

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 48 Number 9

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Bulletin

Thomas the Tank Engine •
The Mobile Post Office



Morris & Co designs feature
in a new issue, on sale 5 May

PLUS MORRIS & CO • DEFINITIVES RETROSPECTIVE • 2012 SPECIAL ISSUES

Issues and withdrawals



Cover photograph: Peacock and Vine embroidered panel, designed by William Morris and Philip Webb for Morris & Co, whose 150th anniversary is celebrated in the stamps issued on 5 May. Image courtesy Morris & Co
More details on page 276

Royal Mail Talents House

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5 May

Issue Morris & Co: Stamps, Prestige Stamp Book, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

7 May

Withdrawal London 2010 Festival of Stamps: Accession of King George V Stamps, Miniature Sheets and Press Sheets; the King's Stamps Miniature Sheet, Prestige Stamp Book, Press Sheets, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards. Treasures of the Archive Prestige Stamp Book

8 May

Withdrawal London 2010 Festival of Stamps: Exhibition Sheet and Commemorative Sheet

12 May

Withdrawal London 2010 Festival of Stamps: Stamp Book, Jeffery Matthews Exhibition Sheet. Britain Alone: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Prestige Stamp Book, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards and Dunkirk Medal Cover. Stamp coils (pre-security features)

19 May

Issue Post and Go Stamps: Birds of Britain III

26 May

Issue Olympic and Paralympic Games Stamp and Coin Retail packs: Taekwondo and Boxing. Olympic and Paralympic Sports Coin Cover Collection: Taekwondo and Boxing

10 June

Issue Prince Philip's 90th Birthday Commemorative Sheet

14 June

Issue Thomas the Tank Engine Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Stamp Book, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Medal Cover

14 June

Withdrawal Mammals Stamp Book 6 x 1st

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287 [illegible]

NAVAL OFFICER

From Philip's diary, we learn that at the age of 19 he was *Miner's Dispatch*, and at 21 he had a *Black Swan* in his hands.

HUSBAND AND FAI

*Prius Philip was married,
20 November 1947. He is
just children: Charles, Prius
Anne, Prius Royall, and*

SPORTSMAN

Francis Philip is a born speaker and his message permeates his included publishing, writing, lecturing and more.

CONSENT

Prince Philip is the longest-lived consort in British history, having his 80th birthday in the month of Queen to the annual event.

Parsons

Franci Flady is president of
ENR Brazil and a committee
member of the Brazilian
Association of Engineers.

The Queen and Prince Philip at the official opening of the Cutty Sark in her dry dock at Greenwich, 1957

Royal Mail News Preview of next month's commemorative stamp sheet celebrating the 90th birthday of Prince Philip, Birds of Britain III and special issue topics planned for next year **262**

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Postbox and inbox



Birds on the wire

This month we've gone all 'cross media!' 'What the Dickens?', we hear you cry.

We're talking about the flurry of tweets on the exciting 'intelligent' stamps that are part of the WWF campaign entitled 'The Panda Made us Do It'. The campaign has been launched to coincide with the charity's 50th anniversary and has had a fair amount of Twitter coverage. WWF has produced posters with the slogans including 'I stuck an elephant on an envelope', which show the Royal Mail WWF special issue stamps and are on display in 500 bus shelters and similar sites in the South East (mostly in Sussex, Kent and Dorset, and also some in

Winchester). One of the stamps – the Tiger and Elephant – have 'intelligent' applications.

The 'intelligent' stamps reveal some little known facts about the species by allowing you to access their exclusive content, including a video made by WWF and



narrated by Miranda Richardson. To view this content, you'll need to download a free application called Junaio onto your iPhone or Android phone, so that it can 'read' the stamp. For more details go to www.wwf.org.uk/intelligentstamp.

At the other end of the history spectrum, we're enjoying reading the tweets of Edwardian Postcards (@eVllpc). This Lancaster University project aims to breathe new life into the Edwardian postcard by re-tweeting messages from the years 1901 to 1910, an era when some six billion cards were posted and there were up to six postal deliveries a day in major cities. Over 2,500 cards from the period have been collected, to examine the creative responses of the population to the new communications technology of the times – all disseminated on our the 21st-century technology of today. The Edwardian Postcard Project also has a digital exhibit in Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, showing until further notice. For further details visit the Lancaster University website at www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/EVllpc



'Old money' among the new

I read with interest comments in March *Bulletin* regarding pre-decimal stamps used after February 1971. I attach a copy of an envelope received in 1977: the sender had an 8½p stamp and needed a further

½p to bring it up to the 9p tariff, but instead used an old halfpenny (½d) stamp which was overlooked during its passage through the postal system. Mr P J Uphill, Swanage.

In response to recent *Bulletin* correspondence about the use of withdrawn issues, I enclose a photo of a rather battered example I have kept as a curiosity: the successful misuse of a pre-decimal halfpenny Machin in 1979, to make up the second-class tariff of 8p.

R Simmance, Newcastle Upon Tyne





Return of the Definitives checklist

Here are extracts from letters received from four readers on the same subject. We would like to thank them all for graciously pointing out a misunderstanding on the March letters page.

I am writing to correct your published reply to Nigel Gray's letter in the March 2011 edition of *Bulletin*. To clarify, the list I believe Nigel is referring to is of the type last published in *Bulletin* Volume 46, No 5 (January 2009), which took the form of a checklist of all 2008 definitives and was the last in a series of similar checklists published annually in *Bulletin* since the early 2000s. Conversely, the September list referred to in your reply used to appear following a numbered volume ending with the August edition, and took the form of an index of features that had appeared in that volume...

Richard Hewitt, Bath

... I am one of the readers who complained to you last year about the absence of the checklist.

... I read your response to Nigel Gray's letter about the early list of stamps (March 2011). I felt he was put down in the response, 'Actually we used to publish this list in September's edition...' Certainly from 2006-2009 inclusive, this list appeared in January, as was correctly stated by Mr Gray. I would also make a plea to keep to the checklists in January and please can we have the lists for 2009 and 2010?
J A Bettess (Dr), Cumbria

Firstly, thank you very much for replying to my letter in the March 2011 *Bulletin*. Unfortunately I obviously did not make myself clear in the original letter. The list I was referring to which I find so very useful is the checklist of the previous year's definitives.

Nigel Gray, Surrey

Dear readers

Message received loud and clear. As a result we are publishing a checklist of 2009 definitives on page 283, then the 2010 checklist will follow in your June *Bulletin* and the list of 2010 definitives will appear in January 2012 *Bulletin*.

Keep the mail coming...

The Editor of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* welcomes your letters and has a topical selection of philatelic delights to give as a thank-you to the senders of those published.

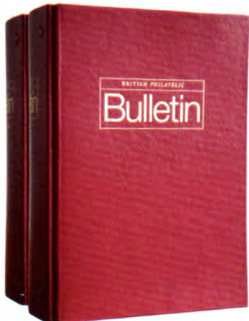
The sender of the 'First Class letter' award will also receive

the *Bulletin* binder shown left.

Please note, however, that Royal Mail cannot reply to all correspondence and reserves the right to edit for length. Send your letters to:

The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London WC1 1HQ.

Or send an email to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com



Remember the stamp shown left? Then you'll remember the year of the first *Bulletin* in Horst's collection – 1971

Forty years of philately

I have a complete set of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* from 1971 to 2011, all boxed and free to any reader willing to collect them. Please would you notify readers.

Horst Kolb, Berkshire

Dear Horst Kolb,

Thank you! Interested readers should contact the Editor at the address on the left.

