

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 44 Number 11

JULY 2007 • £1.20

Bulletin

Brownsea Island • Diamond
Wedding Anniversary issue



Scouting: a special stamp issue to celebrate the centenary of Robert Baden-Powell's visionary idea; on sale on 26 July.



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



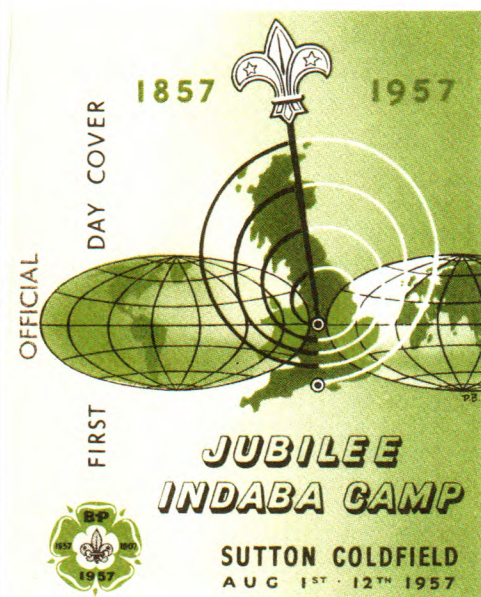
Cover Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouting Movement, by Sir Hubert von Herkomer, with the Scouting Centenary badge and 50p coin, as encapsulated in the Centenary coin cover (p333). Royal Mail's Scouting stamp issue was shown in the April Bulletin (p240-41). Portrait © the National Portrait Gallery, London.

Issues All items are available from Royal Mail Tallents House (address below); selected items are available at Post Office branches and Post Office philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, Leicester, London (Trafalgar Square & Eastcheap), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Truro, Windsor and York.

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

26 June	Issue Grand Prix stamp cards
3 July	Issue Grand Prix stamps and presentation pack • Brooklands medal cover
3 July	Withdrawal For Life's Special Moments generic sheet
17 July	Issue Harry Potter stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, Generic and Smilers sheets, and stamp cards
17 July	Withdrawal National Portrait Gallery stamps, pack and stamp cards
19 July	Issue Scouts stamp cards
26 July	Issue Scouts stamps, presentation pack, stamped postcards and coin cover
5 August	Withdrawal Bobby Moore medal cover
17 August	Withdrawal National Portrait Gallery medal cover
18 August	Withdrawal 49p Machin definitive
28 August	Issue Endangered Species (Birds) stamp cards
30 August	Withdrawal Three Kings miniature sheet
4 September	Issue Endangered Species (Birds) stamps and presentation pack

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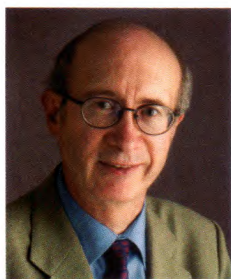
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This month The Editor previews this issue



John Holman, Editor

THIS MONTH we commemorate the centenary of Scouting. Martin Robinson examines the 1957 50th anniversary issue. Rosemary Bennett writes about Brownsea Island, where the first scout camp was held, and Ron Negus examines the website of the Scout and Guide Stamps Club.

Richard West writes on recent changes at the National Philatelic Society following the closure of the British Philatelic Centre earlier this year. The NPS is still a prominent British philatelic organisation, with an excellent library. It celebrated its centenary in 1999 and next year its journal *Stamp Lover* also notches up its centenary.

There is an additional stamp issue this month, marking the publication of the seventh (and final) Harry Potter book by J K Rowling. Harry Potter fans will be pleased to see the book covers on the stamps and the Hogwarts school crests on the stamps in the miniature sheet. In this *Bulletin* James Mackay recalls some further Harry Potter stamps from other countries.

If you are going away for your summer holiday this month, have a good time. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

