she operated for the Clan Line cargo liner service from Britain to South and East Africa and India. She specialised in heavy lifts, carrying most of the rolling stock and locomotives for the Indian railways. Requisitioned for war service in 1940, *Clan Matheson* was bombed and set on fire by Japanese aircraft at Calcutta in 1943. Repaired, she returned to Clan Line service after the war. At the end of her busy career in 1955, she was loaded with old ammunition and poison gas canisters and scuttled off Rockall in the North Atlantic. *£1.28*

Queen Elizabeth 1940 She was the largest ship in the world when Queen Elizabeth, later The Queen Mother, launched her on 27 September 1938. But this luxury liner, weighing 83,673 tons and 1,031 feet long, was to have an unglamorous beginning. In 1940 *Queen Elizabeth* was seconded as a troop carrier, eventually ferrying American forces to Britain in the build-up to D-Day. In all she transported 750,000 troops over half a million miles. After the war she took soldiers and GI brides back to the States, then went back to her intended career as a transatlantic liner until 1968. When air travel hit the transatlantic service, *Queen Elizabeth*'s days were numbered. She caught fire when being converted into a floating university in Hong Kong in January 1972, capsized, and was partially dismantled. Her remains are buried under the reclaimed land of a new container terminal. *£1.28*



FD1319TH

Above: the Tallents House postmark with the Merchant Navy insignia at its centre

Lord Hinton 1986 Named after Lord Hinton, a pioneer of atomic energy and the first chairman of the now defunct Central Electricity Generating Board, this cargo ship carried coal from the Tyne Tees Coal Terminal to Kingsnorth power station on the River Medway in Kent. In 2004 *Lord Hinton* was bought by energy giant E.ON, and transported coal from coal exchanges in Europe to ensure that regular just-in-time deliveries enabled Kingsnorth to supply the National Grid. After years of loyal service, she was retired from the coal trade in 2012, and sold for trading in more temperate climes. *£1.28*

Orders for serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 19 September. As an alternative to the Tallents House postmark, special pictorial and non-pictorial CLYDEBANK postmarks are available for the Merchant Navy series. Clydebank was chosen because of its fame as a great ship-building centre, and *Queen Elizabeth* and *Cutty Sark* were both constructed on the Clyde •

Below: the Prestige Stamp Book comprises four stamp panes and fascinating facts about the adventure-filled history of the Merchant Navy



Merchant Navy Prestige Stamp Book

Pane 1 contains 4 x 50p and 4 x 5p Machin definitives

Pane 2 contains 3 x 1st Class Merchant Navy stamps

Pane 3 contains 3 x £1.28 Merchant Navy stamps

Pane 4 contains 4 x 1st Class Merchant Navy Miniature Sheet stamps but with a different background – this time with vital materials being loaded on board a convoy ship



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

Events

2-14 August International Stamp Exhibition, Bangkok, Thailand
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, Royal National Hotel, London WC1. Enquiries 020 8946 4480 or see www.stampshows.net

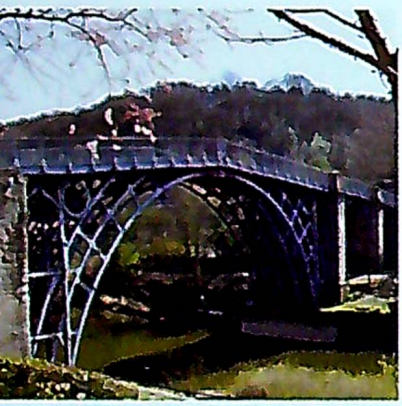


7 September City of Preston Stamp & Card Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road (A6), Barton, Preston PR3 5AA. 10am to 4pm
13 September Strand Stamp Fair
18-21 September Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1. Full details in next month's *Bulletin*. The Stampex postcard, shown left, reproduces an unused design for the 1996 Classic Cars issue •

Out and about

August is the traditional holiday month in the UK and many philatelists concentrate less on their collections than on their gardens, holidays or days out. However, it is possible to combine holidays and trips with your hobby and there is much to see and do around the UK this month that has a strong connection with British stamps. If you are visiting London, do book a visit to the British Postal Museum & Archive, or view the impressive philatelic collections at the British Library near St Pancras Station. The famous Stanley Gibbons shop in the Strand (near Trafalgar Square Post Office) is the largest stamp shop in the world and well worth a visit.

Away from the capital, the BPMA display 'Post Office in the Community' is an enjoyable part of any visit to the Blists Hill Victorian Town at Ironbridge in Shropshire (pictured left). And if you are going to the fine city of Bath, the Bath Postal Museum is a must on your list of places to visit.



A number of Britain's many preserved steam railways – the Bluebell, Festiniog, Nene Valley, Talyllyn and Welsh Highland – run railway letter services and issue colourful letter stamps. And if island-hopping appeals to you, visit Lundy (Bristol Channel) or Rona or Summer Isles (Scotland), where you can buy and use their own local stamps to carry letters to the mainland.

Details of many of the exhibitions, the BPMA, and railway and island local stamps are given in this or recent issues of the *Bulletin*. Have a great summer! •

Stamp-related exhibitions and events



A stamp featuring Benjamin Britten was included in the Great Britons set in April (shown left). An exhibition 'Poetry in Sound: The Music of Benjamin Britten' is on show 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.

An exhibition entitled 'Coronation!' is on show at the Chapter House, Westminster Abbey until

27 September (free admission, no booking required). The recently restored Coronation Chair can be seen in a new display in St George's Chapel, and a rare collection of Coronation Chair miniatures in the Abbey's Museum. Robes and jewellery worn by The Queen and other members of the Royal Family at the Coronation are the centrepiece of the annual summer opening of Buckingham Palace throughout this month and until 29 September. Phone 020 7766 7300 for information.

The first major London exhibition of the work of L S Lowry – 'Lowry and the Painting of Modern Life' – is on show at Tate Britain, Millbank, London SW1 until 20 October. An exhibition, 'Unseen Lowry', featuring private drawings, oil sketches and paintings, mostly not shown before, can be seen at The Lowry, Salford until 29 September. Lowry paintings featured on British stamps in 1967 and 2005. An article, 'Paintings on Stamps: The Tate, Lowry, and philatelic connections', was published in *Bulletin* in May 2000.

An exhibition entitled 'Picturing Africa: Illustrating Livingstone's Travels' is on show at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh until 3 November. Open Monday to Friday, 10am to 8pm; Saturday 10am to 5pm; and Sunday 2pm to 5pm. Admission is free. A Royal Mail commemorative sheet marking the bicentenary of David Livingstone's birth was issued on 1 May (see right and April *Bulletin*, page 230) •



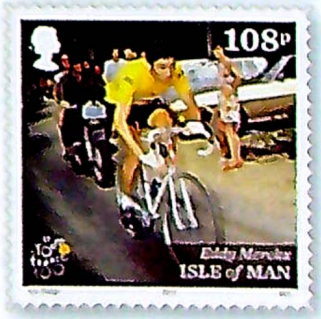
New from the islands

Guernsey Post's next issue will be six stamps on the theme of Animals – Centenary of the West Show on 11 September; this is part of the SEPAC series. All orders and enquiries to: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS – or email philatelic@guernseypost.com.