What's new? Commemorative sheet • Birds of Britain III • 2012 issues • Latest collectibles

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth, Baron Greenwich was born in Corfu on 10 June, 1921 and will reach the age of 90 next month. It is reported that, while Her Majesty the Queen had hoped for 'something special' to mark his birthday in addition to the usual 62-gun salute from the Tower of London, Prince Philip himself allegedly doesn't want much fuss and is content that his grandson's wedding should deflect attention from his new nonagenarian status. The Royal Mail celebration, however, has been planned for a long time: on 10 June a commemorative sheet will be issued to mark the event (shown left, price £13.95).

The sheet carries ten stamps with images carefully chosen to reflect Prince Philip's life as a Royal Navy Officer, husband and father, Consort, sportsman and a patron of more than 800 British and Commonwealth organisations. An insert card has been written by Peter Denton and designed by Russell Warren Fisher. It traces the life of the Duke of Edinburgh since, at the age of 18 months, he left his homeland tucked up in an orange crate ●



HRH Prince Philip 90th Birthday Commemorative Sheet Specifications

Number of stamps	Ten
Stamp design	CDT Design Ltd
	Union Flag stamp based on an original design by Dick Davis, illustration by Anton Morris
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamps size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing, Meaucé, France
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

Post & Go new this month It's time to welcome the latest Post & Go pictorial stamps, available from 19 May. For this third issue, the Birds of Britain series moves from those birds frequently seen in our gardens to those spotted in and around the UK's thousands of miles of waterways. The stamps will be available from over 220 Post & Go terminals in 146 Post Office branches, as well as from Tallents House.

Please see last month's *Bulletin* page 230 for prices and full details of the Birds of Britain III issue. The fourth and last Post & Go stamp set in the series is released in September and features Seabirds ●

Farewells Coming off sale this month are all the stamp products released for the London 2010 Festival of Stamps, including the Jeffery Matthews Exhibition Sheet (your last chance to buy these is from 5 to 8 May, see page 258 for details). The popular Mammals Stamp Book will be withdrawn next month, on 14 June •



Looking ahead: the 2012 Special Stamp Programme

January	Roald Dahl
February	The House of Windsor (Kings & Queens 6)
February	Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Definitives
February	Britons of Distinction
March	Classic Locomotives of Scotland
March	World of Comics
April	UK A-Z (part 2)
May	Design Classics – Fashion
May	Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee
June	Charles Dickens
July	Olympic and Paralympic Games (Welcome)
September	Olympic and Paralympic Games (Memories)
October	World of Dinosaurs
October	Space Science
November	Christmas 2012

We hope the special issue include something for all clubs and collectors to enjoy. Remember that you can now use the Royal Mail selective customer theme option to help define your purchase choices. The stamp issue titles are provisional.

Classic pin badges The Machin Definitive Pin Badge Collection focuses on the detail of our National Definitive Stamp Range. Each stamp is reproduced to actual size on a 21mm x 24mm metal pin badge with a perforated edge and a polished nickel-plated finish, manufactured by Thomas Fattorini. The Machin Definitive portrait of Her Majesty The Queen is in modelled relief, and the coloured background to the portrait is



cold-enamelled with the stamp value and outer edge in silver-colour metal. Details of the origin of the Machin head are given on the reverse of the backing card, which is designed by Crescent Lodge. There are currently five designs in the Collection – 1st class, 2nd class, 5p, 2p and 1p – all in vivid authentic colours and priced at £8.95 each •



Limited-edition models Available next month, from 7 June, is the GVIR Type B Pillar Box, the ninth in the series of pewter models forming the Royal Mail Pillar Box Collection.

Pictured below are seven of the models already available: the GVR Airmail Pillar Box of 1933; the GVIR Type C Double Aperture Pillar Box of 1937; the VR Penfold Pillar Box of 1872; the VR Science and Art Pillar Box of 1857 (shown with its printed tube); the VR Fluted Pillar Box of 1857; the VR First National Standard Pillar Box of 1859; the VR Type B Pillar Box of 1887. The eighth, released last month is the EVIIIR Type B Pillar Box, dating from 1936. These highly detailed handmade models are accurately scaled at 1:19 and produced by DJH Engineering Ltd. The packaging, designed by The Chase, carries a precise illustration of its contents and information about the history of the pillar box enclosed. The pillar box models can be purchased online (see below), priced £26.95 each.



Above: a selection of the 1:19 scale pewter pillar boxes in the current series of collectibles

If you are keen on mail vans, you will appreciate the current series of die-cast limited-edition Royal Mail models, the first of which is the 1967 Ford Anglia, shown below (NV001). Released on the 19th of this month is the 1951 Morris J (NV004), while the other models already available are the Morris Minor (NV002) and the 1963 Austin A35 (NV003). The model vans measure about 170mm (height) by 80mm (width) by 75mm (diameter).

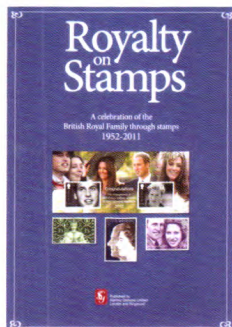
Only 5,000 of each type will be made and each one costs £15.95. They are available, along with the model pillar boxes and Machin pin badges described above, at www.royalmail.com in the Gifts and Collectibles section. You can phone to order or request more details on 08457 641 641 from the UK and +44 131 316 7483 if you're overseas •



Stamp scene – John Holman keeps you posted

Royal Stamp Book To coincide with the Royal Wedding, Stanley Gibbons has published *Royalty on Stamps*, sub-titled 'A celebration of the British Royal Family through stamps 1952-2011'. The 92-page book, of A4 format, begins with a seven-page feature on stamps featuring Prince William, many of which were issued to mark his 18th and 21st birthdays. The article also looks at some Royal Wedding stamps of the past. The features are useful reprints of 21 articles on Royal events and anniversaries published in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* between 1953 and 2007, covering the Coronation, royal weddings and anniversaries, royal birthdays and stamp portraits of members of the Royal family.

Of particular interest to collectors of British stamps are the features on the designing of the 1972 Silver Wedding and 1973 Royal Wedding stamps (3½p shown right), Cyril Parsons's 'Stamp Portraits of The Queen' (from GSM, August 1955), and the article 'A Royal Year in Postmarks' about the 65 Royal Mail special handstamps connected with *Royalty* used during 1981. For anyone interested in Royal stamps of the past 60 years, this is a nostalgic trip down memory lane. Price £8.95 plus postage from Stanley Gibbons Strand shop in London or by post from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH, telephone 01425 472363 •



Royal tributes New from Gibraltar are six new stamps and a miniature sheet marking the Lifetime of Service of The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. A miniature sheet for the engagement of Prince William was issued on 21 January; this bears a £2 stamp showing the Prince and Miss Middleton. Also issued on 21 January were eight stamps and a miniature sheet marking the 90th anniversary of the (Royal) British Legion. For further details and to order see the Gibraltar Stamps website, write to Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau, PO Box 5662, Gibraltar, or e-mail info@gibraltar-stamps.com •

May exhibitions and fairs this month The next Strand Stamp Fair, held in London since 1969, will be at the Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 (near Russell Square tube station) on 11 May, followed by another on 8 June. Two or three dozen dealers usually attend.

A national stamp and postcard exhibition, under the auspices of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) takes place at the Pond's Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield, 6-7 May, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, and Grosvenor, Corbitts and Spink auctioneers. The programme for the exhibition was given in last month's Stamp Scene. It is open on 6 May from 9am to 5pm and on 7 May 9am to 4pm. Over 25 dealers have booked to attend, and there will be meetings of the Faroe Islands Study Circle, Scandinavian Philatelic Society, and Society of Olympic Collectors.

