

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 47 Number 12

AUGUST 2010 £1.20

Bulletin

Europa stamps • MailRail
memoirs • EIIR post boxes



1st

Winnie-the-Pooh and Christopher Robin

A A Milne's son and his bear
inspired Winnie-the-Pooh,
celebrated in a special
Children's Books issue

WIN CACHET COVERS, NEW ISSUES AND MORE

Issues and withdrawals



Cover: Alan Alexander Milne's son Christopher Robin Milne and an Alpha Farnell teddy bear, given to him on his first birthday in 1920. The bear was later to become immortalised as Winnie-the-Pooh, celebrated by Royal Mail in the forthcoming Children's Books issue. Photograph © Camera Press/Marcus Adams

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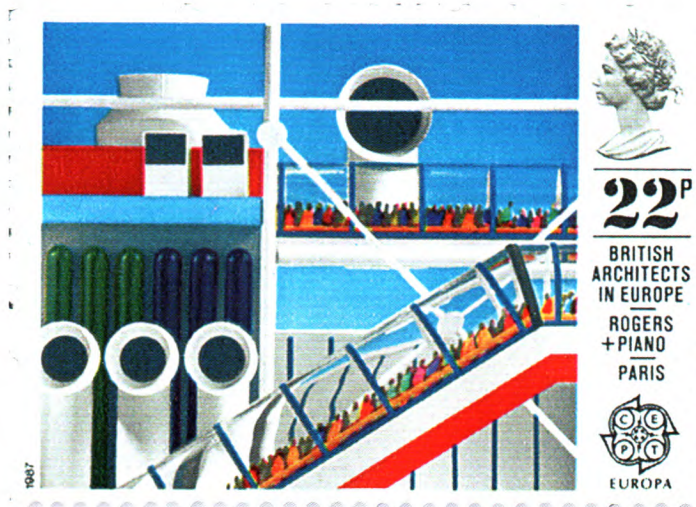
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02 August	Withdrawal Thaipex 2009 Expo Exhibition Sheet
10 August	Issue Florence Nightingale Coin Cover ● London Eye Commemorative Sheet
17 August	Withdrawal Postboxes Miniature Sheet, Stamp Cards, Generic Sheet, Presentation Pack, Press Sheets
19 August	Issue Great British Railways stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards ● Retail Books 12 x 2nd, 6 x 1st Stamp Books with copy change: printer's name removed
31 August	Withdrawal Fire and Rescue stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards and Fire Service Medal cover
15 September	Issue Battle of Britain generic sheet ● British Design Classics Stamp Book No 5
16 September	Issue Medical Breakthroughs stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards ● Great British Railways Name Plate cover
17 September	Issue Birds of Britain (1) Post and Go stamps
19 September	Withdrawal British Army Uniforms, RAF Uniforms, Royal Navy Uniforms stamps, Presentation Packs, Stamp Cards, Prestige Stamp Books, Cachet Covers, Territorial Army Commemorative Sheet, Military Uniform Collection

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Going underground Len Stanway unearths some rare collectable gems associated with the sadly lost subterranean service, MailRail **366**

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Postbag The Editor answers readers' questions

Seahorse hatching

I was puzzled about the production of the £1 Seahorse on the new miniature sheet, as it appears it is a 'reproduction' of a stamp that wasn't issued. I notice it is credited as 'the 1934 re-engraved, with cross-hatching in the circle around George V's head'. As far as I am aware only the 2s.6d, 5/- and 10/- value were issued in the re-engraved style, and only the £1 was issued with horizontal lines in the circle. I was wondering if you could shed any light on why the £1 Seahorse was reproduced on the miniature sheet in the 'wrong' engraving?

J Studholme, East Lothian



Dear Mr Studholme,

For the Seahorses it was found that the re-engraved dies by JAC Harrison in 1934 were very much better in terms of reproduction than the original £1 version of 1913. The re-engraved version had the cross-hatching behind the head and this was used for both of the reproduced values, even though the £1 was not re-engraved as the other values had been. The whole Seahorse design is an amalgam from a number of sources.

Douglas Muir, Curator of Philately at The BPMA

Mr Studholme receives a set of *Bulletin* binders and a Penny Black tie



Printing and pasting

I have been a *Bulletin* reader for more than 35 years and I am especially interested in definitives and used stamps. Technical details of printing are essential to enable me to prepare my orders and to classify such intricate issues as the Machins. Right now, I am puzzled about whether the adhesive gum on the following issues is soakable or not – Classic Albums, Olympics and Paralympics, British Design, 2009 Christmas set, and NVI Machin definitives issued in books of four. I would like to see this information published prior to issue.

E Peremans, Brussels

Dear Mr Peremans

We do aim to share as much technical information with readers as possible, but the printing dates of the *Bulletin* are sometimes too far in advance of those of the stamps for us to confirm technical details in time for inclusion. However, in future we will include as much on specifications as possible (see p381 for the new issue's technical details).

In answer to your second point, the new non-soakable self-adhesive laminate was introduced for the Christmas 2008 stamp issue (1st and 2nd Class only). The first Special issue to use the laminate was Darwin in 2009. All subsequent self-adhesive Special issues were/will be on the non-soakable laminate.

On definitive stamps, the new laminate was introduced, in sheet form, from February 2009 with the new security stamps (1st, 1st Large, 2nd, 2nd Large, 50p and £1). The retail stamp books and business sheets converted from April 2009.

All self-adhesive stamps produced by Royal Mail now use the non-soakable laminate. During 2010 the laminate will also be migrated to a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accredited product for ecological reasons.

I hope this helps you with your collection and clears up any technical queries.





A name to conjure with

It was good to see a Penfold post box in the June edition of the *Bulletin*. My maiden name is Penfold and there is a family story that we are direct descendents of John Wordham Penfold, so I have always been delighted to see these post boxes on my travels around the UK. When I met my husband, a keen postal historian, he suggested that I needn't take his name should we get married! Enclosed is a photo of my husband Paul and I, taken at last year's Centenary Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, standing next to a repro Penfold. *Lynda Gaywood, Preston*

Dear Mrs Gaywood
How lovely to hear your story. If you come across any unusual postboxes, do let us know!

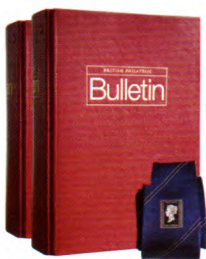
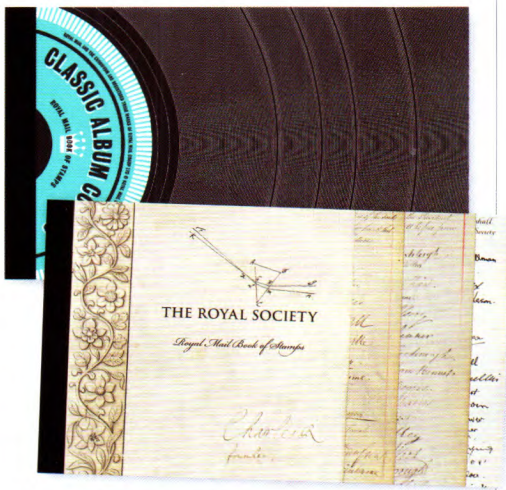
In search of Garamond

You attributed the use of Garamond typeface for the 5p and 54p definitives to the Design Classics Prestige Book (in 'Under the Loupe' of the June issue of *Bulletin*). But neither stamp appears in that issue.

C Lawrence, Warrington

Dear Mr Lawrence,

Two Prestige Stamp Books carry the incorrect typeface for the 5p and 54p definitives: the Royal Society Book and Classic Album Covers Book (shown, right). The confusion arises because the Classic Album Covers issue is sometimes referred to as 'Design Classics II' in philatelic circles. We'll send you a Classic Albums PSB so that you can witness the anomaly for yourself.



Surprise us and we'll surprise you!

Karin Ward, Editor of the *Bulletin*, welcomes your letters and has a topical selection of philatelic delights to give as a thank-you to the senders of those published. Please note, however, that Royal Mail cannot reply to all letters and reserves the right to edit for length. Please include an email address if possible. Send your letters to: The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Redwood Publishing, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA or email royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net.