Jersey's next issue comprises six stamps featuring Jersey Scenery (8 August), and six stamps and a prestige book on Military Vehicles (28 August). On 17 September six stamps and a souvenir sheetlet featuring Tall Ships go on sale, followed by a miniature sheet showing The Royal Mace on 10 October. Enquiries to: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF (website: www.jerseystamps.com).

The Isle of Man issued eight stamps marking the centenary of the Tour de France on 19 June. Two of these are shown, right. The set, mint or cancelled to order, costs £5.72. Presentation pack, FDC, stamp cards and maximum cards are also available. The next issue, on 8 August, features St Thomas Church Murals. Orders and enquiries to Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, or visit www.iomstamps.com •





Philatelist honoured

Mr Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection since 2003, was appointed Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO) in The Queen's Birthday Honours in June. He was elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDP) last year. A feature on Mr Sefi, by Richard West, was published in *Bulletin* in March 2003 (pages 217 to 219) •

Railway stamps



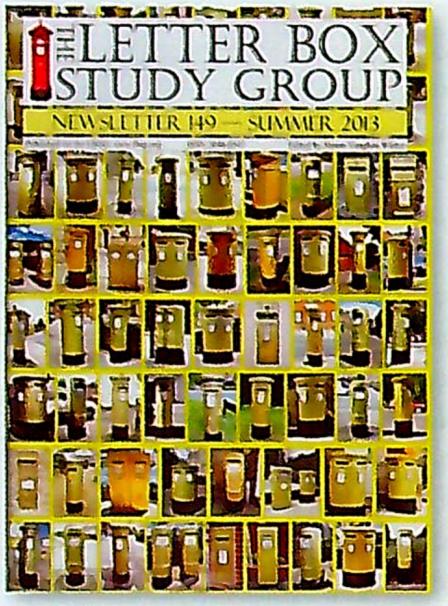


Shown here are the new Nene Valley Railway letter stamps issued on 16 April and 18 June. Further stamps are scheduled for 13 August and 5 November. Enquiries to Nene Valley Railway (Stamps), Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR or see the NVR website •

British Postmark Bulletin

Our companion magazine, published fortnightly since 1971, announces forthcoming special handstamps sponsored for anniversaries, events and particularly for the first day of issue of new stamps. The *British Postmark Bulletin* illustrates all forthcoming handstamps with a reference number to be used when sending covers to Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres for cancellation. An annual subscription of £12.25 for UK and European countries or £24.95 rest of world is available from Tallents House – contact details on page 354. To sponsor a special handstamp, contact Handstamp Liaison at Tallents House on 0845 071 2000 •

The Letter Box Study Group Newsletter



The Summer 2013 edition of The Letter Box Study Group (LBSG) Newsletter includes an illustrated survey of all the letter boxes painted gold in honour of gold medal winners in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Pages 16 to 19 carry 111 photographs featuring 115 boxes, listed in medal order and with the appropriate names of Olympians and Paralympians listed in blue and red respectively.

Also carried in the Newsletter is the LBSG submission and Royal Mail response to the Ofcom consultation document published on 23 March concerning proposed changes in the provision of post boxes.

To become a member of LBSG, contact Val Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Birmingham B20 1ES or email membership@lbsg.org •

August at the BPMA

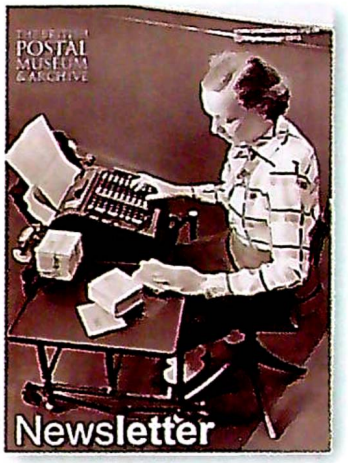
The British Postal Museum & Archive, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on Saturday 10 August (10am-5pm), but closed on Monday 12 August. For full information on BPMA services and events, phone 020 7239 2570, email info@postalheritage.org.uk, or visit the BPMA's website.

The BPMA exhibition 'Post Office in the Community' at Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire is open from 10am to 5pm daily. The 25 online exhibitions on the BPMA website include: Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman and letter boxes.

Popular 'GPO Walking tours', led by accredited guides, tell the story of Victorian postal reform, the growth of the GPO, the post underground and the development of post boxes and telephone kiosks. The next tour, on

25 August, starts at 11am. Cost £6 (£5 concessions, £4 Friends of BPMA). Phone 020 7239 2570 to book. For more on BPMA displays and events contact the BPMA for a copy of its comprehensive Events Guide (July-December 2013) and see 'Debden Day Out' on page 370.

The Spring/Summer issue of the BPMA Newsletter includes many interesting articles as well as news of numerous BPMA events and activities. There are features on the Great Train Robbery (1963), BPMA objects on display at other museums, the auction of duplicate stamps from the BPMA collections, a timeline of postal events during Victoria's reign, the BPMA photographic collection, and a look at the links, through art commissioned by the GPO, with the famous Bloomsbury Group of artists, writers and intellectuals. Details are included of a new issue of six BPMA postcards. Contact the BPMA for a copy of this Newsletter, in effect a 24-page A4-size colour magazine •



Moving Mail

Anyone who has wondered how mail posted in the evening in the south was delivered in Scotland at breakfast time the following morning should visit the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre in Quainton on 10 and 11 August for an event covering many aspects of Moving Mail – from the early horse-drawn days to modern times. The British Postal Museum & Archive will tell the story of the Great Train Robbery and subsequent work by the Post Office Investigation Department. The Letter Box Study Group will be displaying some interesting original and replica post boxes, while on the Sunday the Post Office Vehicle Club is holding a rally of restored PO vehicles and memorabilia. The TPO and Seapost Society will display their books about TPO hand-stamps. The Visitor Centre's Cinema Coach will feature a series of talks on both days: Julian Stray of the BPMA will present 'Horse Drawn Mails', Cyril Parsons will talk on 'Royal Mail & the Railways', while on Sunday the PO Vehicle Group will also present 'GPO Motor Transport in 1963'. Children can meet Postman Pat and Jess, who will be making appearances throughout both days, and there are hands-on Children's Crafts in the Museum.