The exhibition is hosted by the Sheffield Philatelic Society, founded in 1894. The Society has prepared a special cover for the exhibition.

The Worcester Philatelic & Postcard Society is hosting Worpex 2011 at ►

Diary dates for June

To mark the 90th birthday, on 10 June, of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, an exhibition 'Prince Philip: Celebrating Ninety Years' is on show at the Windsor Castle Drawings Gallery **until 22 January 2012**. The Royal Mail Commemorative Sheet celebrating Prince Philip's 90th birthday is shown on page 262.

Also next month the 93rd Philatelic Congress of GB will be held at the Queens Hotel, Southsea on **16-19 June**.

The Welsh Philatelic Society's Annual Philatelic Weekend takes place at Plas Tan y Bwlch on **17-19 June**.

Oldbury Park Primary School, Oldbury Road, St Johns, Worcester on 14 May. The show is open 10am to 4pm, with over 30 dealers. Admission and car parking are both free. For further information, visit www.worpex.com.

The Railway Philatelic Group holds its annual convention at Wansford Station on the Nene Valley Railway near Peterborough on 14 May. A special cover is being produced in an exclusive edition, showing the NVR TPO mail exchange in operation and bearing a first-class 2010 trains stamp and brand new Nene Valley Railway letters stamp to mark the event. (Limited edition of 100 with priority to RPG members, price £5 plus p&p, from Keith Downing, 16 Caves Lane, Bedford MK40 3DR.)

The Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies holds its 42nd Annual Convention at the Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot on 21 May (10am to 4.30pm). About 15 dealers will be present; other attractions include Federation competition entries, free souvenir programme, raffle and souvenir card featuring some rare Barred Numeral handstamps of south Wales ●

Online stamp catalogue The Machin Collectors Club has announced that its QEII Specialised Definitive Catalogue is now available online 24 hours a day and will be regularly updated so readers have a completely up-to-date service for the definitive issues. Access to this new service starts at only £10 for a full years for MCC members, or £20 for non-members. The printed version is still published. Details can be found at the MCC's shop at www.suttonstamps.co.uk or write to Machin Collectors Club, 11 Princes Street, Sutton Bridge, Spalding PE12 9RF, e-mail machins@supanet.com ●

Auction news Spink's 'Collector's series' auction on 12 January raised £8,822,620. It was rich in material from Cape of Good Hope, Nyasaland, South Africa and Turkey (Otto Hornung collection) as well as some impressive GB items which included no fewer than 167 Penny Black lots. An example from plate II on cover tied by crisp bright orange-red Maltese Cross from Liverpool on 13 May 1840 went for £850 (£600-800). A cover addressed and signed by Queen Victoria sent on Christmas Day 1865 from Osborne House to Windsor achieved £1100 (est £1,200-1,500) – the 1d stamp was cancelled by a fine impression of the extremely rare 'POR/SC' (Portsmouth Sorting Carriage) handstamp. Another example of this is in the British Postal Museum & Archive. A rare 'Victoria and Albert' pictorial envelope sent from Edinburgh to Dumfriesshire realised £7000 (£6,000-8,000). This is the only recorded example of this envelope without an added adhesive stamp in private hands; postage was paid by a 'PAID at EDINB' datestamp in red. For details of future auctions contact Spink on 020 7563 4000 ●

Stampex displays To mark its 75th anniversary, the Postal History Society mounted an impressive display at Spring Stampex in February. This covered a wide range of subjects, British and overseas. The British displays, of particular interest to *Bulletin* readers, were Exeter Postal History (Michael Lockton), Spoon Cancells (Graham Booth), Parish Posts of the Channel Islands and Red Cross Civilian Postal Message Scheme in Channel Islands

1940-45 (David Gurney), Postage Due Mail (Patrick Frost), Development of Decorative Stationery (John Scott), Censorship of Civil Mails in World War One (Graham Mark), Britain's Small Offshore Islands (James Grimwood-Taylor), Postage Paid Impressions (Norman Higson), Kent Ship Letters (Maurice Porter), Death by Post (Claire Scott), Posted in Advance for Christmas Day (Pay Campbell), Queen Victoria: The Unusual (John Forbes-Nixon), German Occupation of Channel Islands and Postal History of Pembrokeshire (Gerald Marriner), Early British Letters (Malcolm Ray-Smith), Malton, Yorkshire (John Sussex), and Parcel Post (Nick Wraith) ●

Island issues Recent issues from the Isle of Man Post Office include a miniature sheet marking the engagement of Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton (26 November 2010), six stamps, a miniature sheet, and a souvenir sheetlet for the Lifetime of Service of HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip (6 February), eight stamps for Isle of Man Genealogy (18 February), eight stamps showing butterflies (1 April), a miniature sheet for the Royal Wedding (1 April), and 10 stamps and a miniature sheet for the Isle of Man TT races (1 April). A further six stamps, showing cartoons by Dusty Miller, go on sale on 10 May. To order, or for further information, phone 01624 698430.

Jersey Post issued a new £3 stamp (shown above right) on 21 April to mark HM The Queen's 85th birthday. The stamp, printed in sheetlets of four, or in a miniature sheet, bears an informal photograph of The Queen. The stamp was printed by Cartor using metallic silver ink. A £3.50 stamp, printed in sheetlets of four, was issued on 29 April for the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. For further details visit the Jersey Post website at www.jerseystamps.com or write to Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Postal Headquarters, Jersey, Channel Islands, JE1 1AB ●



This month in history:

1951 Festival of Britain issues

To cheer people up after the austere post-war period, Clement Attlee's Labour Government organised a Festival of Britain, held in London and other UK cities, from May to September 1951. The London site was on the South Bank and included the newly-built Royal Festival Hall. To mark the Festival, the GPO issued two commemorative stamps on 3 May, the day before the Festival opened to the public. The stamps were designed by leading artists of the day, Edmund Dulac and Abram Games. Dulac's 2½d stamp, printed in red, featured Britannia and emblems of prosperity and growth. Games's 4d stamp, in ultramarine, reproduced his Britannia head and bunting Festival logo.

Collectors and dealers serviced covers with a variety of postmarks on the day of issue. More were posted at the Festival Post Office the following day, when a special handstamp and machine cancel were brought into use. The handstamp was also made available at the South Eastern District Post Office in London and as many as 20,000 covers may have been cancelled with it on 4 May. The stamps remained on sale until the Festival closed on 30 September.



Above: Dulac's Festival of Britain design, top, and Games's Festival logo stamp, bottom

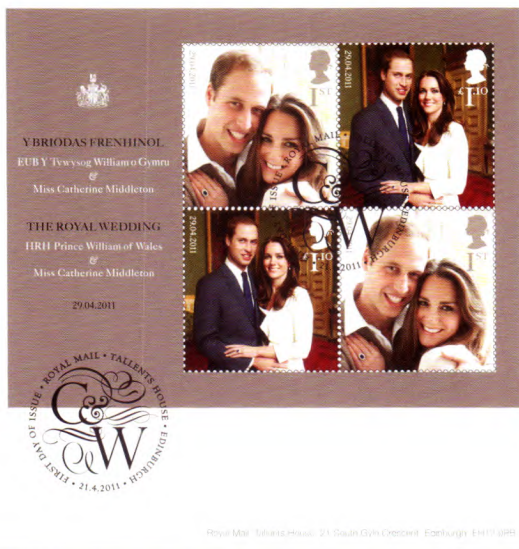
Amlen Diwrnod Cyntaf y Post Brenhinol
Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



PRIDODAS FRENHINOL
*Et Uchelder (Brenhinol y Llywysog William
a Miss Catherine Middleton)*

THE ROYAL WEDDING
*His Royal Highness Prince William
and Miss Catherine Middleton*



The Royal Wedding Official commemorative stamp issue, marking the royal event of the year



Above: alternative Westminister Abbey postmark

Issued on 21 April, the Queen's 85th birthday, and in time for the celebrations leading up to the wedding on Friday 29 April, are the official commemorative stamps marking the marriage of His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales to Miss Catherine Middleton. They feature the official engagement portraits taken by world-renowned photographer Mario Testino. The formal image was taken in the Council Chamber of St James's Palace, while the informal image at the first class value shows the couple embracing in the Palace's Cornwall room. The stamps are printed within a miniature sheet which features Prince William's coat of arms.