What's new? Issues, products and events

Watch the Post and Go The new type of 'instant' stamp known as Post and Go is fast becoming a collector's item, and this autumn will see an attractive new twist to the format, with the first full-colour pictorial version. Birds of Britain (1) Post and Go issue is illustrated with some of the UK's most popular and most frequently seen birds: the blue tit, house sparrow, goldfinch, wood pigeon, robin and starling.

The first Birds of Britain are released on 17 September, available from Post and Go machines in selected Crown Offices across the UK. A Post and Go machine will be at the Autumn Stampex (Business Design Centre, Islington, London) where the stamps will be available on the First Day of Issue, as well as available from the Royal Mail stand and from Tallents House. Full details will appear in your September issue of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* •

1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



In Swindon the BPMA will have more space to show off this classic BSA Bantam motorcycle

Big new home for BPMA The British Postal Museum and Archive's plans to relocate to Swindon have moved on a step, thanks to a first-round pass for a grant of £2,617,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Adrian Steel, Director of the BPMA comments: 'We are delighted to embark on the next stage of this exciting project, to bring this human story of communication, industry and innovation to everyone. The new facility will offer vastly improved access to our unique archive, better storage conditions to ensure its long-term preservation, and the opportunity to display a wide range of postal artefacts from our collections.' The grant includes development funding of £117,800 and the BPMA has two years to apply for the rest of the money •

Golden moments A number of Horizon labels – aka 'Gold Horizons' because they have the Queen's head in 'gold' against a 'gold' background – have been found to carry rare permutations that are already changing hands for elevated prices online. For anyone who has missed a beat in the 'largest Machin story' of the century (nine times as large as the Machin definitive, to be precise), John Newcomb of the British Postmark Society gives us a potted history to date: 'Last year Royal Mail began to unify the image of the family of stamps and

“near stamps” used for prepayment of mail. The original Horizon labels, generated by bespoke equipment at Post Office counters, had been introduced back in 2002 and produced by printing onto white, straight-edged peelable blanks. The new design, successfully trialled between June and September last year, appeared in a small-scale experiment at Camden High Street Branch Office in London.

Further trials in Wales started in April this year with labels that varied little in design from those trialled in 2009. The black imprint also remained similar, but newly modified software, now in the course of being rolled out for use nationwide, has resulted in some notable changes of typeface.

‘At the time of writing, “gold” labels are being sent to Post Offices in a number of areas outside Wales, and, as stocks of the old-style white blanks become exhausted, “gold” labels will become more common, but there is still the possibility of further modifications resulting in more new Horizons and golden moments for dedicated philatelists.’ •



Science issue in September By using the special Royal Mail posting box at the Autumn Stampex, you can obtain a special hand-stamp and First Day cover of the Medical Breakthroughs stamps, issued during the exhibition, on 16 September. Presentation Packs, Stamp Cards and First Day envelopes will also be on sale at the Royal Mail counter.

The striking Medical Breakthroughs stamps celebrate six significant British discoveries that have proved turning points in medicine, giving to the world beta-blockers, antibiotics, hip-replacement operations, artificial lenses to correct cataracts, CT scanning and an understanding of malaria. The Royal Mail First Day cover (see page 384) is illustrated with a stylised Petri dish graphic and each of the stamps cancelled with the special Tallents House handstamps, featuring four test tubes at the centre (shown right with other alternative handstamps). More details of the Medical Breakthroughs issue can be found in the July issue of *Bulletin*. •



Stampex

Last chance for treasures The Exhibition Smiler Sheet with tuk-tuks, issued on 3 August 2009 for the Thailand philatelic exhibition, is being withdrawn this month, as are Fire and Rescue Services, Postboxes and British Army uniform items •



Special postmarks for the Great British Railways stamps include Paddington for first day of issue and two train-themed handstamps available from Tallents House



ROYAL MAIL, TALLENTS HOUSE, 21 SOUTH GYLE CRESCENT, EDINBURGH EH12 9PB

This month's new issue On 19 August, the Great British Railways issue marks the fiftieth anniversary of the building of British Rail's last steam locomotive, the 9F Class *Evening Star* – the end of steam came almost unnoticed in October 1970. The stamps, shown on the FDC above feature

the *Coronation* LMS Coronation Class (1st); *Evening Star* BR Class 9F (1st); *King William IV* GWR King Class (67p); *Royal Lancer* LNER Class A1 (67p); Engine No 2, LMS NCC Class WT (97p); and *Sir Mador de la Porte*, SR King Arthur Class (97p).

The stamps are available in an informative Presentation Pack (No 445, £4.60), with a filler card written by Colin Duvall of the National Railway Museum at York. Also accompanying this, the first of the Great British Railways series, Royal Mail has produced a First Day Cover (above) and stamp cards. Some technical details of the new stamp issue are listed on the left•

Great British Railways issue, 19 August 2010

Technical Specifications

Stamp Format	41mm x 30mm
Printer	De la Rue Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA
Design	Delaney Design Consultants

NEW COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS

An eye for a fine sheet The commemorative sheet marking the tenth anniversary of the London Eye goes on sale on 19 August 10 (£13.50).

Since its opening in March 2000, Merlin Entertainment's London Eye has become an iconic landmark and the UK's most popular paid-for visitor attraction. Around 3.5 million people enjoy the London Eye every year.

Royal Mail's commemorative stamp sheet is A4 in size (210 x 297mm) and entitled *The wonder of the wheel*. It consists of ten first-class stamps, with commemorative labels and a commemorative border, designed by Neon and printed by Cartor Security Printing. The Union Flag stamps and are litho and self-adhesive, as the original issue •

House of Stuart Cachet Cover

The fourth of six limited edition Cachet Covers bears the seven Stuart monarch stamps and calligraphy scrolls cancelled at Kensington Palace. Inside is a timeline highlighting significant dates, as well as insights into the monarchs featured •

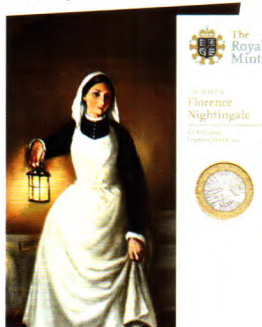
The Lady with the Lamp A series of commemorative items are being released to honour the centenary of the death of Florence Nightingale, who won the respect of the nation and inspired generations of nurses to come when she took a nursing team to Constantinople to care for injured troops during the Crimean War. The 150th anniversary of the publication of her *Notes on Nursing* also falls in 2010 and a £2 coin has been struck in her honour.

The beautifully illustrated Florence Coin Cover (£15.95) goes on sale on 1 August, with a specially struck Royal Mint Florence Nightingale silver £2 coin inside an elegant presentation box. A smaller Coin Pack (£7.99) commemorating Florence Nightingale has a strictly limited issue of 25,000 worldwide and is also available from Talents House •

Heyday of the local PO For generations the local Post Office has been integral to life in Britain. A new book entitled *Post Offices* by Julian Stray, Assistant Curator at the British Postal Museum & Archive, provides an overview of the history of this institution, highlighting the 'heyday of the GPO' during the 1930s-50s. Available from good bookshops and the BPMA for £5.99 plus postage and packing. Go to <http://shop.postalheritage.org.uk> for details •



Above: the Commemorative Sheet marking the tenth anniversary of the London Eye. Below: the Royal Mint £2 coin struck in honour of Florence Nightingale and available from August



POST OFFICES
JULIAN STRAY

Stamp Scene Glenn Morgan and the *Bulletin* team keep you posted

An original postcard from the 1910 Japan-British Exhibition, which is being commemorated in September's Picture Postcard Show



Wish you were here? Most stamp collectors will have at least a few postcards, and the medium is sometimes a key place to find philatelic material. So the annual Picture Postcard Show (2-4 September, Royal Horticultural Halls, SW1) is well worth a visit. Dave Davis, the exhibition organiser, says, 'We are anticipating several thousand visitors, some 90 stands and in excess of a million cards. These will range in price from 20p to over £1,000 so everyone should be able to find something to buy.' Billed as the world's most prestigious card show, it also features an exhibition commemorating the centenary of the groundbreaking 1910 Japan-British Exhibition at White City, which was held to celebrate and reinforce the Anglo-Japanese Alliance of the time. To find out more, go to www.postcard.co.uk/show.php for full details. To see exhibits from the original Exhibition, visit the Museum of London ●



Bluebell Railway This month marks the 50th anniversary of the reopening of part of the East Grinstead to Lewes line as the famous Bluebell Railway. Trains currently run from Sheffield Park to Kingscote but will eventually return to East Grinstead. It is one of a number of preserved steam railways that operate the railway letter service under Royal Mail licence and has issued attractive railway letter stamps since 1972. A new stamp is to be issued this month to mark the anniversary of the reopening. There are lots of celebratory events planned, too, from a birthday party to a vintage transport weekend (see www.bluebell-railway.co.uk for details).