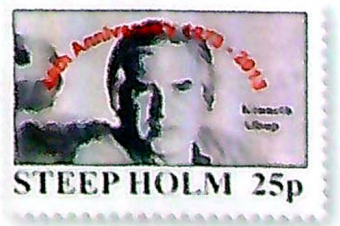
The Centre's Travelling Post Office coaches will be open on both days, featuring *Night Mail* and other relevant short films, photographs and text about how moving mail progressed from horse-drawn coaches to fast electric railways. The Sorting Coach is set up as when it was fully operational, sorting mail while travelling great distances through the UK overnight. Visitors can even 'have a go' at sorting mail! For further information see the BRC website, www.bucksrailcentre.org, or contact sheila@lobley.net •



New local stamp

In May the Summer Isles issued a new set of local stamps (local carriage labels) showing island scenes. All orders and enquiries to: Summer Isles Philatelic Bulletin, West Croftnuisk, Edradynate, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2JU, or visit the Summer Isles website. For more on Summer Isles and the stamp issues, see *Bulletin* September 2010 (pages 20 to 22) and May 2011 (pages 273 to 275).

A 25p stamp from Steep Holm in the Bristol Channel marks the 40th anniversary of the death of naturalist and broadcaster Kenneth Allsop. The island is administered by the Kenneth Allsop Trust. See steepholm.blogspot.com or contact J Wilson, 2 Blake End, Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare BS22 9LS •



Europe salutes the postman and his van

It is time to vote for your favourite in the 2013 Europa competition

THE THEME of this year's Europa stamp competition is 'the postman's van', and it has inspired a wide range of creative responses from the postal bureaux taking part – more than 50 at our last count. Some countries have chosen to show their first-ever delivery vehicles, some their most modern and eco-friendly, and many have based a whole stamp set or mini sheet on the theme of the history of postal vehicles.

As they are issued, the Europa entries are all displayed online and well worth a slow scroll through, to scrutinise the wealth of postal history and modern design approaches represented in the assembled stamps.

Just go to www.posteurop.org/europa2013. On the same website you have the chance to vote. From now until 31 August, it is up to voters – and that includes every *Bulletin* reader – to choose the most beautiful Europa stamp of 2013. Royal Mail has gone for the nostalgic appeal of the Morris van (see right), but not all entries show vans. One of a number of athletic posties on 21st-century bicycles may stir your philatelic pulse, or a noble horse-drawn mail coach, or even a cute camel from Kazakhstan.

Why not get your family and friends involved in the voting too? Have stamping fun – and may the best stamp win! •

Europa 2013 selection







Country/date of issue	**Austria** 19 September, 2012	**Czech Republic** 2 May	**Guernsey** 8 May
Tariff	EURO 0.70	25 Kc	UK Letter
Stamp design	Silvia Moucka	K Dvorák (engraver: J Tvrdon)	Robin Carter
Stamp format	Landscape	Square	Landscape
Stamp size	46.7mm x 22.3mm	33mm x 33mm	38mm x 30.6mm
Printer/process	Enschedé/offset litho	Postal Printing Prague/ offset litho	Cartor/offset
For more details	Sammler-service@post.at	Kostka.vladislav@cpost.cz	BYabsley@guernseypost.com

Royal Mail's European stamp ambassador for 2013



Good things come in small packages and the little Morris Minor postal van was a first-class bit of kit. Not exactly a juggernaut, this wee workhorse was nonetheless loved by postmen for its toughness and reliability. And in fact, the cute exterior hid a sizeable carrying capability for its class. No wonder the Minor served the Post Office solidly for over 20 years and has been chosen for this year's Europa stamp.

The Morris Minor Light Commercial Vehicle entered service in 1953 as the standard small capacity mail van, replacing the earlier Morris Series Z. Still going strong into the late Seventies, the Minor was by then a British institution, its bright red, curved lines familiar on country lanes and city streets across the country. It had some unusual features, too – when first introduced, for example, it sported rubber front wings to absorb the bumps and scrapes that were a hazard of the job and so save on bodywork repairs. Indicator lights were located on the sides of the van just below the roof.

So well respected was the Morris Minor that officials were hard pushed to find a suitable replacement for it in the Seventies (the last van was delivered to the Post Office in 1972). The Reliant three-wheeler, the Mini van and the Morris Marina were all trialled. Finally, the Ford Escort was chosen as the replacement that would end an era in postal delivery transport •









Ireland 2 May	**San Marino** 21 May	**Switzerland** 30 April
EUR 0.60	EUR 0.85	1 CHF
Steve Simpson (photography: Harry Weir)	Stefano Morri	Peter Hummel, Basel
Landscape	Landscape	Landscape
40.64mm x 29.79mm	40mm x 30mm	40mm x 32.5mm
Irish Security/offset	Cartor/offset	Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Liechtenstein/offset
Anna.mchugh@anpost.ie	info.ufn@pa.sm	bernhard.m.buerki@post.ch

Top: Royal Mail's Europa 2013 stamp, showing the Morris Minor van, is featured in a new mini sheet (details in July Bulletin, page 329)

Above: for red van fans, a collection of precision die-cast 1:43 scale models is available at www.royalmail.com/stamps

Debden day out The *British Philatelic Bulletin* team enjoys a tour of a warehouse in Essex



THERE IS a just-detectable whiff of engine oil from the post vans, a faint scent of ageing iron from ancient postboxes baking in the summer heat at this non-descript warehouse on an Essex industrial estate. Not the ideal place for a fascinating insight into British postal history, you might think. But you would be wrong. And very happily surprised.

For the British Postal Museum & Archive's Museum Store, a brick and steel storage unit a few minutes' walk from Debden Tube station, is packed with beautifully preserved relics from our postal past. The collection includes some 35 vans, at least 30 postal bikes, more than 200 postboxes (with around 50 on display), five phoneboxes, cars from underground 'mail rail' systems, postal reformer Rowland Hill's desk and much more.

And these relics resonate with a wealth of entertaining tales. About the postbox designers who forgot to include an aperture for letters. The phonebox with 'toilet facilities'. The postman's bikes named after a coven of witches.

These and many more tales are told by natural raconteurs. BPMA curator Julian Stray and exhibition officer Dominique Gardner engagingly reveal all on this very special free tour of postal vehicles, postboxes and telephone kiosks.

Bespoke booking service Anyone can visit, of course, but the tours have a wonderfully intimate, clubby feel. You have to book an appointment, as the tours happen only on selected days of the year. Once inside, you feel as though you have been invited into a secret world. How many museums can boast such an exclusive service?

There is a bespoke service too. On the day *Bulletin* attends, members of the Trollope Society are visiting. Julian is able to show them a 'Trollope box', symbol of Anthony Trollope's leading role in developing the use of postboxes in Britain. 'I expect you to be lining up to have your photo taken with it,' says Julian and grins at the appreciative chuckles.



Top: Julian Stray (in background wearing a checked shirt) guides the Trollope Society
Above: a combo of phone box and stamp machine

The offering, of course, is far wider than postboxes alone. We enter the Museum Store to a blaze of crimson – postal vehicles line up proudly under the strip lights and ceiling fans. And there is an avenue of gleaming green and red – some 150 years of postboxes stand ready to tell their story through the expert conduit of Julian and Dominique.