The stamps are also available in a selection of stamp products:

Royal Wedding prices

Miniature Sheet	£3.12
Presentation Pack	£3.65
First Day Cover (available until May 19)	£4.22
Souvenir Cover	£7.49
Commemorative Document (available after the event)	£9.99
Standard Coin cover	£17.50
Silver Coin cover	£59.95
Gold Coin cover	£1,750

First Day Cover A finely printed First Day Cover features the Miniature Sheet affixed to a specially designed envelope and with a choice of pictorial handstamps. Orders may be placed until 19 May.

Presentation Pack This beautifully illustrated brochure includes a pristine set of the stamps in a miniature sheet, and features the story of how Prince William and Catherine Middleton met.

Souvenir Cover An ideal gift for a loved one, this specially commissioned cover includes an illustrated booklet and is hand-stamped with the date of issue.



Stampau Dyddwrth y Ffwrdd Frenhinol
Royal Mail Mini Stamp

Y BRIDODAS FRENHINOL *THE ROYAL WEDDING*
Y Tywising William o Gymro & Miss Catherine Middleton
His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales & Miss Catherine Middleton



Facing page: First Day Cover, available until 19 May.
Above: postmark available from Talents House
Above left: the Souvenir Cover includes a fully illustrated booklet.
Left: the Presentation Pack tells the story of the Royal romance

Coin Cover A premium limited-edition cover, created with the Royal Mint, presents the Royal Wedding stamps alongside a choice of three commemorative £5 coins: brilliant uncirculated, silver proof and gold proof.

Commemorative Document The Wedding Day is also to be celebrated in a Commemorative Document that will be available after the happy event. This beautiful keepsake will comprise an illustrated folder featuring images of the Royal newlyweds, accompanied by a limited-edition document bearing the miniature sheet of stamps, postmarked with a commemorative handstamp of 29 April 2011 •

Royal Wedding Miniature Sheet Specifications

Number of stamps	Four
Design	Atelier Works. Featuring the official engagement photographs by Mario Testino
Stamp size	Minisheet: 115mm(w) x 89mm(h) Minisheet stamps: 35mm(w) x 37mm(h)
Printer	Walsall Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Gum	PVA

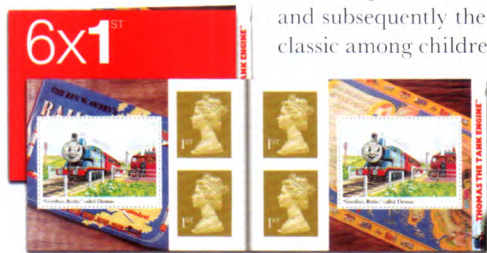
All aboard! Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends head for an important milestone

Issued on 14 June, new Thomas the Tank Engine stamps will celebrate the centenary of the birth of the series' creator, Reverend Wilbert Awdry.

The Hampshire-based clergyman was a long-time railway enthusiast like his father before him and it was the illness of Wilbert's son Christopher that was the spur to his creating the character of Thomas the Tank Engine – and subsequently the whole family of characterful trains set to become a classic among children's stories.

In the autumn of 1942, his two-year-old son had measles and was bored and confined to his bed. So Rev Awdry created a wondrous world to keep him entertained and, in 1945, the first part of *The Three Railway Engines* adventures was published. Between 1945 and 1972 Rev Awdry wrote 26 volumes of the Railway Series, comprising 105 stories. Before he retired they had sold in their millions all over the world. In 1982 Christopher, now a father himself, heard the story of an ill-fated train rescue and decided to write a story for his two-year-old son, Richard. He carried on writing, producing three stories which he showed to his father. The Rev Awdry then put his son in touch with his original editor and it wasn't long before the Thomas series took off once more – this time with the exceptionally popular animated TV series that first aired in 1984. The first 28 stories were read by Ringo Starr, whose laconic voice lent a special appeal.

Richard Awdry went on to write 15 books set on the fictional island of Sodor



Above: illustrated stamp book with six first-class stamps – four Machins and two stamps showing Thomas and Bertie the Bus.

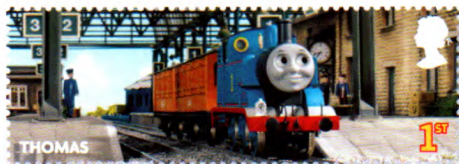
Below: First Day Cover and the two pictorial postmarks of Box, Corsham, Wiltshire, where Rev Awdry lived as a boy



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE™

Royal Mail First Day Cover Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB



and Thomas's gentle yet adventurous world went on to capture the hearts of another generation through books, television, toys and special events.

Thomas the Tank Engine is a ten-stamp issue, comprising the six long-format landscape stamps shown above and four more included in a miniature sheet (see page 272). The individual stamps celebrate the images from the TV series, with six characters selected from the locomotives created by Rev Awdry, after researching the imagery from the shows. A long format was selected as being particularly suited to the railway engines, and additional props and details, including some of the human characters in the stories, were added to the selvedge.

For the miniature sheet original illustrations from The Railway Series books were chosen and the Presentation Pack contains the stamps and the miniature sheet in a separate carrier. On the illustrated insert card, Christopher Awdry writes about his father's work and how it grew to be an international publishing and TV phenomenon.

The First Day Cover is available with either ►

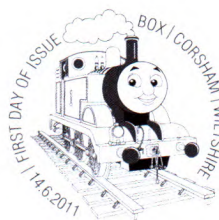
Above: the stamps feature Thomas 1st class; James, 66p; Percy 68p; Daisy 76p; Toby £1; and Gordon £1.10

Thomas the Tank Engine Prices

Set of stamps	£4.66
Miniature Sheet	£2.90
Presentation Pack	£8.10
Stamp Book	£2.76
Stamp Cards (11 in set)	£4.95
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover (stamps)	£6.07
First Day Cover (minisheet)	£3.96
Medal Cover	£14.95

Thomas the Tank Engine Stamp Specifications

Number of stamps	Six
Design	Elmwood
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 21mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing, Meaucé, France
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	24/48
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Right and below right: the FDC and minisheet, showing Thomas racing Bertie the Bus, 1st class; James has a crash, 68p; Percy ends up in the sea, 76p; Henry walled up in a tunnel, £1
Below: the medal cover with artist's impression of the medal design. (Medal not available at time of going to press.)