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



Glenn Morgan

Publication notices *Stamps on Music: The World-wide Catalogue & Handbook of Stamps issued under Copyright Acts*, by Adam Miller (Wellington, New Zealand 2007). Printed in full colour, on 100gsm A4 paper with card covers, this 240-page book is wire-bound in a limited edition of just 100 copies. It brings together the results of Adam's studies and is based largely upon his collection, plus several other significant collections. The stamp illustrations were scanned at 600dpi and 150% for ease of reference. Important variances in type, perforation, shade, watermark and method of value – printed, handstamped, typewritten or manuscript – have been highlighted and almost 4,000 different stamps are listed. Over 220 stamp issuers, from Aberbach to Zonophone, including many well-known names are listed, including music publishers such as Francis, Day & Hunter, Chappell & Co, J Albert & Son, G Ricordi and Boosey & Hawkes. Copyright collecting organisations are represented by BIEM, EDIFO, MCPS and their precursors. Record companies also issued copyright stamps, and so the majors like The Gramophone Company (HMV), Columbia and Victor are recorded, as well as earlier labels such as Ariel, Beka and Scala. Some composers also issued these stamps including such famous names as Granville Bantock and C Villiers Stanford in the UK and Jack O'Hagan in Australia. The catalogue also covers Authors' copyright stamps from books (notably R L Stevenson), Inspection stamps and UK Purchase Tax stamps. Adam has made this a priced catalogue, rather than using just rarity factors. A pricing to scarcity cross-reference is available on the website opposite •

Enquiries Priced at NZ\$110 (c£40), plus postage: NZ\$30 Air, \$25 Economy to the UK. Payment by Bank Draft (or by a personal cheque on a New Zealand Bank) to Adam Miller, 18 Orari St, Ngaio, Wellington 6035, New Zealand. Sample pages can be viewed at www.78rpm.net.nz

OAT and AV₂ Markings by Murray Heifetz (third edition 2007). Published by the American Air Mail Society, this book comprises 167 pages with soft-back cover in an 8½ × 11in format. The book provides a summary of UPU procedures for the use of the OAT and AV₂ markings and shows the forms and tags/labels which were used by postal authorities. The advice of publication makes no mention of what the initials used for these markings stand for, but if interested in them, I guess you will already know! ●

Railways and Tramways of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific 1864-2000 Postal Stationery Catalogue (part six). This series of catalogues shows regular, official and private postal stationery and railway frank stamps as well as non-denominated postal cards and pre-paid envelopes. It has 144 A4 pages and all the stationery is described in English and illustrated in over 500 pictures. Priced at £20 including postage and packing ●

The North of Ireland PS This active society is commemorating its centenary this year by a programme of high-class philatelic displays to members, a souvenir cover with a special postmark, and a most attractive and informative 40 page full-colour A4 handbook. The NIPS series of mint postcards is largely (14 out of 19) still available, depicting many aspects of local postal services, and there are also cancelled cards with seven out of the 19 still available. Request a list (enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope), or why not buy the lot for you will not be disappointed! The handbook, produced on the occasion of the forthcoming display by the Society at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 1 November, shows the extent of members' interests, a history of the society and an essay on Irish philately. The NIPS is based in Belfast, and meetings are held at Hunterhouse College, Upper Lisburn Road, Finaghy, Belfast at 7pm on the second Friday of each month (except July) ●

World of Invention This 2007 stamp issue exists in three formats. Post Office branches had the self-adhesive sheets with rouletted backing paper (right, top) to enable single or multiple stamps to be torn out by counter staff. The presentation pack and single mint sets sold by Tallents House comprise self-adhesive stamps with the backing paper gillotined (middle), ie they do not have the rouletting generally used between each stamp. The miniature sheet and PSB panes are conventionally perforated (bottom) on water-activated gummed paper. It is reasonable to assume that counter sheets sold in whole or part by Tallents House are the same as those used by PO branches (with rouletting) because if blocks were ordered, Bureau staff would need to separate them by scissors, taking us back to 1840!

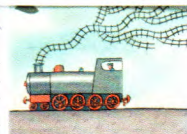
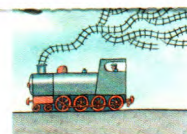
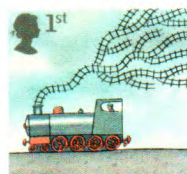
Don't forget also that the backing paper has interesting text information about the issue printed in black on the reverse.

It would be advisable to buy these production variations while they are still on sale by Tallents House at new-issue prices. Stock numbers are: mint stamps AS351 priced at £3.40; miniature sheet MZ039 £3.40; prestige stamp book YB029 £7.68; and presentation pack AP276 £3.90. Plus appropriate handling charges ●

Enquiries Available from Greg Schmidt, at 1978 Fox Burrow Court, Neenah, WI 54956, USA. Priced US\$15 (PayPal accepted). For postage cost, email gschmidt7@new.rr.com

Enquiries Hans Eriksson, Storstrevsvägen 141, SE-16347 SPÅNGA, Sweden. Telephone +46-8-7604549. email hans_eriksson00@hotmail.com

Enquiries To order postcards (40p each mint, £1 cancelled), covers (40p mint, £1.75 cancelled) or a handbook (£6 per copy), send a cheque payable to Norman Scott to: 49 Kingsdale Park, Belfast BT5 7BZ. Postage per order: 50p (postcards and covers only) or £1 (handbook ordered with/without cards and covers).