Our one-hour tour starts with telephones as, of course, at one time the GPO ran telecoms as well as the mail. Dominique shows us the exquisite 1926 K2 phonebox designed by famed architect Giles Gilbert Scott. She reveals that the domed-roof design is apparently based on the mausoleum of Sir John Soane, a friend of Scott's. Then to gasps of amusement, Dominique reveals that the K2 had a sloping floor – a damage-limitation measure to counter unofficial use as a urinal...

Scott's 1936 K6 follows: we discover that the elongated window panes allowed passers-by to more easily see the recently introduced advertising on the back wall of the box.

On now to vehicles. Standing next to a tiny yet beautiful pre-war Morris

Photographs: Paul Elmes



A classic Morris Minor post van of the type chosen for Royal Mail's Europa stamp this year

Minor postal van, Julian explains that drivers had a 70-hour working week, dashing about with their cargoes of mail...

Then a wonderful little piece of social history: the Post Bus, first introduced in Wales in the 1960s. (The Dodge Highline Post Bus on show is a yellow-roofed, red-bodied beauty that operated in Kent into the Seventies.) Post Buses picked up passengers on mail runs in isolated rural communities and Julian tells of the intimate, somehow tender relationship between postman and villagers: locals would leave their shopping trolleys outside or the garden gate open to indicate they needed a lift.

The tales just keep coming. Julian shows us a green BSA B33 Bantam Telegram Messenger Motorcycle from the 1930s. There was talk of painting the bikes red, but Julian explains that a Post Office official insisted: 'I don't want my boys going out like imps from Hell!' 'And so,' intones Julian drily, 'the bikes stayed BSA Green.'

He shows us the truly batty-looking Pentacycle mail bike from 1882. A ▸



Above: BSA B33 Bantam used by 1930s telegram messengers Below: postbox of bespoke Belfast design

More fascinating postbox facts from the Museum Store...

During the Second World War postboxes were covered in special paint that changed colour in the presence of gas to warn of a chemical attack by the Luftwaffe. The bases were also painted white so people would not bump into them in the blackout.

The First National Standard pillar boxes of 1859 were painted green. Difficult to spot in the countryside, they were later repainted red.

The Museum Store features a postbox built to foil IRA letterbombers. In Northern Ireland during the Troubles, postbox apertures – known as 'Belfast Slits' – were only just wide enough to accept a letter, to prevent explosives being sent by post.







Above: the Pentacycle, which proved a little unstable over cobbles, and the 21st-century electric delivery tricycle – as rare now as the Pentacycle

sort of Penny Farthing with four extra support wheels and letter baskets fore and aft, the Pentacycle was abandoned after postmen reported that the machine shredded their trousers when they rode it.

We move on to an electric delivery tricycle trialled in Sutton Coldfield in 2007. The wags from the local postal operation named each trike in their fleet after members of a local witches' coven.

Nineteenth century gems One of Julian's favourites is the display of two cars from the underground rail system that transported mail from Eversholt Street Post Office to Euston Station in the 1860s. These 'pneumatic' trains were powered by air at speeds of 35mph – and there are tales of Victorian gentlemen, tottering a little after an evening of gin and cards, cadging a lift home on them!



The postboxes are no less fascinating. Dominique points out the London Ornate box, in operation from 1857 to 1859, beautifully decorated in green and gold to attract the public to the idea of using postboxes. Only trouble was, the original design was *sans* aperture – an omission quickly rectified.

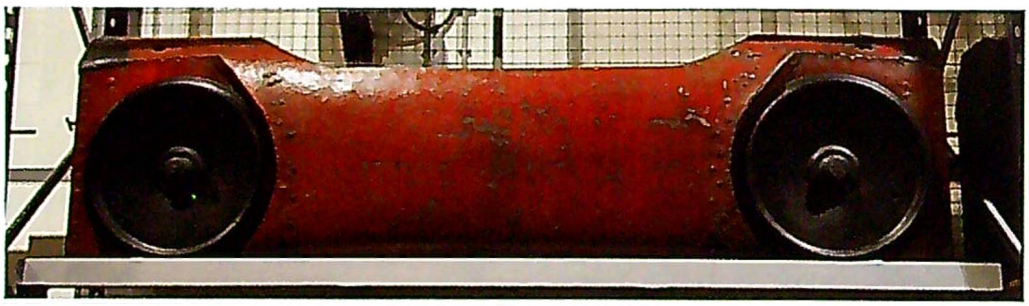
On her tour, Dominique reveals that in the early days of postboxes, thieves used sticky tar on a length of string to pull letters out – a lucrative scam as many people sent banknotes through the mail. (Some senders mailed half-banknotes in separate envelopes just to be sure...)

Horizontal slits therefore replaced vertical ones, as these were thought to be more difficult openings for thieves to retrieve their haul.

Then we see the so-called called Victorian 'Anonymous Box', made blank by accident without the monarch's cipher. Even today people phone up

Above: the London Ornate postbox, designed to inspire confidence in the new idea of leaving important mail in a box on the street

Right: a 'pneumatic' mail train dating from the 1860s





Royal Mail to complain about them, and officials can confidently explain blank boxes are far from current policy.

And talking of embarrassing cipher issues... Dominique shows us a very rare postbox with Edward VIII's moniker. Just 161 had been made when Edward abdicated, and the doors were hurriedly replaced with George V-inscribed ones until a George VI cipher could be prepared.

After a fascinating tour, Julian explains the appeal of the Museum Store. 'There is so much diversity in postal history and at the heart of it is a huge number of brilliant stories,' he says. 'I've never lost the thrill of discovering something and sharing it, so my hope is that people can go away from here having learned something that engages and excites them.'

We would imagine that his hope is fulfilled by every single visitor to this unique museum •





Above: Dominiqe Gardner explains the story of one of the Store's postboxes (left)

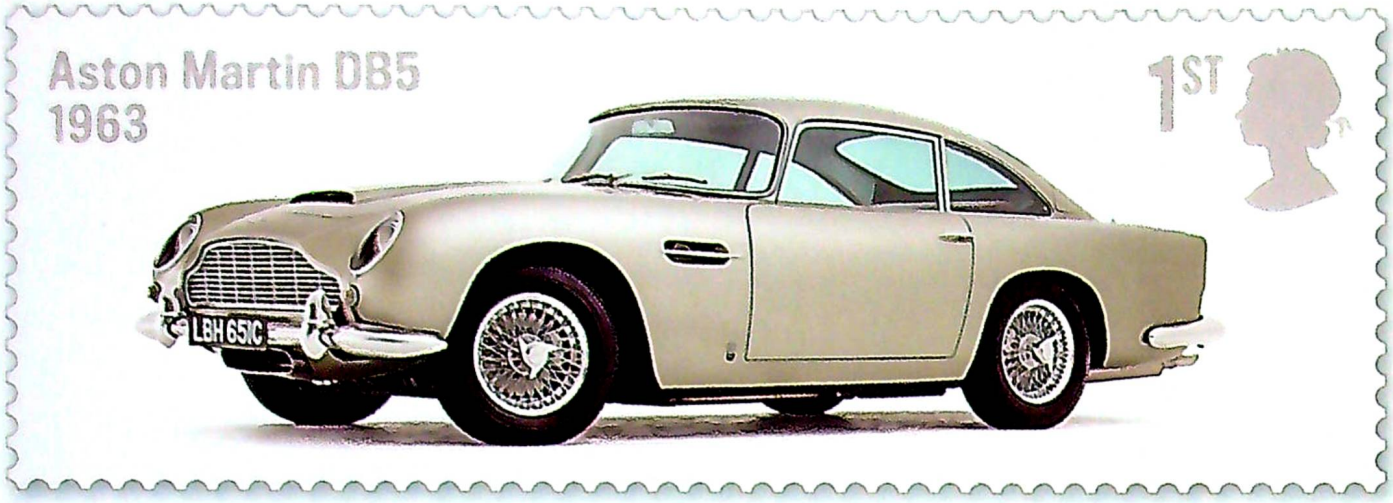
Below: an artist's impression of the new BPMA building that is now in planning