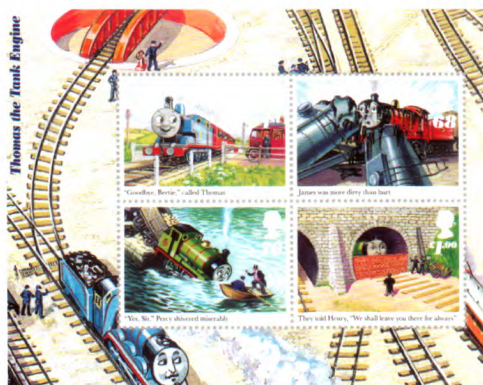
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE™

Royal Mail First Day Cover Royal Mail, Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9JF

Thomas the Tank Engine

Miniature Sheet Specifications

Number of stamps	Four
Design	Elmwood
Stamp format	Landscape
Size of sheet	115mm x 89mm
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing, Meaucé, France
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



An anniversary edition of *Thomas the Tank Engine – The Complete Collection* is available from

Talents House, price £24.99. The collection includes 26 of the classic books in one volume, with a foreword from the author

the stamps or the miniature sheet. The medal cover, produced in association with the Royal Mint, will feature the six sheet stamps and a specially cast medal featuring Thomas the Tank Engine, released at a later date in early August. A total of 11 stamp cards will be available, showing enlarged versions of the Thomas the Tank Engine stamps and miniature sheet •



Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends™ is based on The Railway Series by The Reverend W Awdry. © 2011 Gullane (Thomas) Limited. Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends and Thomas & Friends are trademarks of Gullane (Thomas) Limited.



THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE™

NO. 0708



The call of the crofts

As a distinguished naturalist is honoured by new Summer Isles local stamps, John Holman investigates the back-story

Last September we reported on the 40th anniversary of the local stamps (local carriage labels) of the Summer Isles off the west coast of Scotland – used to carry the mail from Tanera Mor, the main island in the group, to Achiltibuie on the mainland where it enters the Royal Mail system. The Summer Isles issue a new set of stamps each year and the latest, available from 5 May, honours the distinguished ecologist, farmer, conservationist and author Sir Frank Fraser Darling (1903-79).

SIR FRANK FRASER DARLING lived, with his family, on Tanera from 1939 to 1943. The main purpose of his stay was to breathe new life to the island's economy following the failure of the herring industry. He held the view that like-minded folk could bring prosperity and produce leadership to inspire and promote the Gaelic culture – the bedrock of crofting communities. ►

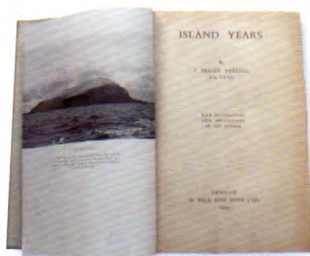
Below: Tanera Mòr's post office. It is the only Scottish offshore island to operate a regular, year-round private postal service



Right: the Summer Isles and beyond. To the right is Isle Ristol. Beyond that are Tanera Mòr and Tanera Beg. Further out you can see the Cuillins on Skye.
Below: The frontispiece of *Island Years*



Born in Edinburgh, he studied at the University's Institute of Animal Genetics. Following research in ecology and agriculture, he became Director of the West Highland Survey, publishing the *Natural History in the Highlands and Islands* in 1947.



A thriving experience Frank Fraser Darling's book *Island Years*, written on Tanera, describes his time on various islands and is illustrated with fine photographs of island scenery, seabirds, Tanera, and his son Alasdair on North Rona. In 1943 he published *Island Farm* specifically about his time on Tanera. In his preface, he writes: 'It has been a thriving experience starting from scratch and reaching a peasant level of comfort in three and a half years.' The 37 illustrations are an important photographic record of life on Tanera at that time. The book was immediately popular and was reprinted twice the following year. *Island Farm* is to be republished later this year with a foreword by Alasdair Fraser Darling.

Sepia souvenirs The new Summer Isles stamps feature sepia coloured illustrations from the book with captions, values, and the Scottish Saltire flag added in blue. The values are expressed in 'sg' (sgillinn) and 'PS' (Punnd Sasannach), equating to UK pence and pounds. The 30sg stamp depicts loading coral sand onto a boat, from the neighbouring island of Tanera Beg, to lime the ground. Coral sand, noted Darling, is pure calcium carbonate – an excellent fertilizer. The 35sg value features the partly restored quay on Tanera in 1940, and the 60sg Sir Frank and his collie dog Trimmie. The top value, 1PS stamp, shows journalist Pat Murphy cultivating the land, taking the two-wheeled 'Trusty' tractor over a glacial boulder. Darling describes in the book how a MacBrayne's steamer delivered the tractor, and the visit by Murphy and Mr Reach of the manufacturers, Tractors (London) Limited.

New lease of life The images from the book were enhanced by Nick Tonkin for the stamps which were printed by Cartor in sheets of eight of each value,



30sg



35sg



Left: the stamps are a celebration of a past way of life and of a great man who sought to reinvigorate a poverty-stricken area

60sg



1PS



also a sheet of two horizontal se-tenant strips of the four stamps, and a miniature sheet containing one of each stamp. All sheets/minature sheets are available both perforated and imperf. Two different first day covers were serviced, one bearing just the Summer Isles stamps, the other also a Royal Mail stamp cancelled at Achiltibuie. Full details of all Summer Isles issues are available from: Summer Isles Philatelic Bureau, West Croftnuisk, Edradynate, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2JU. The phone number is 01887 840213, you can email on summerislesbureau@btinternet.com, or visit the Summer Isles website.

The stamps have prompted me to look again at *Island Farm* and *Island Years* which I first read over 30 years ago. Both are beautifully written and hopefully the new edition of *Island Farm* will introduce a new generation of readers to the works of Frank Fraser Darling and increase awareness of the Summer Isles and the attractive stamps •



A man of many talents

Pat Stannard, a member of the Friends of the William Morris Gallery, examines William Morris's plentiful and varied achievements

THIS YEAR SEES THE 150th anniversary of the foundation of one of the world's most famous decorative arts companies in history. When William Morris set up Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co, and a shop at 8 Red Lion Square, Holborn, London in April 1861, he wrote: 'I have started as a decorator which I have long meant to do when I could get men of reputation to join me.'

Plans with passion In describing himself as a decorator, Morris was being uncharacteristically modest about his twofold ambition. His aim was to revolutionise the way people furnished their homes, in a manner that might contribute to restoring the dignity of the working man.

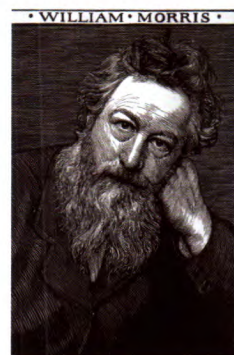
The enterprise quickly took flight with a stand at the International Exhibition of 1862. Within a few years the Company was flourishing, producing hand-carved furniture, carpets, wallpaper and metal work, and later adding printed fabrics and carpets to its range. The fact that many of

Above: crewel work Peacock and Vine designed by William Morris and Philip Webb for Morris & Co



Left: this Peacock and Bird hand-knotted carpet is a rare example of Morris & Co's work, which recently came to light in a private collection in California and was donated to the Gallery by the Monument Trust last year.

Below: woodcut of the great man himself



the designs are still in worldwide circulation is testament to their appeal. Morris famously summed up his philosophy thus: 'Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful.'

The influence of the firm and the burgeoning Arts and Crafts Movement, which it was instrumental in promoting, soon spread far beyond domestic settings. Nicholas Pevsner, the architectural scholar, described the formation of the company as the 'beginning of a new era in Western art'. This was a period when churches were being remodelled and public building was at its zenith. Stained glass, tapestries and embroideries, murals and painted panels – many influenced by the medieval period – were added to the list of Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co's products. In 1875 Morris took sole ownership of the company, renaming it Morris & Co, and business continued to flourish.

The heritage of his designs based on natural forms is still seen in many modern fabric and wallpaper patterns, and thousands of examples of interiors influenced by Morris can be seen in the UK. These include the Green Room at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, Balmoral Castle in Scotland, the Armoury and Tapestry Room in St James's Palace, numerous churches, schools and public buildings and in Morris's own homes – The Red House in Bexleyheath, Kent, and Kelmscott Manor in Gloucestershire.