Information about the stamps is available from Bluebell Railway Letter Service, 64 Gordon Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 3RE ●

Salon du Timbre winners As this issue of the *Bulletin* went to press, we received news of how British entrants did at the Paris show. Garth Taylor received a Large Silver in the Aerophilately class, and Arthur Woo a Large Gold in Postal Stationery. In Thematics, Ron Backhouse was awarded a Vermeil; John Hayward, David Hunter, Richard Wheeler and our own Glenn Morgan were awarded Large Vermeils, Lesley Marley got a Gold and David Roseveare was commended for his non-competitive Invited Exhibit. Congratulations to all ●



Eastern promise The FIP Japan World Exhibition (aka Philanippon), which has the theme 'Stamps Link the World', will be held from 28 July to 2 August next year in Yokohama, Japan. The competitive classes are FIP Championship, Traditional, Revenue, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Maximaphily, Thematic, Youth, One-Frame and Philatelic Literature. It might seem a while off, but applications are required by 30 September 2010, so it's time to get moving! Copies of the application form and bulletin are available by emailing frank@frankwalton.com, or by post to 8 Grasmere Road, Dronfield Woodhouse, Dronfield S18 8PS. £1 in mint stamps would be appreciated to cover postage costs. More details are available at www.philanippon.jp/english ●



New GBPS President The Great Britain Philatelic Society has recently appointed Ian Harvey FRPSL as its new President. Ian, who takes over the role from Allan Jones, had previously served the society by being its Vice President and Treasurer, and one of his main collecting interests centres on British stamp booklets. When asked about plans for his Presidency, Ian said: 'My aim is to continue the trend of attracting new members and expanding communication about specialist areas, through our publications as well as personal contact.'

The GBPS is an influential group of around 750 collectors and the leading society on all areas of British philately. For details visit www.gbps.org.uk ●

Thematic Exhibiting South African Wobbe Vegter, an experienced exhibitor and prolific philatelic writer, has recently published this thorough guide to thematics. Within the 64 full-colour pages are a dozen sections that cover the 'hows' and 'whys' of thematic exhibiting. It's available from the author at £19 including p&p by visiting <http://wvegter.hivemind.net> from where ordering details may be found. Of particular interest to thematic collectors among the readership will be full-colour scans of all album pages from four of his award-winning exhibits ●



Philatelist receives MBE Mrs Audrey Swindells, co-founder of the Bath Postal Museum (and Trustee there for more than 30 years) was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's birthday honours list this June. The award was made for her outstanding work both in establishing the Museum in 1979, and ensuring that it has remained open to the public for the next 30 years and more – despite having to find new premises, balance budgets, seek funding and organise staff and volunteers •



New ways of socialising There has been a movement recently that may change the face of group philately. More and more stamp collecting groups are not meeting in the evening, eschewing the 'after-work' function for a more informal approach. Coupled with this is a drive to meet up as cross-county clubs rather than societies. The Uddingston Club, for instance, was formed in the south of Glasgow under the umbrella of the Caledonian Club (the largest and oldest in the city), in order to organise daytime meetings. It hopes to repeat the success of the Edinburgh Stamp Group daytime club. The South Midlands Stamp Club was formed in Barford, near Warwick, last September. It gets its visitors from the Stratford, Leamington/Warwick, Rugby, Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry, Evesham, Streetly, Banbury, Redditch, Loughborough and Hinckley Societies. This trend towards a more collaborative ethos allows members of different societies to interact regularly, which can only be a good thing for philately •



The striking first KGVI £1 stamps issued by Bermuda and Cyprus



Important King George VI collection

sold The Cheshire stamp dealers Sandafayre Ltd recently offered one of the most complete collections ever formed of mint stamps from King George VI's reign. Spanning Aden to Zanzibar, the 108 individual country collections were offered through the company's mail bid sales. It included gems from the days of Dulac, Palmer, Bellew, Gill and, of course, Dorothy Wilding – plus examples of all the significant variations of shade that were a result

of the war with Germany, a great supplier of ink to the British Isles.

'For many, the stamps of this period represent the very best of stamp production and design, from the golden age of British security printing,' said Vincent Green, Chairman. 'We received a huge amount of interest from all over the world, which isn't surprising – the collection as a whole contained many thousands of stamps and had only about 20 rarities missing.' •

American idols Earlier this year the New York auction house of Spink Shreves sold the Floyd E Risvold collection of letters and postal history relating to 'American Expansion and the Journey West'. Some of the items represented the finest early American material to appear on the market for many years, and included a letter dated 1755 extolling a certain George Washington during an attack by French and Indian forces, which realised \$22,000. A fascinating envelope, believed to be the only illustrated slave auction cover, was sold for over \$28,000 ●



100 not out The Isle of Thanet Philatelic Society is celebrating its centenary this year, a significant milestone that is also being marked by Aberdeen PS (see May's *Bulletin*). Thanet meets on the first and third Wednesday between September and May at the St John's Community Centre, Margate. Details of the time and subjects for the forthcoming season of meetings can be obtained by telephoning Bernard Kennett on 01843 228415 or click on 'Isle of Thanet P. S.' at www.peniwyze.co.uk ●

An auction to anticipate The collection of Lady Mairi Bury, the youngest daughter of the seventh Marquess of Londonderry who died last year, will be offered at auction at Sotheby's in November. Her particularly fine Penny Blacks will be much sought after. Lady Mairi Bury began collecting stamps when she was just eight. In 1970 she started a Specialised British Collection and began her fascination with the Queen Victoria 1d Black and the 2d Blue issues. Lady Mairi received a number of major awards, including ten gold medals, and was a Fellow of the RPSL, where she displayed some notable frames, including an 1840 Queen Victoria 1d grey-black plate 1A on cover cancelled with a bright violet waterbound Maltese Cross applied in Glasgow. More details will be published in future issues of *Bulletin* ●



Events

UK

15-18 September

Autumn Stampex,
BDC, Islington,
London

4-6 November

Philatex, Royal
Horticultural Halls,
London

ABROAD

2-4 September

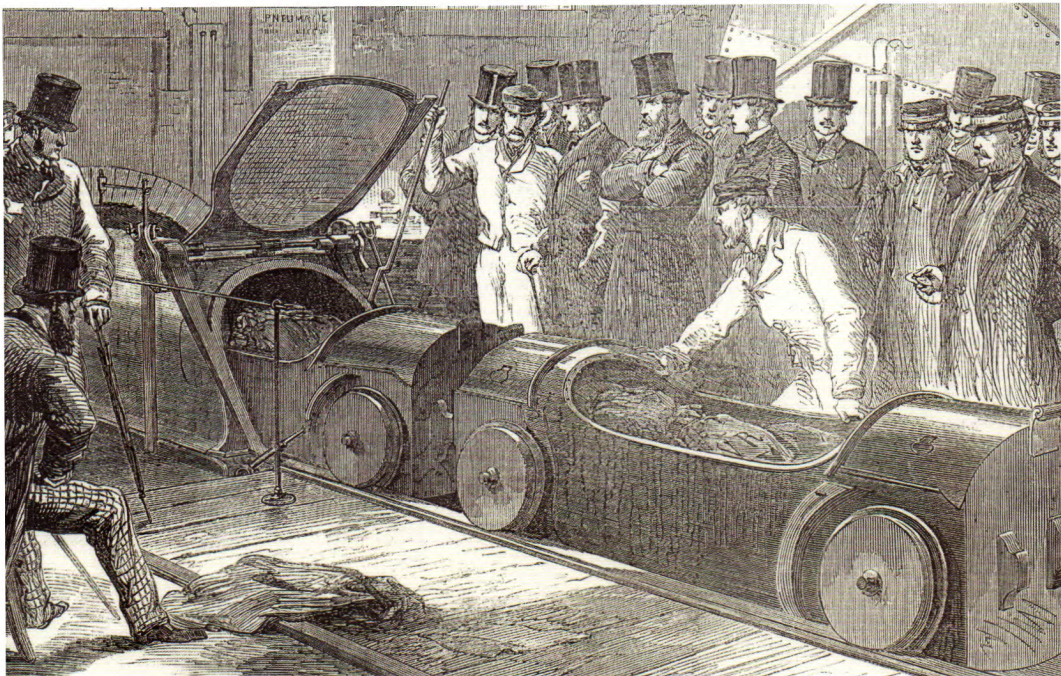
Sberatel 2010
International Trade
Fair, Prague

1-10 October

Portugal 2010,
Lisbon, Portugal.