The Museum Store is the storage facility for large objects in the BPMA's vast collection. Some of these objects are set to be on show at the new BPMA museum due to open in Camden, north London in 2016. Book a tour of the Store – before it moves – on the BPMA's website: www.postalheritage.org.uk.



The perfect hero

As Aston Martin celebrates its 100th birthday, we salute the definitive British superstar car and its century of style



Above: if ever a car deserved its own stamp, it is the 1963 Aston Martin DB5, which takes its rightful place in Royal Mail's British Auto Legends, Thoroughbreds stamp set issued on 13 August. For philatelic specifications, see page 327 in your July edition of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*

WITH HIS TRADEMARK laconic grin, steel jaw and unforgiving eyes, James Bond powers the Aston Martin DB5 through the curves of Switzerland's Furka Pass. He duels like a demon down the mountainside with beautiful, vengeful Tilly Masterson pursuing him in a sexy convertible. But Bond, and his Aston, have no equal and the DB5's wheel scythe makes short work of Tilly's Ford Mustang. This classic scene from *Goldfinger* is Aston Martin's stunning 1964 debut in the James Bond movie series. It made a legend of the DB5 and sent Aston sales soaring.

Aston Martin, founded in 1913, was finally a true star brand, so inevitably its on-screen performance was matched by the bravura of the marketing men. To promote *Goldfinger* in France, Sean Connery paraded along the Champs-Élysées in a DB5 with an escort of 60 women smothered in gold paint.

Aston Martins have played leading roles in a total of 11 Bond films – a stunning endorsement of the brand's eternal appeal – but this car's reputation is about more than canny product placement and marketing. For like Bond, the Aston Martin is the perfect British hero sharing natural 'British' qualities that inspired the great and the good and the simply rich to own one. True class, effortless elegance, understated style, bulldog



Royal Family favourite

Astons have been given the Royal seal of approval for more than half a century... Prince Philip ferried The Queen about in his treasured Lagonda 3-litre drophead coupé, the sister marque of Aston Martin after it bought Lagonda in 1947. Prince Charles is an Aston loyalist, and has owned several. He lent his DB6 MKII – a 21st birthday gift from The Queen – to William to drive Kate away from their wedding celebrations. Prince Andrew has owned a rare Nineties V8 Virage Volante.

Words: Andrew Neish Image: © Alamy



power. And the series of magical model names says it all: Vanquish, Vantage, Virage and Volante. No wonder Prince Charles, Prince William and great Brits such as Stirling Moss, Daniel Craig, Mick Jagger, Twiggy and Hugh Grant have loved driving the marque. Prince Charles is a particularly zealous fan. He famously told off Diana for perching on the bonnet of his beloved DB6 Volante, perhaps worried about the gleaming paintwork.

The Aston heritage

Now is the right time to pay tribute to all things Aston Martin. The company celebrates its centenary this year and the classic DB5 stars in Royal Mail's British Auto Legends issue, released on 13 August. And no wonder – Bond apart, this quintessential luxury grand tourer's gentle, dreamy lines, achieved by shaping its aluminium panels over tubes, belied its throaty power: the 4-litre engine produced a top speed of 144mph and an exhilarating ride never forgotten by those who drive the DB5.

Contributing in no small part to this brilliant success has been Aston Martin's low-volume production compared to many other premium marques. Only around 65,000 vehicles have been produced in 100 years.

Add to this limited edition strategy the high price tag (today's Vanquish Coupé is yours for £190,000), plus racetrack success at Le Mans ▸



Byword for luxury

Aston Martin is more than just a car. It now offers a range of expensive goodies:

Luxury travel Centenary celebration road tours include: a European rally taking in Lake Como, St Moritz and a German schloss for £5,820 for two, and a £13,200 'Highlands and islands' tour with a stay at Gleneagles.

Tailored couture For the seriously sartorial, there is a £1,000 Aston Martin tweed jacket and £1,500 dinner suit.

Premium pram Harrods sells an Aston Martin-designed pram for £2,000. Lucky baby...





The high-society car

Aston Martin has been celebrating its centenary in sensational style this year, with the new Vanquish lifted over 1,000 feet by helicopter to the helipad of Dubai's Burj Al Arab hotel in January. A spectacular stunt for a spectacular car.

and Goodwood, and you have Aston's alchemy of exclusivity and mystique.

Stirling Moss, in the same gritty, British club as Bond – *sans* Walther automatic of course – may have won at Goodwood for Aston Martin in 1959 but, this being Aston, the magic of that victory and the Le Mans triumph the same year still resonates through time: his winning DBR1 racer was on sale in 2012 for a whopping £20 million. Fittingly, Aston Martin has recently unveiled its CC100 180mph concept car, which displays an uncanny resemblance to its DBR1 grandfather.

And all this from a two-man band, Bamford & Martin, launched off the Fulham Road in west London in 1913. Robert Bamford and Lionel Martin met through their love of hill climbs and had raced a Singer car. (Aston Martin gets its name from the Aston Hill climb in Buckinghamshire.) Two years later they had built their first Aston Martin and a legend was born.

Since then, innovative engineering, aesthetic brilliance and a profound understanding of true class have allowed Aston Martin to produce a brace

Below: movies that starred Aston Martins are featured in Royal Mail's James Bond Commemorative Sheet







Bring on the Bondmobiles

What good is luxury without a little devil-may-care action? Here are our favourite Aston Martin Bondmobiles…

***Goldfinger* (1964)** starring Sean Connery. **Model:** DB5. **Special equipment:** twin front wing-mounted machineguns, smokescreen, oil slick, passenger ejector seat. **Need to know:** when one of two DB5s used in the movie was sold for £2.9 million in 2010, the buyer received a free suit worth £30,000 and made with golden thread by Gieves & Hawkes, tailors to Connery for his Bond roles.