So what kind of man was Morris, affectionately nicknamed 'Topsy' by his friends? Was he merely a glorified interior decorator? Far from it. He could ►



Above: the only other Morris-inspired GB stamp, from the 1982 British Textiles issue



Above: the William Morris Gallery, at Morris's birthplace in Walthamstow. Work has started there, with the backing of a Heritage Lottery grant, to refurbish and extend the Grade II listed building and restage the collection. So the Gallery is currently closed until July 2012, when it reopens with more of the outstanding collection on display. There will be more exhibition space, a learning centre including a library, a meeting room and a tea room. Both Waltham Forest Council and The Friends of the William Morris Gallery are raising funds for the project. For more information, visit www.friendsofthewmg.org.uk.

best be described as a true polymath, a man of many talents. Born in 1834 into a wealthy family in Walthamstow, he was a precocious child with a wide range of interests. It was during his childhood that he developed a fascination with the medieval world and nature, which he was to carry into the rest of his life and activities. It is said that he used to ride around Epping Forest wearing a toy suit of armour!

After graduating from Oxford University, Morris worked at the offices of Gothic revivalist architect George Street, but left to study painting under the pre-Raphaelite artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti. The pair, along with Edward Burne-Jones and other friends, painted the murals depicting the legends of King Arthur in the Oxford Union.

In a sense it was his marriage in 1859 to artists' model Jane Burden that dictated the path of the next stage of his life. The newlyweds moved into the Red House in Bexleyheath, Kent, which Morris had designed with his friend, Philip Webb. He had a vision of how it should be furnished – one very different from the prevailing high Victorian fashion of the period – and it was that vision which informed the setting up and development of the Morris Company.

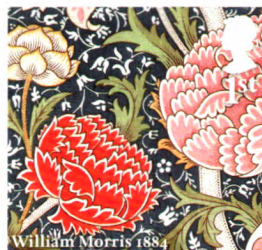
Politics and literature As the years went by, Morris devoted his energies not only to business but also to his many other interests. He was a poet (who turned down the offer of a laureateship) and author, his works including *The Defence of Guenevere and Other Poems*, *The Earthly Paradise*, *A Dream of John Ball* and the utopian *News from Nowhere*. Following travels in Iceland, he translated some of the nation's sagas. Having studied the arts of calligraphy and manuscript illumination, it was typical of Morris that he wanted to see his favourite works – and of course his own work – beautifully printed, illustrated and bound. So he set up the Kelmscott Press in Hammersmith.

In 1877, he formed the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, a form of which is still with us today (known as SPAB) and led indirectly to the formation of The National Trust. He was an active socialist, joining the Social Democratic Federation in 1883 and subsequently founding the Socialist League. In this role, he gave many public lectures, wrote articles and funded the setting up of *The Commonweal*, a monthly paper promoting Socialism. Unfortunately his many activities may have led to his neglect of his own health and his death at 62 in 1896. A biography by John William Mackail written just three years after this made a valuable point about this impressive man: 'The fame of Morris during his life was probably somewhat obscured by the variety of his accomplishments'.

Morris's London legacy The William Morris Gallery is housed in the Water House in Walthamstow, London (shown left), where he lived in with his widowed mother and eight siblings from 1848 to 1856. Prime Minister and local MP Clement Attlee officially opened the Gallery in 1950. It houses one of the world's best collections of Arts and Crafts material and is the only museum solely devoted to Morris, with exhibits ranging from examples of his artistic activities to the battered briefcase that accompanied him on lecture tours •

Below: Morris's Tulip and Willow design of 1873

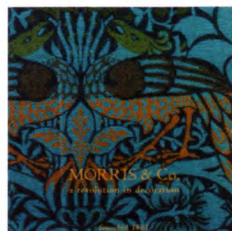




Designs that continue to inspire

The 150th anniversary of Morris & Company is marked by a special Royal Mail stamp issue on 5 May, showing designs from key members of the Company, clockwise from top left as follows.

- ❖ The image on the 76p stamp derives from a wallpaper pattern named *Seaweed*, designed by John Henry Dearle in 1901 and showing distinctive Turkish and Persian influences. Dearle started work with Morris & Company as a shop assistant in their Oxford Street showroom, but by 1890 he was chief designer, and on Morris's death in 1896, Art Director.
- ❖ Another 76p stamp shows the work of Kate Faulkner, from the *Peony* ceramic tile design she created in 1877. Faulkner was the sister of Morris's former business partner, William Faulkner, and with her sister Lucy she produced a number of tile designs for Morris & Company.
- ❖ The classic *Cray* pattern is shown on one of two first-class stamps. Created by William Morris in 1884, it is a fabric design that requires an exceptionally complex print process, involving 34 individual hand-printing blocks.
- ❖ On the other first-class stamp is a detail of *Cherries*, from a panel designed in 1867 by Philip Webb, whose *Cherries* theme can be seen in the Morris room at the Victoria and Albert Museum.
- ❖ The hand-painted glazed tile design on the £1.10 stamp is *Acanthus*, created by William Morris himself and used on tiles made by William De Morgan in 1876.
- ❖ Looking out from the other £1.10 stamp is *The Merchant's Daughter*, a detail of a stained-glass window by Edward Burne-Jones, made around 1864. One of the original partners at Morris & Company, Burne-Jones had become the firm's principle stained glass panel designer by 1890.



A lavishly illustrated book – *Morris & Co, A Revolution in Decoration* by Michael Parry – is published by Morris & Co. (£9.99 ISBN 978-0-9568088-0-6) and is available from Tallents House with free p&p. It shows the work of all the designers featured in the stamp issue

Marks of the Mobile John Newcomb recalls the heyday of the iconic Mobile Post Offices



Above: postmarks from three different MPOs

SEEING THE BEAUTIFULLY RESTORED, shiny red Mobile Post Office at the last Lord Mayor's Show in London must have stirred many memories for people who visited these vehicles at county shows and other outdoor events between the 1930s and 1980s.

Local post office managers have always had powers to set up temporary offices in any premises available at events such as agricultural shows and sports meetings, but the first specially built Mobile Post Office vehicle was launched on 30 September 1936, following a similar initiative by the French PTT in 1934. The 1936 vehicle – known as MPO1 and with the registration mark GPO1 – was the first of the three Mobiles, carefully designed to provide visitors to short-term events with temporary mailing, telegraph and telephone facilities. The Mobile had its own set of three date-stamps, of great interest to collectors.

The trailer was in three sections: storage at the front of the vehicle; two telephone cubicles, accessed from the back; and in the middle a three-position counter for the sale of stamps, stationery and postal orders, acceptance of registered and unregistered letters, and acceptance and delivery of telegrams. The vehicle was articulated so that it could be driven along winding country lanes and negotiate difficult entrances.

Customers were served through windows on the offside of the trailer, protected from the elements by an awning and duckboards, and in the dark days of winter electricity for lighting was powered by batteries charged from an on-board generator. The original engine unit for the first Mobile Post Office was a Morris Commercial and the complete vehicle cost a total of £1,900, with running costs of some £900 per annum!



Photographs © Glenn Morgan



The first-ever venue of MPO1 was the Marden Fruit Show in Kent, which opened on 6 October, 1936. The new venture immediately proved popular and not all applications for an attendance could be met. However, it was recognised from the outset that the function of the Mobile Post Office was more prestigious than it was profitable. In 1937, the first full year of its operation, MPO1 served just 40 events, mostly in the summer, and its success led to the launch of a second very similar Mobile on 16 April 1938.