27-31 October

Jo'burg 2010,
Johannesburg,
South Africa



This illustration of the opening of the Pneumatic Despatch Company in Eversholt Street was printed in the *Illustrated London News* in 1863. As well as the innovative mail train, the artist has captured the local luminaries in attendance at this ceremonious occasion

Going underground

Len Stanway unearths the philatelic history of MailRail, the subterranean delivery service

PICTURES OF LITTLE TRAINS CARRYING MAIL under London's streets always fascinated me when I was a child and saw them in books and magazines. It wasn't until some 25 years later that I first laid eyes on these wonders. By then I was a qualified mechanical engineer and a student of Industrial and London Railway History. A chance encounter on a philatelic society visit to Mount Pleasant sorting office ignited my passion for studying both the engineering and philatelic aspects of the railway. This culminated in 2000 with the publication of my book *Mails Under London*, which looks at the Post Office's own railway and its predecessor, the Pneumatic Despatch Company, and the parallel carriage of mail by the London Underground proper. In doing this, I developed a large collection of philatelic items and ephemera, which I have displayed for many philatelic and engineering societies.

A tricky start Although the ideas of the entrepreneurs who brought the pneumatic tube to London were at first met with scorn from the Post Office, the pneumatic tube is still widely used in large stores, including many new supermarkets. (It operates by having a tube in which is inserted a close-fitting container and then applying a small increase in air pressure on one

side and a partial vacuum on the other, which causes the container to move towards the vacuum.) It was in 1853 that Joseph Latimer built the first commercial tube, just one 1½-inch in diameter, to carry telegrams the 225 yards between the Stock Exchange and the Electric & International Telegraph Company. Then Latimer and a number of eminent businessmen joined Thomas Rammell to form the Pneumatic Despatch Company, to promote a city-wide network linking railway stations and major Post Offices. And by 1863, following a convincing demonstration at Battersea in 1861, a line was laid down Eversholt Street to link Euston Station and the North West District Office.

The line was hailed as a major environmental achievement by *The Times*. The Post Office allowed mail to be carried but paid less than it cost to operate, and a second line to linking Euston with the GPO was built but never put to full use before the company went into insolvency in 1873.

Forty years passed before the Post Office (London) Railway – later known as the Post Office Railway and, later still, MailRail – was authorised in 1913 and building began during World War I. Work continued until money and material ran out in 1917. When the Zeppelin raids began, the uncompleted tunnels became a series of deep shelters for London's art treasures. After the war there was no money to complete the railway, but it opened at Christmas 1927 for parcels and early in 1928 for letters, running a 26-minute, six-and-a-half mile journey from Paddington to Whitechapel via the main Post Offices and main line stations of Paddington and Liverpool Street.

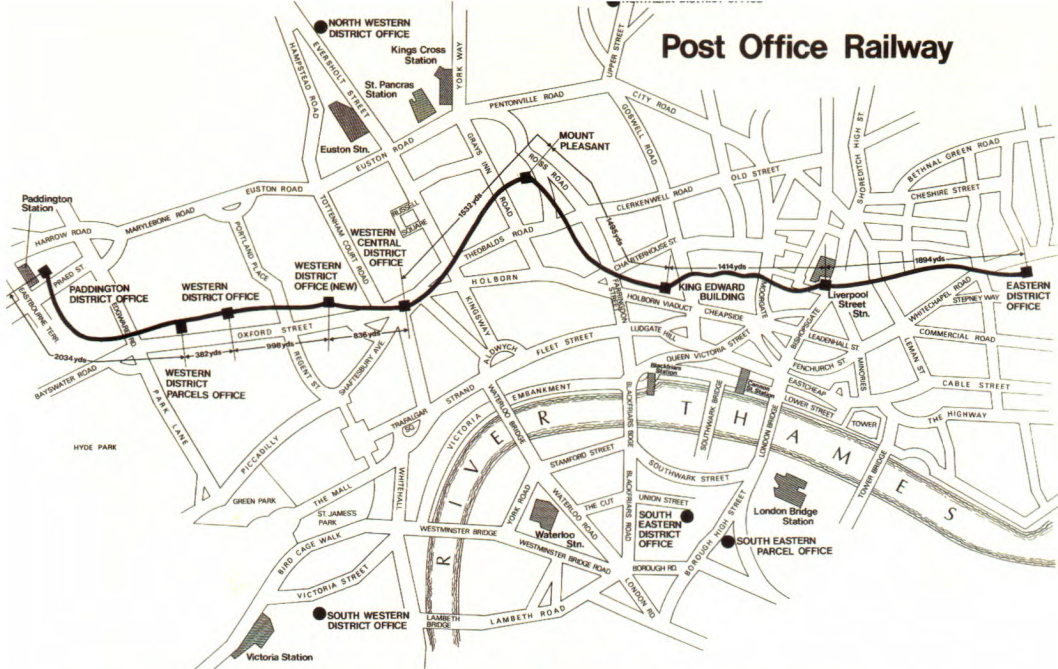
After a shaky start due to an incorrect choice of rolling stock, it quickly settled down to an underground routine of which few Londoners were aware, taking thousands of lorry journeys off the streets. This two-foot gauge, driverless service ran for 22 hours each day, with a break from Saturday morning to Sunday evening, when any major repair was undertaken on an out-of-hours maintenance train. An employee recalls a trip just before the line's closure seven years ago: 'I cadged a lift to Paddington on the passenger carriage that only came out for special occasions. Between stations it was often pitch black – it was like London's biggest ghost ride.' ►

◄ In between the stations was often pitch black so it was like London's biggest ghost ride ►



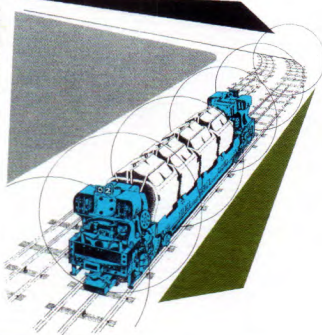
Post Office staff loading an original 1927 stock train

Post Office Railway



Clockwise from above: Post Office railway map showing its route across London; 1977 cover, marking the 50th Anniversary of the Post Office Railway; 1987 60th anniversary cover; 1967 40th anniversary cover

BRITISH POST OFFICE SOUVENIR COVER 50th Anniversary of the Post Office Railway



Master G Barr
16 Rydal Road
GOSPORT
Hants
PO12 4ES



The line gave sterling service, shifting between 7 million and 12 million postbags a year, until changes in Post Office organisation progressively reduced its role and it finally closed in 2003. Examples of the rolling stock can be seen at several locations, including Cornwall's Launceston Steam Railway, and the line is still maintained. It was valued at more than £15 million in 2008.

Collectable lines So what collectables remain from the story of the Post Office Railway? Although no special markings were ever applied to mail carried over the railway, there were some commemorative covers for major anniversaries of its opening – namely the 40th, 50th and 60th. (Sadly, the 70th and 75th anniversaries were not celebrated, as by this time the future of MailRail was already in doubt.) There are also a number of relevant postcards, printed, by the Post Office and private publishers.

A nice philatelic challenge would be to discover mail that could be proven to have been carried over the railway, such as letters between Whitechapel and Paddington. Official mail does exist with manuscript or hand stamp markings showing the railway's return address. Then there are the brochures issued by the GPO to celebrate the railway over its 70 years of service. Finally, there are the distinctive octagonal mailbag labels given to generations of visitors as a mementos. As for the other mail railways under London, very little remains to remember the Pneumatic Despatch railway by. I have looked in vain for envelopes that might have been carried over the company's lines during their two brief periods of operation in the 1860s and 1870s. My search has thrown up a few articles in the Press of the time but that, sadly, is all.