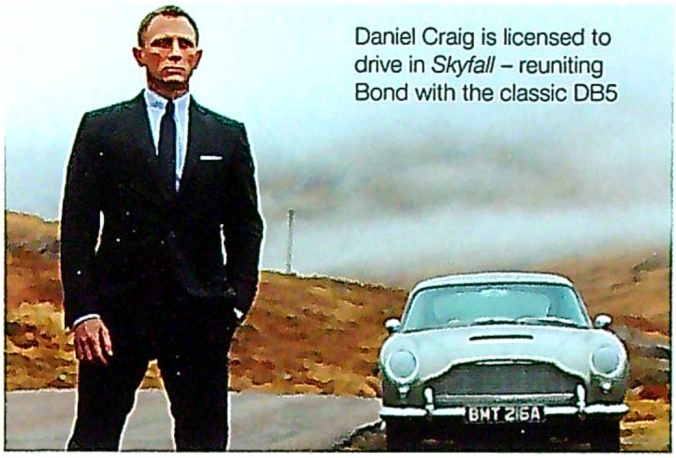
***The Living Daylights* (1987)** starring Timothy Dalton. **Model:** V8 Volante. **Special equipment:** rocket launchers behind the fog lights, lasers on the wheels, jet boost system for the engine. **Need to know:** the car used in the movie was owned by Aston chairman Victor Gauntlett.

***Die Another Day* (2002)** starring Pierce Brosnan. **Model:** V12 Vanquish. **Special equipment:** heat-seeking missiles, spiked tyres. Boffin Q calls it the Vanish because high-tech adaptive camouflage makes the vehicle 'disappear'. **Need to know:** Brosnan bought his own Vanquish after the movie.

***Casino Royale* (2006)** starring Daniel Craig. **Model:** DBS. **Special equipment:** defibrillator and anti-poison kit that Bond uses after being poisoned by Le Chiffre in the casino. **Need to know:** in the DBS crash scene, the stunt driver flipped the car seven times – a Guinness world record.

See a collection of Bond cars at Beaulieu motor museum – including Brosnan's DB5 from *Goldeneye*, the *Quantum of Solace* DBS and the V12 Vanquish from *Die Another Day*. Details at www.beaulieu.co.uk.





Daniel Craig is licensed to drive in *Skyfall* – reuniting Bond with the classic DB5

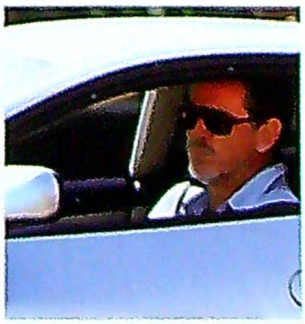
of beautiful, powerful cars. The Aston marque's stylish heritage, exemplified by the DB5, still glows in today's line-up of 21st-century supercars. Just look at the bullet-sleek Vantage sports, the aggressively elegant Vanquish grand tourer, the rightly named Rapide S – 0-60mph in just 4.7 rip-roaring seconds.

Some might even say that every 21st-century Aston Martin has the heart of a DB5 still beating under the bonnet •



Celebrity owners

They may not be Royal, Bond or even born here, but big names have bought into British high society culture by bagging an Aston. Celebrity owners include Mick Jagger (DB6), Elle Macpherson (DB5, above), Halle Berry (V8 Vantage), Steven Spielberg (DB9 Volante) David Beckham (DB7) and Pierce Brosnan (Vanquish, right).



Story of a legend



1913 Robert Bamford and Lionel Martin form Bamford & Martin, initially to sell Singer cars. The name is later changed to Aston Martin.

1915 The duo decide to build their own cars and the first Aston Martin, a prototype called the Coal Scuttle, is produced and raced in hill climbs.

1920 After the hiatus of the First World War, a second Aston Martin prototype is built.

1922 Two Aston Martins compete in the French Grand Prix and the company begins to make a name for itself.

1928 Aston Martin enters Le Mans for the first time.

1937 140 vehicles are made – the highest pre-war production level.

1947 Aston Martin is sold to businessman David Brown – the famous 'DB' series name comes from his initials. The company expands and the muscular 2-Litre Sports and DB2 are launched, in 1948 and 1950.

1959 Aston Martin wins the World Sportscar Championship and racing legend Stirling Moss triumphs at Goodwood.

1963 The DB5 enters production and gains legendary status after appearing in *Goldfinger* the following year. In the book, Ian Fleming gives Bond a DB MKIII but it is decided that Connery should be driving the latest model in the movie.

1986 The V8 Volante appears in *The Living Daylights*.

1993 The famous DB badge is brought back for the launch of the DB7.



2008 The DBR9 wins the GT1 class at Le Mans for the second year in a row and the DBS stars in *Quantum of Solace*.

2013 In this centenary year Aston Martin and 007 meet again in *Skyfall* for the perfect celebration – Daniel Craig is behind the wheel of a vintage DB5.

© Aston





Above: Distinguished Philatelists gather to witness new signees to the prestigious Roll during a special ceremony at Blackfriars Friary in the heart of historic Gloucester

Left: expert presenters used standing displays such as this one called 'Edward and Wallis – The Lost Crowns'





Above: Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection Michael Sefi makes a good point and Francis Kiddle enjoys one of many jokes shared with Tony Virvilis

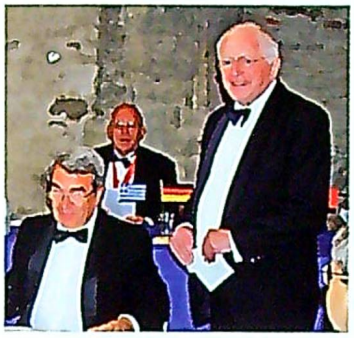
Good times in Gloucester

One of British philately's most important annual conferences looks to the future

EXCELLENT PRESENTATIONS, brilliant speakers and collectors from all over the world made June's Africa-themed ABPS Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in historic Gloucester a great success. Signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists were Dr Luis Frazão from Portugal, Professor Dr Alexander Ilyushin from Russia, Renate Springer from Germany, Tony Virvilis from Greece and Britain's own Douglas Muir.