Enquiries To order a postage-paid copy, send a £10 cheque payable to Graham M Wilson to: Advert Pane Catalogue, Bulls Head Barn, Honeyholme Lane, Cliviger, Burnley BB10 4SR.

Advertising book panes *Stamp Scene* for May included notification of a new CD-ROM catalogue relating to British advertising booklet panes. I promised a review in last month's *Bulletin*, but had to hold it over due to constraints of available space.

The CD is by Graham M Wilson and its full title is *An Illustrated Guide to the Advertising Booklet Panes of George V, Edward VIII and George VI*. The guide contains illustrations of the different panes, which number more than 200, and is designed to run on PCs with at least 256mb of RAM and Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 6 or later.

Post Office books of stamps were introduced to the public in 1904, and by 1909 the first commercial advertisement had appeared on the interleaving. The inland postage rate was increased in 1918 from 1d to 1½d and, mirroring the 50% price rise, the familiar 2s booklet gave way to the 3s booklet. 1924 saw the re-introduction of the 2s booklet with an interesting addition made necessary by the earlier rate change: a pane comprising four 1½d stamps and two blank labels that were used for advertising purposes. When it was introduced in 1931, the 5s booklet also included an advertising pane.

The advertising booklet pane continued until 1940, when the inland postage rate increased yet again, from 1½d to 2½d. The new 2s6d booklet contained 1½d, 2d and 2½d stamps in full panes of six, as did the 5s booklet. With one or two later exceptions, the advertising booklet pane disappeared in 1940, although Machin collectors will be quick to point out that it reappeared in the late sixties and enjoyed a brief renaissance during the early seventies.

For anyone with a general understanding of how to use a CD, there will be no difficulty in using the AutoRun disk, which uses four frames to hold the information. Frame 1 is a static header. Frame 2 lists all the advertisements in pane order with related SG numbers (a scroll bar enables the reader to browse). Frame 3 is where the reproductions of the panes are shown, as both thumbnails and enlargements when clicked, while forward and backwards arrows enable easy navigation. Frame 4 is a footer containing menu links to other pages in this illustrated guide.

I was invited to write the foreword to this work, and as a collector of modern stamp booklets, I could understand Graham's fascination with British advertising booklet panes. A basic collection is small enough to be manageable, yet large enough to maintain interest, while making that often elusive collector's dream of completeness a challenge but still a potential reality. It is also possible for the specialist to go even deeper into the subject by purchasing upright and inverted watermarks, plate flaws on the stamps, searching for on-cover usage, label proofs, etc.

I wrote at the time 'I have no hesitation in commending this important guide whether you are a traditional collector of British booklets or even a thematic, social, airmail or maritime mail collector, who may also find items of interest. Whatever your reason for purchasing advertising booklet panes, there has never been such an extensively illustrated and well-documented work on this subject', and I stand by that statement ●

Orange Postboxes The postal service in The Netherlands has gone through different name changes in the past few years, with TNT Post being the current brand. Postboxes have therefore undergone a repaint to match TNT's garish corporate colour of orange, moving away from the more dignified and traditional red, and now resembling EasyJet. Their corporate website even has its staff members depicted with orange pupils!

TNT Post UK Ltd was established in Britain in early 2003 and was one of the first companies in the UK to be granted a full seven-year licence to handle bulk mail, including most kinds of transactional mail such as bills, statements and direct mail. TNT Post launched its Down Stream Access based services in August 2004 and claims to have over 200 years experience in the collection, sortation, transportation and delivery of mail as the national postal service of the Netherlands, where it collects and delivers over 23 million letters, direct mail items and packages every day to over 7 million households. TNT Post describes itself as the leading competitor to Royal Mail in the UK postal market •