Carriage of mail on the companies that formed the London Underground is a much more fruitful field for the collector. Railway letter, newspaper and parcels stamps exist from companies such as the Metropolitan, East London and Central London. There are those of different periods of London Transport, and many special covers and other items. The postcard collector is well catered for, as the Metropolitan company issued several series of cards extolling the virtues of the neighbourhoods that it served, and a variety of publishers produced cards showing stations and trains.

While the mechanics and history of MailRail is fairly well known, seeking out the collectable postal history surrounding it can still be a most enjoyable voyage of discovery •

Len Stanway is President of the Basildon Philatelic Society



Two stock cars were painted gold for the 50th anniversary of RailMail. This photograph of the number 806 1930 stock car was taken at Mount Pleasant in 1983

Three 1980 stock cars were fitted with modern fibreglass covers to mark the 60th anniversary of RailMail



For more information

Download The BPMA's information sheet on MailRail at www.postalhistory.org.uk/history **Visit** www.mailrail.co.uk

Read *Mails Under London* available from AEPS, 25 Clay Hill Road, Basildon SS16 5DD, for £12.50 including p&p.

The first British Europa stamp, issued in 1960 – four years after the beginning of the programme



Going Continental A retrospective view of Britain's Europa stamps by John Holman

THE RELEASE OF THE FORTHCOMING Royal Mail Europa issue of Children's Book stamps gives us a timely opportunity to look back over their half-century history. The first stamps were released by Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and Netherlands – the six members of the European Coal and Steel Community, which was the forerunner of the EU. Each country issued two stamps depicting a 'Europa Tower' surrounded by scaffolding. These are now very popular among collectors and some are becoming scarce, particularly the Luxembourg stamps.

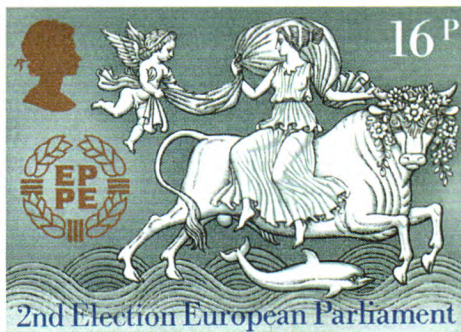
Britain's role Since 1956 Europa stamps have been issued every year, but Britain didn't join until four years in to the scheme. Those stamps comprised 6d and 1s 6d values, both showing the Europa Conference emblem. They were Britain's first two-coloured special stamps, indeed the first two-coloured stamps since the reign of Edward VII. They were also the first to be printed on chalk-surfaced paper to give them a sharper image.

The 1961 set saw another innovation – it was printed in three colours. Special stamps of the 1960s are noted for their missing colour errors and the 1961 Europa issue is no exception. The 2d stamp with missing orange is catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at £17,500, as is the 10d without pale green. The 10d lacking the turquoise colour is a more modest £4,750.

The next British Europa issue in 1969 – a 9d value in an 'Anniversaries' set – featured the words EUROPA and CEPT (Conference of European Postal & Telecommunications) plus the post horn emblem. Although Britain joined the European Community in 1973, the next Europa issue was not until 1980 when we depicted authoresses Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot

The 1961 three-colour issue and 1969 stamp, which also features the CEPT logo



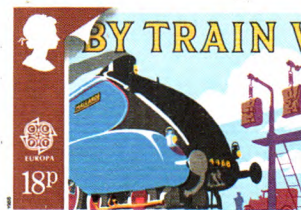


(Mary Ann Evans), Jane Austen and Mrs Gaskell. Only the stamps covering UK and Europe letter rates carried the CEPT logo.

Issues of interest I do not have space here for all 30 Europas issued since 1980 so will concentrate on the more interesting and unusual. The 1984 set comprised se-tenant pairs, of 16p and 20½p stamps; one showed the CEPT 25th anniversary logo and the other marked the 2nd European Parliament Elections, with an image of the Abduction of Europa and the Parliament's emblem. The colourful 1985 designs, for European Music Year, represented the works of Handel, Holst, Delius, and Elgar and unusually showed the value in words rather than numerals. The charming 1986 issue showed endangered species and the 1987 set celebrated British architects in Europe. The popular 1988 set depicted mail transport of the 1930s. Two of the four 1990 stamps depicted Alexandra Palace, home to the international stamp exhibition that year, and the British Philatelic Bureau, then in Brandon Street, Edinburgh. The bizarre 1991 issue, depicting weird images of man looking at space and space looking at man, on se-tenant pairs, were widely criticised by collectors. The 1992 pair, in a set that included stamps for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and Expo 92, were the last to include the CEPT post horn emblem.

Working with a new logo Since 1993 the Europa issues have shown a new, stylised logo. This was first used on the Contemporary Art set honouring Henry Moore, Edward Bawden, Stanley Spencer and Ben Nicholson. Peace and Freedom was the theme for 1995 with two stamps of symbolic hands and dove designs marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. In 1996 the new logo featured on two of the Famous Women stamps portraying Dames Margot Fonteyn and Elizabeth Frink. The 1997 issue on Tales and Legends featured horror stories and was launched at London Dungeon.

For 1999 the 19p Farmers' Tale set stamp represented Nature Reserves and Parks, but there was no Europa stamp in 2000. A first in 2001 was the inclusion of an 'E' stamp in the Pond Life issue, the 'E' standing for European-rate stamp, not Europa. Circus was the theme in 2002 with five cartoon designs initially ►



From top: the 1984 se-tenant pair; the 1987 issue celebrating British architects in Europe; the 1988 mail transport of the 1930s stamp; and the 1990 stamp featuring the old Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh



due for issue on 9 April but delayed by a day as a mark of respect for the Queen Mother's funeral. The 2003 issue featured Pub Signs, which tied in with the theme of Art. In 2004 the Europa symbol was rather lost in the scenery of the British Journey – Wales first-class and 40p stamps. The theme for 2006 was Integration – covered by first-class and 50p in the Sounds of Britain issue.

Nearing the end of our Europa journey, in 2007 the series celebrated the centenary of Scouting; Royal Mail incorporated the Europa logo on the first-class and 48p stamps. For the Letters theme in 2008, our first-class stamp showed a Labrador carrying a letter in his mouth. Last year's issue covered Astronomy. One of the Eminent Britons stamps portrayed Sir Martin Ryle, Astronomer Royal 1972-82, to which the Europa sign was added at top right. Which brings us to the present day and 2010's theme of Children's Books. Look out for the Europa logo included in the October issue, featuring the much-loved Winnie-the-Pooh •

The 1993 stamp featuring the new Europa logo



For more information

- **Blogs** Several philatelists blog about their collections. Keijo Kortelainen, from Finland shares his finds at www.stampcollectingblog.com/topic/europa-cept-stamps and 'Euroswiss' writes at <http://europa-stamps.blogspot.com>.
- **Websites** <http://philatelynews.com> has up-to-date news stories on Europa issues throughout the continent. At www.europastudyunit.org, an association of American philatelists go into great detail on the stamps.

Social networking James Hall visits a site where you can build your collection and contacts

Who is it for? www.myphilately.com is modelled on social networking sites and created specifically for stamp collectors who want to broaden their knowledge and network of philatelic associates, without the hindrance of geographic barriers.

What's the heritage? The site was born in the summer of 2007 and is run by Daniel Brown of Melbourne, whose special interests include Australian postal history from 1912 to 1930 and collecting kangaroo covers. Did I just hear a soft chuckle drift across the Home Counties? Surely not. To cast Daniel as an Aussie upstart would be a sad error. He is a prominent philatelist with a sparkling surfeit of expertise.

Over a pleasing glass of Mount Pleasant wine, he explained his vision: 'My goal is to bring all stamp collectors together in one place. It is a huge goal, but we are getting there – we now have around 5,000 visitors a day.'

How is it organised? Once you have registered (you can use any name but must supply a valid email address) you will receive a personalised greeting in the top right of the screen and a clear invitation to join the 'newbies' group, which is the best route to learning how to use the site to its maximum potential. At the time of writing, there are about 250 newbies, using the 'Shout Box' to shout for help and getting to know the ropes.