The Congress Medal was awarded to Yvonne Wheatley, and the ABPS Award of Merit given to Lesley Berry, Paul Davidson, Terry Kirkman and Chris Oliver, for services to philately. The Kay Goodman Lecture by Chris King was generally considered to be inspiring and will be reviewed in a future *Bulletin* ●



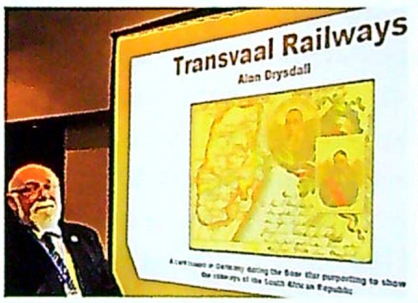


Above: Dr Luis Frazão signs the Roll, with his sponsor Claude Delbeke

Right: new Distinguished Philatelist Douglas Muir with Chris King, ABPS Chair, National Exhibitions and Seminars

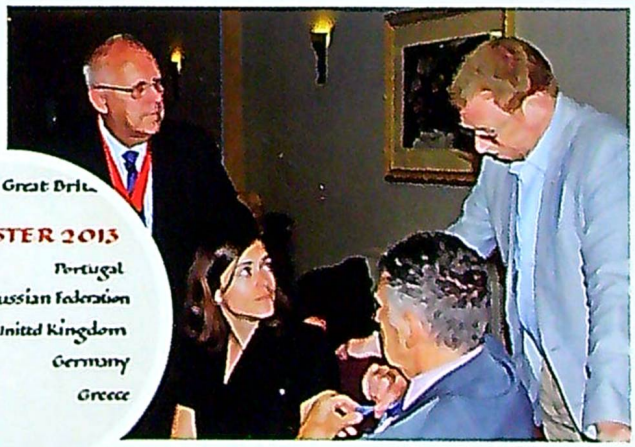


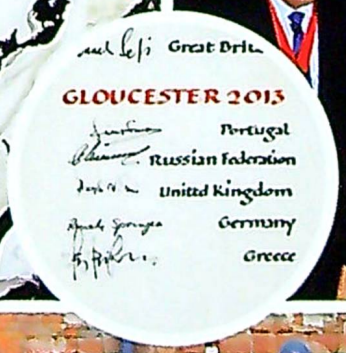












Clockwise from far left: Distinguished Philatelist Renate Springer; Alan Drysdall's Transvaal Railways presentation; Yvonne Wheatley and her Congress Medal; Veronica Wilson shares a brolly; John Baron, Louise Reynolds, Paul Gaywood and Chris King discuss points raised in the Kay Goodman Lecture. Below: all the attending RDPs gather for the roll-signing ceremony at Blackfriars Friary





5 decades of **Bulletin**

Golden years: 1973

In his philatelic journey through 50 years of *Bulletin*, John Holman revisits the pages of a hot Seventies August

THE FRONT COVER IN AUGUST 1973 featured the 9p stamp from the recently issued British Painters set – the stamp reproducing *The Reverend Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch* (or *The Skating Minister*) by Sir Henry Raeburn, painted in the 1790s. The stamps issued in August 1973 commemorated Inigo Jones and *Bulletin* appropriately ran a feature by the stamps' designer Rosalind Dease. She recalled a chance visit to the Head of Stamp Design, Stuart Rose, when he asked her what she knew about Inigo Jones – about whom she was particularly knowledgeable. After Dease had 'rattled on for a bit', Rose then said that if stamps for his 400th anniversary were agreed, would she like a direct commission to design them. The article recounts how Dease set about designing the stamps and first day cover, and writing the presentation pack. When writing the copy she 'was quaking in my shoes lest I said something that the scholars would fault, but having worked on the Inigo Jones stamp set, off and on, for nearly a year I feel soaked in the subject'. Unfortunately the article was unillustrated, it would have been nice to have seen some of Dease's sketches for the stamps, or indeed a picture of her.





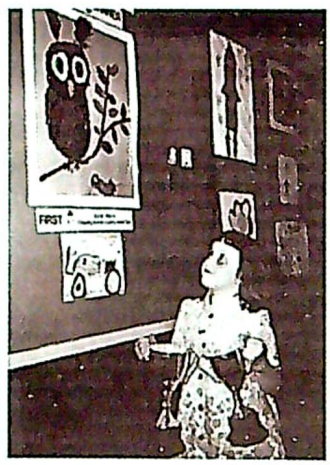
Above: the 1973 issue that commemorates Inigo Jones

Unadopted Edmund Dulac

The main feature article was about the low-value definitives of George VI by A G Rigo de Righi, Curator of the National Postal Museum. This article was illustrated, featuring some of the unadopted designs by Edmund Dulac, Mark Severin, Eric Gill, E Clark, Harrisons (based on design by Scottish Philatelic Society) and a Miss Sparkes. Still on the subject of stamp design, the results were announced of a competition organised by the Head Postmaster of Oxford with 350 schools in the county. Some 4,000 children



Right: unadopted designs from the archive and Sarah Morris's winning owl design



entered and the winning design, by seven-year-old Sarah Morris, featured an owl. The winning designs were displayed at the Town Hall in Oxford.

A new Welsh aerogramme was shown, featuring a lady in traditional Welsh costume on the front panel and a view of Snowdonia on the main panel – the work of Douglas Halliday, designer of the FDC and presentation pack for the Prince of Wales Investiture issue in 1969. Still on airmails, there was a one-page feature on the British Air Mail Society which had been involved with the 50th anniversary of the first aerial post in 1961. Shown was the wooden propeller blade from the aircraft used in the 1911 flight, signed by pilots Gustav Hamel and Clement Creswell. The propeller was then owned by a Mr Victor Brown of C & J Brown's furniture store in Edinburgh.

Innovations on the cards

Looking ahead to future issues, details were given of the FDC services for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference stamps (12 September) and it was announced that two special stamps would be issued on 14 November to commemorate the marriage of HRH Princess Anne to Mark Phillips. A list of the six stamp issues for 1974 was published, beginning with a British Trees stamp in February. The issue for July was designed as 'Historical Figures', later renamed Great Britons. The figures to be commemorated were listed as Boadicea, Robert the Bruce, Edward Plantagenet and Owain Glyndwr. In the event Boadicea was replaced by Henry V.

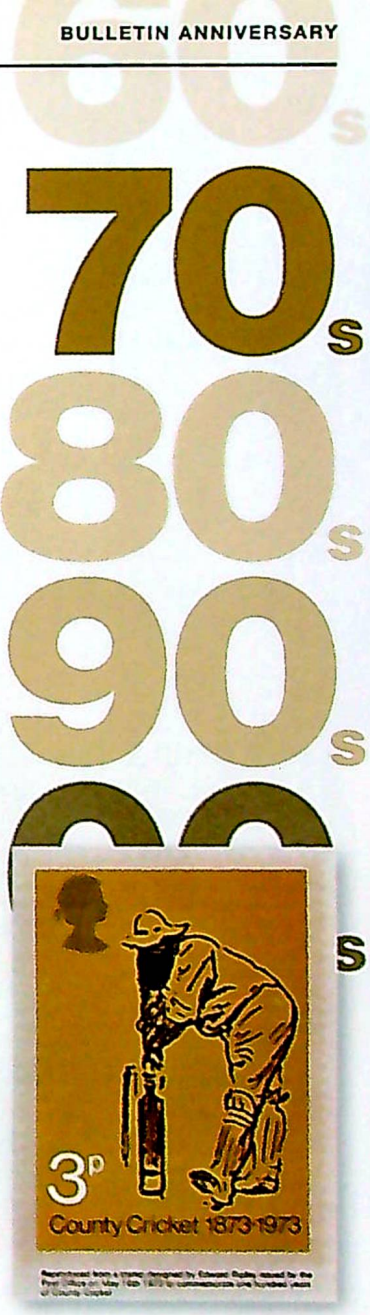
Also announced was a 'charity stamps experiment'. The announcement stated that details still had to be worked out but it was likely that charities to benefit would be nominated by an independent committee. The stamp eventually went on sale in January 1975.