During World War II, the two Mobiles were occasionally deployed but emergency wartime requirements were usually met by simpler vehicles.

By 1948 a third Mobile was felt to be justified, although its first appearance at a show was not until 1950. In 1969 the MPO1 vehicle was replaced by a new tender and trailer, not articulated. Customers entered the trailer for service at an internal counter. All three Mobiles remained busy in the summer, averaging an annual total of 50 to 60 visits. Sadly by 1988 the schedule of the Mobiles had been drastically reduced, on the grounds of cost-cutting. The services offered became more and more limited until the vehicles were often only used for displaying publicity material, with no mail being accepted. The last recorded event attended by a Mobile Post Office was the Farnborough Air Show, from 4 to 11 September in 1988. Sic transit gloria!

More recently specially equipped vans fill gaps left by post office closures, and a few County Shows and party political conferences are served by similar vehicles, date-stamps being inscribed variously •

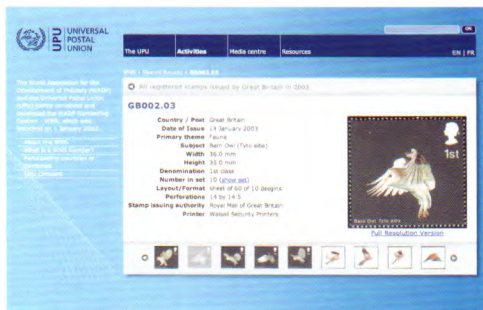
The 'British Postmark Bulletin' is published fortnightly and is available from Talents House at the address on page 258. The 'British Postmark Society Journal' is published quarterly – for details contact John Strachan, BPS Secretary, at 12 Dunavon Park, Strathaven, ML10 6LP or visit www.britishpostmarksociety.org.uk

Above: the restored MPO at the last Lord Mayor's Show. Below: postmarks from specially equipped vans at 21st-century events



A stamp of authenticity

Adrian Keppel reviews the WNS website



One of the many useful pages on www.wnsstamps.ch/en/, which details modern issues

Who is the website for? The WNS website, found at www.wnsstamps.ch/en/, is for those who would like to make sure that the stamps they buy, sell or swap are official stamps and not illegal or bogus issues.

What's the website's heritage? The Universal Postal Union and the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) introduced the WNS or WADP Numbering System in 2002 and, since then, nearly 50,000 stamps have been

numbered and added to the site. The ultimate aim is to create a worldwide database of official postage stamps issued from 2002 onwards. That way, the system can successfully combat the ever-growing problem of bogus and illegal stamp issues, which is the very reason it was developed.

How is it organised? There are four parts to this site. On the left is a navigation bar which gives you general information on the WNS. The navigation bar at the top lets you drift away from the WNS site to the general UPU site. A navigation bar on the right is aimed at certain themes on recent stamp issues, such as 'Global Warming' or 'Europa', and also includes a theme of the month. The area in the middle is the proper site search part, where you can browse all stamps submitted by the world's postal authorities. Each stamp entry comes with general info, a high-resolution image and a link to the postal authority that issued it.

What are the best bits? With so many issues included, this site has become a great database of modern stamps. The high-resolution images of the stamps are absolutely wonderful, and another big plus is that you can search by themes as well as by country or date of issue.

What could be improved? The biggest minus is that not all postal authorities are willing to participate. So here we have a great resource but in no way can it claim to be the definitive database for all official stamp issues in the world.

In conclusion Although the site is unlikely to realise its ultimate goal, it is nevertheless a great tool for collectors of modern issues. Thematic collectors, too, are well served here. With so many new issues on the market these days, it could even pass as a reasonable alternative to buying new editions of world catalogues •

Adrian Keppel is a philatelic reporter whose collecting interests include the Queen Wilhelmina era of the Netherlands and the philatelic aftermath of WWI.

Checklist of 2009 definitives

The last Bulletin checklist of definitives was of 2008 stamps. Following requests from readers, we have decided to print retrospective lists for the years since then, beginning with 2009. We hope this list will be helpful to collectors in completing their collections. Compiled by Melvyn Philpott



Please note We quote Royal Mail order numbers (prefixed DS, YB etc) as given on Tallents House stock lists • Key to printers: C = Cartor, D = De La Rue, E = Enschedé, W = Walsall • Printing process: G = gravure, L = litho • Unless otherwise stated, definitive and country stamps are self adhesive, have a perforation gauge of 15 x 4 (with ellipses at lower left and right sides) and two phosphor bands (2nd class standard size one band) • The dates quoted are those on which the stamps were first available from Tallents House; in some instances they may have been available at Post Offices earlier to meet postal needs •

Machin definitives

17 February 50p, Light Grey (DS509); £1, Ruby (DS105); £1.50, Terracotta (FS150); £2, Slate Blue (FS029); £3, Purple (FS307); £5, Grey-blue (FS059); 1st, Gold (DS361); 1st Large, Gold (DSDS520); 2nd, Bright Blue (DS272); 2nd Large, Bright Blue (DS421). All G, new security features, D.

31 March 17p, Olive Green (DS171); 22p, Stone (DS223); 62p, Red (DS620); 90p, Ultramarine (DS900); All PVA, G, D.

17 November 1st, recorded signed for (DS114); 1st large, recorded signed for (DS136). Both G, D. ▶

Right: 2009 Country
Definitives, Presentation Pack



Country definitives

England

31 March 56p, oak (ES560); 90p, Tudor rose (ES900). Both PVA, G, D.

23 April 1st St George's flag, L, C.

Northern Ireland

17 March 1st, patchwork fields, L, C.

31 March 56p, linen (IS560); 90p, Parian china (IS900). Both PVA, G, D.

Scotland

22 January 50p, thistle; 2nd, saltire; 1st, lion of Scotland, 81p tartan. All PVA, G, E.

31 March 56p, thistle (SS560); 90p, Prince of Wales feathers (SS900). Both PVA, G, D.

30 November 1st, saltire, L, C.

Wales

26 February 1st, dragon; 1st, national flag of Wales. All PVA, L, D.

31 March 56p, daffodil (WS560); 90p, Prince of Wales feathers (SS900). Both PVA, G, D.

Mixed value panes and miniature sheets

13 January 4 x 16p, 4 x 50p + Label, PVA, L, C.

12 February 2 x 1st, 2 x 5p, 2 x 10p, 2 x 48p + Label, PVA, L, D.

18 August 4 x 17p, 2 x 22p, 2 x 62p + Label, PVA, L, C.

Penny Black Anniversary definitives, 4 x 1st, 4 x 20p + label, PVA, L, C

17 September 4 x 17p, 2 x 1p, 2 x 90p + Label, PVA, L, C.

22 January Robert Burns minisheet, PVA, G, E.

26 February Celebrating Wales minisheet, L, D.

Stamp books

13 January British Design Classics Prestige Book (YB036), PVA, L, C.

12 February Charles Darwin Prestige Book (YB037), PVA, G/L, D.

10 March 6 x 1st British Design Classics Retail Book No 1 (UB298), G, W.

31 March 6 x 1st Retail Book with Security Overprint (UB293); 12 x 1st Retail Book with Security Overprint (UB294), G, W; 12 x 1st Retail Book with Security Overprint (UB294). 12 x 2nd Retail Book with Security Overprint (UB295); 4 x 1st Large Retail Book with Security Overprint (UB296); 4 x 2nd Large Retail Book with Security Overprint (UB297). All G, W.

21 April 6 x 1st British Design Classics Retail Book No 2 (UB299), G, W.

21 May 6 x 1st NAFAS Retail Book (UB300), G, W.



Above: the six security definitives issued in 2009.