The Home page has bright orange links to My Friends, My Stamp Groups, My Community and a new section called My Trades. You build your philatelic network by just clicking on any user and asking them to become a 'friend'. It's easy to set up blogs (online diaries) and discussions, get postmarks identified by experts, publicise events, give online awards, and form stamp groups that relate to specific themes. Each group is given a domain name, for example www.myphilately.com/roocovers, which allows users to pass on the address.

What are the best bits? The main attraction of myphilately.com is the sheer knowledge and enthusiasm on tap from 3,700 members. It is hard to go wrong or get lost. The home page's left panel offers quick access to the latest stamp images uploaded and on the right are handy links to news items.

What could be improved? A language translation service is planned for the site soon, to help non-English speakers to join in all activities on the site and form a truly global communications network •

Share your website recommendations by writing to The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA or emailing royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net



Above: the home page of www.myphilately.com – there's something here for philatelists of all nations and niches

For social networking philatelists...

You might also like to visit www.philatelynews.com and search the 'philately groups' on www.facebook.com. If you are new to blogging, a good starting point might be to register with www.myphilately.com and search in Blogs for 'about time to start showing off our London Olympics philately'.

Post modern rarities Martin Robinson presents a selection of unusual boxes

SKIPPING LIGHTLY ACROSS A CENTURY OR MORE since the early Channel Islands pillar boxes featured in July's *Bulletin*, this month we turn our attention to modern rarities. It is a common mistake to assume that all old post boxes are rare and all modern ones common. On the contrary, while some Victorian boxes are still seen in most towns, there are modern ones – for example, the survivors of unsuccessful experiments, short-lived design variants or even errors – that are rare and even unique.

Most pillar boxes, as well as lamp and pedestal boxes, are still traditionally made of cast iron, which is long-lasting and the main reason for our remarkable heritage of old post boxes. But cast iron can also be brittle, and a Victorian pillar box can be destroyed if a vehicle collides with it. So the Post Office is always trying out new design ideas in order to streamline services, improve security or save money. From the 1960s to the 1990s experiments were made with alternative materials, most notably sheet steel,

glass fibre and polypropylene. While some of these experimental designs are still often seen – including the fibreglass 'airside' boxes with clear security panels at airports and in shopping malls – others are very rare indeed.

F for flawed?

The Type F pillar box was introduced in 1968. It was square in section and made of replaceable sheet steel panels. The first one stood outside St Paul's Cathedral and was inaugurated by the then (and last) Postmaster General, John Stonehouse. This pillar box soon proved vulnerable to the weather and the attention of dogs. For example, the Type Fs in the centre of Birmingham quite quickly appeared to be in a sorry state, with rusted panels patched up and looking anything but innovative (see left). This experiment was certainly not successful, and some other sheet steel boxes, destined for sheltered sites, remain only as prototypes. They are shown on a National Postal Museum card (NPM 97/4) issued in April 1997, and dated circa 1991, but I photographed them at the Post Office Research Centre, Swindon in 1987.

Below: the unadopted sheet steel post box at the Post Office Research Centre, Swindon, 1987. Below right: wear and tear was immediately apparent in Birmingham



A large EIIR wall box at Slaithwaite near Huddersfield is one of the earliest 20th-century 'experimental' boxes, virtually indistinguishable from a normal Type A (large) box except that it bears no maker's name and is made of fibreglass. This was shown on the 90p stamp of the Post Boxes miniature sheet issued in August 2009. A possibly unique fibreglass version of the standard EIIR lamp box, probably dating from the same 1962-63 experiment, was spotted as recently as 1987 at Fickleshole near Biggin Hill. Please let us have any reports of more recent sightings of similar specimens.

New anomalies

Fibreglass posting suites – either wall-mounted or free-standing – were introduced in 1982, and are still in use at some city Post Offices and mail centres. Then in 1987 began a trial with another material – polypropylene – and a number of pillar or pedestal boxes in several different designs were installed. It has to be admitted that these were not generally considered to be things of great beauty.

The first batch of the Type K boxes bears a plaque with the inscription: 'One of the first / castings of the / 1980 "K" pillar box' on the rear. You can find boxes with the post-1952 Scottish crown erroneously sited in England, boxes with the maker's name upside down, and lots of one-off boxes. One unique box, in Highcliffe, Dorset, is apparently adapted from a concrete coal bin (see above, right). Please let us know – and send us a photo – of anything that looks unusually modern or rare. It never ceases to amaze me how often unusual post boxes are still being 'discovered' •



From top: one-off 'coal bin' box at Highcliffe, Dorset; experimental polypropylene, Bransholme PO near Hull; Type K at Bransholme, 1980



This month's winner

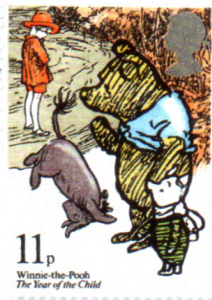
Our winning reader's photo of an EIIR box, left, was taken by Roger Allen in Sidmouth, Devon. It shows a standard Type A (large) pillar box with a painted metal plant-holder welded on top. Says Martin Robinson, 'This box dates from after 1958, when the 8-inch aperture was replaced by a jutting 10-inch one. About 30 years ago many of Sidmouth's pillar boxes were fitted with plant-holders by Sidmouth in Bloom, adding to the town's considerable charm by carrying displays of plants and flowers.'

Roger Allen wins a copy of *Old Letter Boxes* (£4.95 Shire Books) and 2009 Miniature Sheet Presentation Pack (£3.20, off sale 17 August), both shown right. Send your entries by post or email to the *Bulletin* address shown on page 355.



Little gems

Are you sitting comfortably? Then Mr Hutchisson will tell the tale of his children's book collection



I began my children's authors collection with this set – the 1979 Year of the Child issue. Peter Rabbit has always been a family favourite at storytime, and we still have the volumes of Beatrix Potter that were given to my son Sam as a Christening present

AS ENGLISH LITERATURE is my area of expertise, I am particularly interested in stamps with a literary connection. And my collection of children's author-related stamps is a significant favourite because I began it at the time of the birth of my first son. My wife and I had spent a Christmas vacation with her parents when my father-in-law showed me his stamp albums and said he thought it was time he passed on some of his collection. I had collected stamps as a boy in the 1960s and the old enthusiasm was rekindled.

Childhood stamp store At the age of nine, I was inspired by the US commemorative stamp of Frank Lloyd Wright – my very first stamp – and I subscribed to an approval service, amassing a smattering of stamps from all over the world in one album. As I remember, just about all the schoolboys in Washington DC were keen on stamps then, and we would make regular visits to Latherow's, a wonderful family-run stamp store in Arlington, Virginia. A favourite after-school activity was for me to convince my mother to take me and my schoolmate Robbie Ilaria by the store – the shop is still there and I call

in whenever I'm in the area. But my schoolboy philately phase was short-lived. I never considered stamp-collecting again until the conversation with

☞ A favourite after-school activity was to visit the wonderful family-run stamp shop ☜

my father-in-law re-energised my interest.

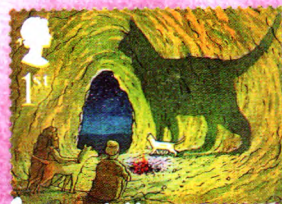
Family favourite Since then, 1998, I have been a keen collector and my main focus is Great Britain. When I wanted to branch out a little bit, and not being particularly keen on different country collections, I opted to collect stamps relating to writers – an easy choice as I am interested in books and a writer myself. As I began a collection at the time of the birth of our first child Sam, children's authors were of particular interest, too. Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit and Michael Bond's Paddington Bear are the 'Founding Fathers' ►



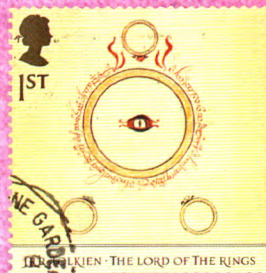
Magical Worlds is a five-stamp set, designed by Peter Malone to mark the 1998 centenaries of the death of Lewis Carroll and the birth of C S Lewis. From left above: Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (26p), Tolkien's *The Hobbit* (20p), and *The Phoenix and the Carpet* by E Nesbit (37p)



A 2002 special edition of six stamps commemorates the 150th anniversary of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, to whom JM Barrie left the rights to *Peter Pan*. Illustrator Colin Shearing evokes classic characters, as shown above: the Crocodile (E), Captain Hook (47p) and Peter Pan (68p)



Also in 2002, ten beautiful first-class stamps marked the centenary of Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*. Above, left to right: *The Butterfly that Stamped*, *The Cat that Walked by Himself* and *How the Leopard got his Spots*. I Cohen was the designer



A block of ten first-class stamps was issued in 2004 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring* and *The Two Towers*. Except for the map of Middle Earth, above left – which was drawn by his son Christopher – all feature original illustrations by Tolkien himself

of my collection and my favourites because these are stories we have particularly enjoyed reading together as a family. We still have the two-volume Beatrix Potter set given to Sam as a Christening present.