Another announcement concerned the first of what have become known as PHQ (Postal Headquarters) cards. The announcement stated: 'The Post Office is to produce a new series of picture cards whose themes, we hope, will be of interest to collectors and postal historians. The first card shows a reproduction of the recent 3p County Cricket stamp featuring W G Grace and is now on sale price 5p from selected offices in England and Wales.'

There were book reviews of the 12th edition of *SG's Collect British Stamps* (then just 30p!), a list of Slogan postmarks of the UK, 1972, and *Collecting Postal History* by Prince Dimitry Kandaouroff. A number of special handstamps and slogan postmarks were announced, a list of readers wanting back copies of *Bulletin* and details of flown covers in the RAF Museum series.

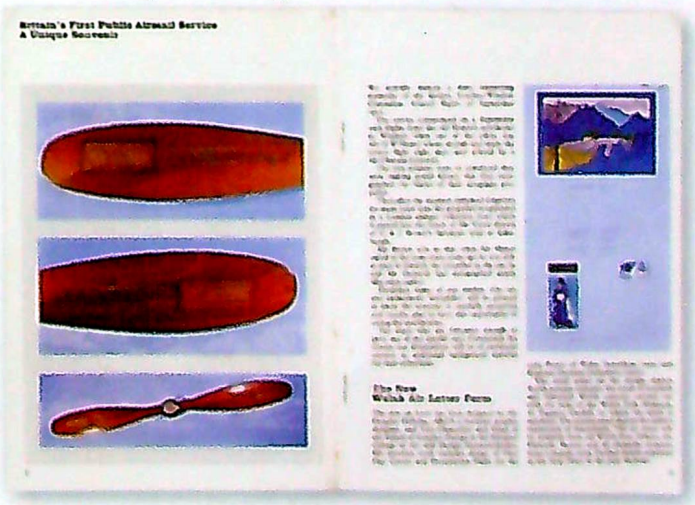
Bulletin comprised just 16 pages and carried no Editor's name – that was not made public until 1979. The Editor was in fact Archie Page who was based at Postal Headquarters in St Martin's-le-Grand, London EC1. *Bulletin* was printed by Moore & Matthes (Printers) Ltd, and the annual subscription was just 50p •

Next month we go back a further decade to review the very first Bulletin published in September 1963.



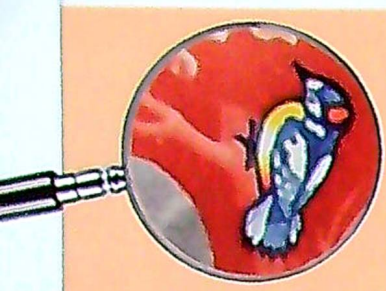
Above: the first of the PHQ cards featured W G Grace

Below: a British Airmail Society article shows the wooden propeller signed by the pilots of the first aerial post



The hot summer quiz

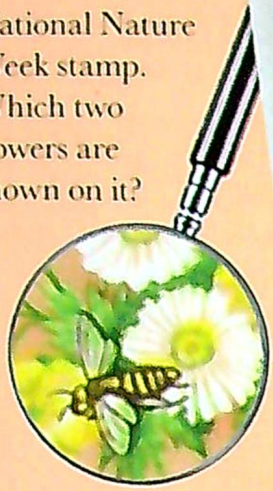
Lush fields, cricket, a pint at the village pub. Grand gardens, landscapes as romantic as a Beatrix Potter picture. Vivid blooms and butterflies, strawberries and cream, escapes to the coast. Yes, our bumper summer quiz is fittingly based on stamps that encapsulate this golden season. And, talking of golden, the issues all come from milestone years marking the 50th anniversary of *Bulletin's* launch in 1963



1963

1 Here is a detail from one of a pair of stamps marking National Nature Week. What nocturnal animal appears on the stamp?

2 This is a detail from the other National Nature Week stamp. Which two flowers are shown on it?





4 In a new series of picture cards, one showed a reproduction of the 3p County Cricket stamp, featuring a caricature of which cricketing legend?



1973

3 The great British oak tree was chosen for a stamp to mark National Tree Planting Year. What was the slogan for this campaign?

1983

5 Which garden at a writer's Kent home is featured on the 16p stamp in the British Gardens issue?



6 Royal Mail illustrated the first of a series of stamp books showing British countryside scenes. Name the Dorset harbour shown here.



7 Name the 1983 issue that includes this merry-go-round.





1993

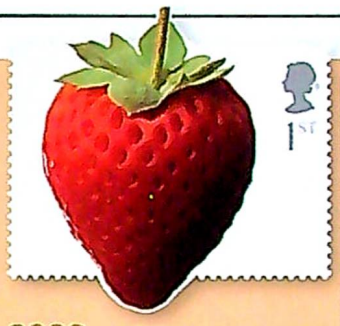
8 Abbotsbury Swannery, celebrated in the stamp below, was founded by which order of monks?



9 The stamp above showcases one of Britain's most famous public gardens. What is the garden called?



10 Name the author of the story represented on the stamp above.

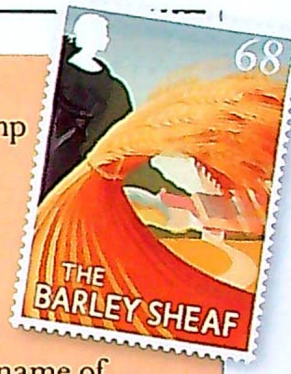


2003

11 This juicy summer strawberry stamp is part of the Fruit and Vegetables issue. Name two other fruits that are featured in the series.



12 Name the famous viaduct on this stamp from A British Journey: Scotland.



13 This 68p stamp is from the Pub Signs series. What was the name of the historic ship on the 47p stamp?

2013

14 Who illustrated the Butterflies issue?



15 What is the scientific name of this Emperor dragonfly from the Post & Go Freshwater Life series?



How to enter: Arrange the first letters of the answers to questions 1, 3, 13 and 15 to give the public identity of the Postal Heritage Trust, established in 2004 to manage the public records of The Royal Mail Archive. Send your answer, along with your name and address and marked 'Bulletin Summer Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. **Closing date:** 29 August 2013.

Prizes: The first ten correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Butterflies Presentation Pack.

May solutions and winners: *Name That Stamp, Football* a) 1966. b) 1996. c) 2013. d) 1990. *Winners*: T Baldwin, P Bowater and A F Parker. *Cryptic Crossword* Mulready. *Winners*: J Wykes, P F Welburn and I McIlwraith. Find the answers to the Summer Quiz in your October *Bulletin* •

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.

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