Many designs were developed for the proposed Coronation issue, including innovative, pictorial views of royal castles and London views. The accepted design was by Eric Gill, based on the crowned portrait of Edward VIII by Percy Metcalfe for Coronation medals. Final essays were produced on 8 December 1936, but the King abdicated two days later.



Above: Treasures of the Archive Prestige Stamp Book, Pane 4.
Right: Royal Navy Uniforms Prestige Stamp Book, Pane 3



Royal Navy jacket worn during the Second World War belonging to a Commander, Engineering Branch; rank is indicated by the purple cloth between the three gold lace braid on the sleeve.

18 August Treasures of the Archive Prestige Book (YB038), PVA, L, C.

6 x 1st British Design Classics Retail Book No 3, G, W.

17 September Royal Navy Uniforms Prestige Book (YB039), PVA, L, C.

6 x 1st British Design Classics Retail Book – No 4 (UB302), G, W.

15 December 12 x 1st, printer's name removed.

Business sheets

31 March 100 x 1st Gold De La Rue (DS949), additional security features.

100 x 2nd Bright Blue De La Rue Gravure (DS950), additional security features. 50 x 1st Large De La Rue Gravure (DS951), additional security features. 50 x 2nd Large (DS952). All G, D.

Pictorial (Smilers™) definitives

17 March Castles of Northern Ireland 20 x 1st (AT049), L, C.

23 April Castles of England 20 x 1st (AT050), L, C.

30 April 'Hello' Jeremy Fisher (SK016).

'Sunflower' Wild Cherry (SK015).

'Balloons' Big Ears (SK017).

'Balloons' Little Miss Sunshine (SK018). All L, C.

3 August 'Hello' Thaipex 2009, (AT05), PVA, L, C.

21 October 'Hello' Italia 2009 Stamp Exhibition (AT053), PVA, L, C.

30 November Castles of Scotland (AT055), L, C.

4 December 'Hello' MonacoPhil 2009 (AT056), L, C. ●

Commemorative covers

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Methodist Philatelic Society

Mr Ronnie Macmillan
Clunry,
11 Cullaloe Court,
Dalgety Bay,
Fife,
Scotland
KY11 9HW

Please send an sae and make
cheques payable to 'The
Methodist Philatelic Society'



Classics from Benham Left: six Royal Shakespeare stamps bear a Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon handstamp and are complemented by an image of Romeo and Juliet. (Code BLCS497B/BPB1104B.)

Price £12.95 plus £2.95 UK p&p ●
Below: in a numbered limited edition of 500, the mini sheet is tied by the same handstamp, alongside an image of Ophelia in a 22ct gold-blocked design. (Code GOLD498/BPB1104B2.)

Price £17.50 plus £2.95 UK p&p ●



Philatelic Kent

Morris & Co stamp set, with 'William Morris Way' postmark and image of a Burne-Jones window. From GBCovers in a numbered edition of 32. **Price** £17.50 plus £1.50 UK p&p ●



'David's Charge to Solomon' (1882), a stained glass window by Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris, in Henry Church, Boston, Massachusetts.

The Methodist Recorder.

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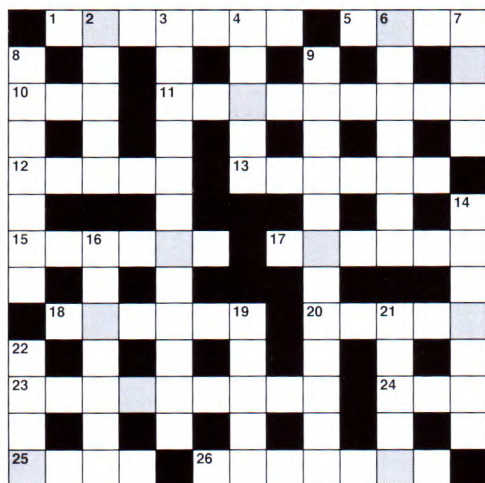
Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words and an image of the cover. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis or around a theme, at the discretion of the editor. Please send submissions for July *Bulletin* to the address on page 261 to arrive by 27 May 2011

Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 3 June 2011. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, 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 Melanie Williams, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Prize draws A cryptic crossword and two stamp teasers

CROSSWORD On completing the puzzle, rearrange the letters in the grey squares to form a stamp-related word and send this, with your name and address marked 'May Crossword' to the address below. The first correct entry drawn after 3 June wins items from this month's Morris & Co special issue.



CLUES

Across

- 1 Bit of trouble when behind at tennis? (7)
- 5 A flying service rising some way off (4)
- 10 Fix oil platform (3)
- 11 Upsets open vessels (9)
- 12 Average church has to dry out (5)

- 13 Everyone entering gloomy retreat in American city (6)
- 15 Extra legal requirements for jockeys (6)
- 17 Heavy wild dog in pigpen (6)
- 18 Doctor writes potions (6)
- 20 Country spy train at odds (5)
- 23 Romanians struggling in this republic (3,6)
- 24 Catch number rising (3)
- 25 Unknown among one sort of cattle (4)
- 26 Some of decrepit Aphrodite's last words (7)

Down

- 2 Maybe agree to be ready and willing (5)
- 3 Relative of their barn owl is ousted (7 2 3)
- 4 Beliefs of a Native American daughter (5)
- 6 In favour of minor getting advance (7)
- 7 Danger is evident in the outskirts of Regent's Park (4)
- 8 Fabric sellers spread out round river (7)
- 9 Where trainer found fungal disease! (8,4)
- 14 Despots in the party ran tsardoms (7)
- 16 Drive mad grandee about (7)
- 19 Be sparing, putting a thousand in rubbish container (5)
- 21 Approach chicken enclosure and lift (3 2)
- 22 Capital city in Czechoslovakia (4)

Identify and Knowledge

1 *Identify* the stamp from the detail, right, with its name of the stamp and year of issue.

2 Test your *Knowledge* with these questions:

- a) The world's first self-adhesive stamp was sold in the UK in what year?
- b) When did the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme feature on a Royal Mail special issue?
- c) Thomas the Tank Engine has origins in the E2 class of train, designed in 1913 – by whom?

Send your answers, marked 'May Identify' and/or 'May Knowledge', to British Philatelic Bulletin, 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

Closing date: 3 June 2011.

Senders of the first correct answers drawn after the closing date win the standard Royal Wedding Coin Cover. See facing page for rules and regulations •



Disabled. **Winner** Mrs J Brennan, Hants.
Knowledge a) *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* b) 1979 Year of the Child
 c) 1994. **Winner** Mr B Chandler, Middlesbrough.

March answers and winners

Identify: The stamp detail was of hands spelling 'deaf' in sign language on the 18p stamp in a set issued in 1981 to commemorate the International Year of the





Silver souvenir

The Royal Wedding Miniature Sheet, with a unique cancellation mark, features alongside a Royal Mint solid silver proof £5 coin on this commemorative Royal Wedding Coin Cover

An insert card with beautiful imagery and details of Royal Weddings past and present complements the Silver Royal Wedding Coin Cover shown above, to create an elegant memento of our times. It is produced in a limited edition of 500. Price: £59.95.

Two other Royal Wedding Coin Covers are also available:

- The standard Royal Wedding Coin Cover includes a brilliant uncirculated Royal Wedding £5 Commemorative Coin from Royal Mint and is issued in a limited edition. Price: £17.50.
- The Gold Royal Wedding Coin Cover, of which only 50 will be made, includes a solid gold proof coin. Price: £1,750.

Order by phone on 08457 641 641 or visit the Royal Mail online shop at www.royalmail.com/royalwedding.



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