Perky Peter Rabbit features in the set of four special-issue stamps released in 1979, almost 20 years before I started looking at this theme. The other best-loved characters in this set are Winnie-the-Pooh, Toad of Toad Hall, and Alice and the Cheshire Cat. I consider this issue – known as The Year of The Child – as the foundation stone of my collection.

One of the first new issues I was able to buy at my favourite London Post Office (of which more later) is the 1997 series commemorating the centenary of the birth of Enid Blyton. The designs evoke a nostalgic view of childhood in the 1950s and 60s, showing a child engrossed in an illustrated page of *Noddy* with Big Ears (20p); the *Famous Five* Julian, Dick, Anne, cousin George and Timmy the dog (26p); the *Secret Seven* series (37p), the fairytale world of the *Faraway Tree* (43p); and a group of schoolgirls in a high-windowed Victorian classroom of *Malory Towers* (63p). Enid Blyton is not so well known in the USA, but these stamps were musts for my album.

Forming part of the special 2006 issue marking the 100th anniversary of Beatrix Potter's Jeremy Fisher are, clockwise from Jeremy himself below, Mick Inkpen's Kipper, Roald Dahl's Enormous Crocodile and Paddington Bear by Michael Bond. The 68p stamp in this set was the first British issue to have holes in it – simulating Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* eating a leaf

Worlds of the imagination Authors better known to my own children were celebrated the following year in *The Magical World of Children's Literature*, the stamp set marking the centenaries of the death of Lewis Carroll and the birth of C S Lewis. Five hugely popular books are beautifully commemorated, with fantasy literature as the focus of the designs: Bilbo Baggins and Smaug the dragon from Tolkien's *The Hobbit* (20p); Mr Tumnus the fawn, Lucy and Aslan the lion from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the first of *Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia* (26p); the Prosser children from E Nesbit's *The Phoenix and the Carpet* (37p); and Pod and Arrietty from Mary Norton's *The Borrowers* (43p).

Another world-favourite author is commemorated on the 2004 block of ten first-class stamps marking the 50th anniversary of the publication of *The Fellowship of the Ring* and *The Two Towers* in 1954. All except one of the stamps uses original illustrations by Tolkien.

For those who share my enthusiasm for introducing children to world-class literature, I'd like to use the *Bulletin* to recommend the American children's authors Robert McCloskey, Richard Scarry and E B White, whose Wilbur from *Charlotte's Web* (1952) is commemorated in the stamp pane called Favorite Children's Book Animals, a joint issue between Royal Mail and the United States Postal Service in 2006.

Important nonsense Any attempt to capture the spirit of my collection would be incomplete without a mention of the 1988 Edward Lear stamps. As well as the set of four, I have the





miniature sheet, with a surround resembling the marbled endpapers of a Victorian book. The stamps feature Lear's illustration for his most famous poem 'The Owl and the Pussy-Cat' (19p); a 1864 self-portrait of Lear as a sturdy bird, with a facsimile of his signature (27p); Lear's drawing for the limerick 'There was a Young Lady whose bonnet, Came untied when the birds sate upon it' (35p); and his based on his pet cat (32p).

I keep on adding to my collection and look forward to the new Royal Mail Children's Book issue in October. I confess, in addition to my thematic collection, I collect everything that comes from Royal Mail and on visits to London I top up my collection at the Trafalgar Square Post Office.

Sam is 12 now, and, while I am happy to say that he and his brother Will have inherited my interest in literature, stamps haven't really taken hold with them. But they are definitely collectors – of many things, including bottle caps (another of their grandfather's collecting interests) and Shoot Out cards (although American, they are big fans of English football and play soccer). Maybe they will maybe they won't grow to love stamps, but the pleasures of philately will always be there waiting for them in my albums and their grandfather's •



James Hutchisson is Professor of English and Director of Graduate Study at The Citadel University, Charleston, South Carolina, USA.

This miniature sheet of the 1988 Lear issue, released to commemorate the centenary of the death of the author, is another of my favourites. It bears the logo of the Stamp World London Exhibition of 1990

Bear necessities Perennially popular Pooh



First-class inland letter rate:
The friends Pooh, Piglet and
Christopher Robin



58p basic rate worldwide:
Pooh and Piglet walk into the
wind on their way to Kanga's



60p, Europe up to 20g:
Pooh informs Rabbit about the
'Exposition to the North Pole'

THE BEAR OF VERY LITTLE BRAIN is the star of October's issue, representing this year's Europa Stamp theme of Children's Books. Alan Alexander Milne's 1920's creation was brought to life in order to entertain his young son, Christopher Robin. Pooh was based on a Yorkshire mohair bear (initially called Edward), purchased from Harrods by the boy's mother in 1921 for his first birthday. The next present was a toy donkey, who later became Eeyore and the rest is history... in fact Winnie-the-Pooh's story never seems to go out of fashion – a new film will be out next year. The original toys now reside in safety at the New York Public Library.

In which we look at the inspiration and background What gave Milne's stories extra appeal were the accompanying illustrations by EH Shepard. And we have *Punch* magazine to thank for that. Milne was once deputy editor there and Shepard became chief cartoonist later on. In 1924, the ex-editor of the magazine, EV Lucas, was Milne's publisher and suggested that he and Shepard work together. After some initial scepticism from Milne, the partnership flourished and Shepard's illustrations were previewed in *Punch*. One major development took place under Shepard's direction: Pooh was modelled on his own son's teddy bear, Growler, rather than Christopher Robin's trusty friend.

In which we examine the issue in detail This issue is the first to be designed by Magpie Studio, a spin-off from Hat-trick. The first-class stamp features an illustration taken from AA Milne's book of verse *Now we are Six* (1924) while the 60p, 67p and 88p stamps have illustrations from *Winnie-the-Pooh*, the second volume of the series of four, which was published in 1926. *The House at Pooh Corner* (1928) gives the 58p and 97p stamps their subjects.

The Miniature Sheet is made up of four new stamps – first-class inland letter rate, the 60p Europe up to 10g, 88p and 97p – featuring extracts from AA Milne's poem 'Us Two' from *Now*

Children's Books, 12 October 2010

Set of stamps	£4.11
Presentation Pack	£7.50
First Day Envelope, unstamped	30p
First Day Cover, mail order price	£5.31
Miniature Sheet	£2.86
Set of 11 Stamp Cards	£4.40

takes centre stage on the October Children's Books issue



67p basic airmail rate up to 20g; Pooh sings 'Cottleston Pie' to Eeyore



88p, Europe up to 40g; Pooh is joined by Rabbit, Kanga, Roo, Owl and Piglet for a party



97p, world airmail up to 20g; Pooh discovers that Tiggers don't like honey

We Are Six and illustrations of Winnie-the-Pooh and Christopher Robin. The sheet's border design shows Pooh holding onto a balloon, while disguised as a cloud, from 'We are introduced' in *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

The fully-illustrated Presentation Pack is printed by Walsall Security Printers and has been written by BBC radio presenter and animation aficionado, Brian Sibley. Brian has written dramatisations of *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* among others, and has written many books on characters including Pooh, Wallace and Gromit and Thomas the Tank Engine.

A First Day Envelope, First Day Cover and set of 11 Stamp Cards are printed by Fulmar Colour Printing Company Ltd.

For thematic collectors Many genres of literature make for interesting collections. On page 376 you'll find details of other British issues in the area of children's books in James Hutchisson's article on his thematic collection.

And now we come to the end... ●



Children's Books, 12 October 2010

Number of stamps	Six
Design	Maggie Studio
Acknowledgements	Illustrations © Disney, based on the 'Winnie-the-Pooh' works by AA Milne and EH Shepard
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	37mm x 35mm
Stamp printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

Miniature Sheet technical details, where different

Number of stamps	Four
Size of sheet	115mm x 89mm
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5

Commemorative covers and sheets

Orders and enquiries

BFDC Ltd, 3 Link Road,
Leicester LE2 3RA
Phone 0116 2705367
Email brad@bfdc.co.uk

Phil Stamp Covers, PO
Box 178, Dartford DA2 7YE
Phone 01322 278674
Email sales@
philstampcovers.co.uk

Buckingham Covers,
Warren House, Shearway
Rd, Folkestone CT19 4BF
Phone 01303 278137
Email betty@
buckinghamcovers.com

Phil Sheridan Covers,
PO Box 99, Widnes,
Cheshire WAB 0NN
Phone 07939 832 184
Email sheridanfcds@aol.com

Civil Defence Association, 24 Paxton
Close, Matlock, Derbyshire
DE4 3TD
Phone 01629 55738
Email aedissel@btinternet.com

If you wish to announce a forthcoming cover or sheet, please submit copy in the style above and an image (preferably by email to royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net) by 10 August for October's issue. The text should describe the cover, stamps and postmarks, and give prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis and may be modified at the Editor's discretion. Royal Mail cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning covers announced here.



Olympic & Paralympic Games Featuring the International Mountain Biking Association UK, cancelled with the IMBA UK, London, official postmark on 27 July 2010. **Price:** £16.20 inc p&p from Phil Sheridan Covers ●

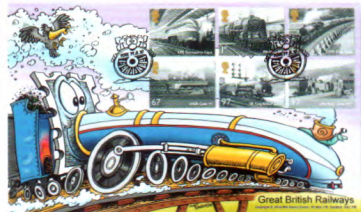


Britain Alone Featuring a 1940 recruiting poster and the Air Raid Wardens and Fire Service stamps from the Britain Alone series, this cover carries an explanatory insert and is limited to an exclusive edition of 35. **Price:** £9.50 including p&p from the Civil Defence Association ●



Britain Alone Business Customised Stamp Sheet featuring the 70th anniversary of the London Blitz/Battle of Britain (34103). Limited to 375 numbered copies. **Price:** £50 inc p&p from BFDC Ltd ●

Great British Railways Cartoon cover with distinctive York handstamp, released to coincide with the issue of Great British Railways stamps, celebrating British Rail's last steam locomotive *Evening Star*. **Price:** £19.80 inc p&p, cover No.168 from Phil Stamp Covers ●



Great British Railways Terence Cuneo's Castle on the Coast for GWR, postmarked Paddington (BC413); Southern postmarked Waterloo, London; Midland & Scottish postmarked Euston, London & North; Eastern postmarked Kings Cross and British Rail postmarked Swindon. **Prices:** £11.95 each or £44.75 for the set (R70) plus £1.65 p&p from Buckingham Covers ●



Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 06.09.2010. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd and Redwood, their business associates and immediate families. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent service 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; send an SAE to Sharon May *The British Philatelic Bulletin*, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Competitions Test your philatelic mettle with these brainteasers



IDENTIFY: To win all parts of the latest stamp issue, give the name and issue year of the stamp detail on the left.

KNOWLEDGE: To win, the Royal Mail Military Uniforms Collection, answer the following.

- What life-changing event led to two sisters and a brother being featured on a Britain Alone stamp?
- In what year did the Royal Mail start using slogan postmarks?
- What was printed on the reissued 1966 World Cup stamp?

Please send your answers on a postcard, marked *August Identify* or *August*

Knowledge or *August Crossword* (see below) to *The Philatelic Bulletin*, Redwood, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA by 6 September, 2010. The senders of the first correct answers drawn after the closing date will receive the prizes. For terms and conditions, see p382 ●

June answers and winners

Identify: 2007 generic issue Machin Smiler®.

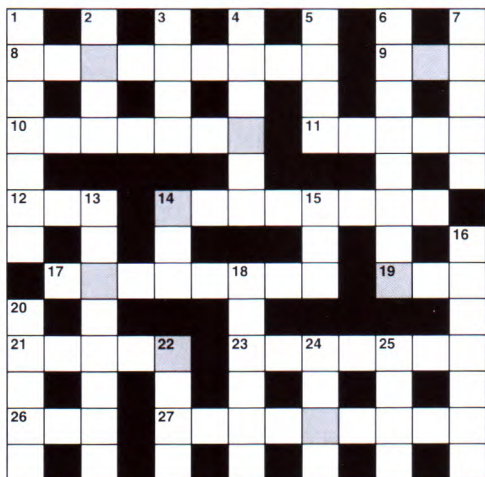
The winner is R Hanson of Malaga. *Knowledge:*

1) 1d orange and 2d blue from the 1947 Post Office issue. 2) 1999. 3) David Beech. The winner is P Catchpole of Rochester.

Runners-up prizes were also awarded in each category. *Steam Dream Journey:* 1964 6d

Forth Road Bridge commemorative stamp. The winner is J B Gisburn of Garforth.

PRIZE CROSSWORD UPON COMPLETING the puzzle, rearrange the letters in the grey squares to form a stamp-related word and send this, with your name and address to the address above. The first correct entry out of the hat after 6 September will win four Cachet Covers: RAF Uniforms, Royal Navy Air Displays and Battle of Trafalgar.



CLUES ACROSS

- Society member to release mother and child (9)
- Eggs said to be done (3)
- I hang about following a fine currency in Kabul (7)
- In total, a momentous American battle (5)
- Royal Marines surround a sheep (3)
- Oddly, a strict one held to be creative (8)

- Datsun so unusual it amazes (8)
- OT priest in nave, listening (3)
- Vegetable burnt, we hear (5)
- Lie with ribs broken, provoking laughter (7)
- Satisfied consumer demand (3)
- Scares Tory in marshy areas (9)

CLUES DOWN

- Business dealings with romantic associations? (7)
- Threat to shipping in October gales (4)
- Girl among them, mainly (4)
- Help donkey first (6)
- He used to live in Peru in a mountain cave (4)
- Could be bad if one is genuine (4, 4)
- Legendary giant has a thousand spellbound (5)
- Wine total returned to young officer (8)
- A party brings commotion (3)
- Mayday call from the Sargasso Sea (inits)(3)
- Permit silence when broadcast (7)
- Minor dictionary contains Scandinavian (6)
- Story backed about Conservative leader's striking effect (5)
- Get silly during a cold afternoon (4)
- Some lasso horses in an area of London (4)
- Make beer, but put it up in fewer bottles (4) ●

Remember autumn Stampex 2010

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Medical Breakthroughs



ROYAL MAIL, TALLENTS HOUSE, 21 SOUTH GYLE CRESCENT, EDINBURGH EH12 9PB



It's getting closer... Wednesday 15 to Saturday 18 September are the dates of the autumn 2010 Stampex in London. Get ready to see more than a hundred dealers and postal administrations, who will be offering all types of philatelic treasures, including First Day Covers and rare GB stamps. For more information, phone 01252 628006.

Don't miss the Royal Mail stand and see the best in Modern Great Britain, including a chance to obtain First Day Covers for two very special issues: Medical Breakthroughs stamps (shown above) are released on Thursday 16 September, and on the following day, Friday 17 September, the brand new Birds of Britain (1) pictorial Post and Go stamps make their debut – see Royal Mail News on page 358 and full details in your September *British Philatelic Bulletin*. A special posting box will be available at the Exhibition for all days and a second box to obtain a special Stampex FDI handstamp.

The Village Green welcomes the return of the National Competitions run by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (www.abps.org.uk). The National Youth Championship entries will also be on display.

How to get there Stampex is held at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH. Underground: the Angel Northern Line station is a few minutes' walk away. Bus: route 4, 19, 30, 38, 43, 56, 73, 341 and 476 pass close by. Driving: there's an NCP car park just a short stroll away.

Stampex

By using the special posting box at autumn Stampex, you can obtain a special Stampex handstamp and First Day Cover of the Royal Mail Medical Breakthroughs stamps – on 16 September



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

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