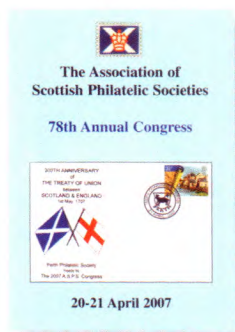


Prussian Blue discovery It is well known that three sheets of the George V 2½d Silver Jubilee stamp printed in Prussian Blue instead of the usual blue were sold at the Fore Street PO in London in late June and early July 1935. It is also known that a fourth sheet in the wrong colour also went into distribution, but from which office has been unknown. In an interesting article in the May issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*, James Mackay suggests this sheet was supplied to the Head Post Office in Glasgow. He has been shown a cover bearing the four Jubilee stamps, including the 2½d Prussian Blue postmarked Glasgow 6-AM 7 MY 35. The Glasgow HPO then opened at 6am so the stamps must have been purchased and the cover posted immediately the office opened. The cover, addressed to a leading collector in Greece, was probably sent by R D Gilmour, a Glasgow dealer. Collectors should carefully check any Jubilee 2½d stamp with a Glasgow postmark. The Prussian Blue error is catalogued at £9000 used in the *SG GB Concise Catalogue*, 2007 edition! •

Barbados issue The 200th anniversary of the abolition of the African slave trade has been marked by the Barbadian Post Office in an attractive set of four stamps and a miniature sheet. Depicting the Statue of Bussa, William Wilberforce, a slave hut, 1838 freedom celebrations and a slave ship (on the ms), these stamps are a poignant reminder of those unjust times •

Enquiries Barbados Philatelic Bureau, General Post Office, Cheapside, Bridgetown, Barbados BB11000. See website www.bps.gov.bb or e-mail gpophilatelic@caribsurf.com

Posted The Spring issue of this Post Office magazine contained two articles of particular interest to collectors, namely a brief history of the Postal Order, and the tale of the introduction of the pillar box and the social revolution that it sparked. Pick up a copy of the latest issue free from your local Post Office branch •



The attractive Congress catalogue is available, price £1 UK or Europe, £2 elsewhere, post paid. Write to Alan Watson at 44 Rennie Street, Falkirk FK1 5AL.

Scottish Congress The 78th Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies was held at the Dewar's Centre, Perth in April. Congress opened with the Tom Rielly Display, which is given by a prominent philatelist – this year Roy Erskine displayed 160 sheets on correspondence to and from the firm of William Wilson & Son of Bannockburn. This firm was the most important manufacturer of textiles in central Scotland from the 18th to the early 20th century. Roy was presented with the Tom Rielly Medal by Ron Harkess, President of the ASPS. This was followed by a civic reception at which the Provost of Perth welcomed the delegates who were then entertained by the Guest of Honour, Christopher Whatley, Professor of Scottish History at the University of Dundee, who gave an illuminating talk on the events leading to the Act of Union in 1707.

The awards for the National Competitions were: Aerophilately (Aerophilatelic Shield), Robin Sherman, British Solomon Islands Flown Covers; Scottish Postal History (Bruce Auckland Centennial Quaich), Bob Barclay, Glasgow's City Sub Offices 1824-60; General Class pre-1900 (Ferris Trophy), Norman Fairbairn, Printing trials of the stamp issues of the Fiji Islands 1871, 1876, 1877; General Class post-1900 (Bridge of Allan Trophy), Willie King, Saudi Arabia – The King's Design; Postal History (Glasgow 800 Cup), William Steel, Mail to Northern Europe 1840-75; Thematic (Scottish Thematic Rosebowl), Bill McKinlay, Water is Life; Literature (Robson Lowe Salver), Perth Philatelic Society, Postal History of Perth; Best First-time Entrant (Cowell Salver), Norman Fairburn (winner of General Class pre-1900); Best Presentation (Dr Hirst Bowl), Bob Barclay (winner of Scottish Postal History). The Open Competition, voted for by the public, was won by David Rossall for his display 'Sailing Ships Around the World'.

The ASPS Award of Merit went to Ian Burns (Falkirk & District ps) and Sheila Den (Aberdeen ps); Sandy Forbes (Dundee ps) was awarded the McConnell Medal for his service to philately over many years; and Professor David Stirrups received the Association's highest award – Signatory of the Book of Scottish Philatelists for his original research into the stamps and postal history of Gibraltar and into maritime mail to Portugal.

There were 23 entries for the Junior Competition, all of a high standard. The overall winner was Patrick Adamson from Edinburgh who won the Alba Salver for his display, A History of the Wilding Stamps. There was also a one-page competition which attracted 16 entries, the winner being Claire Mitchell.

At the AGM, Willie King (Ayr ps) was elected ASPS President 2007-08. *Colin Campbell* ●

Harmers Telephone 020 8747 6100. www.harmers.com

Auctions Harmers' World Stamps & Postal History auction on 6 March included three Mulready caricatures by Southgate; estimated at £4500 they realized £6704. A mint pair of Penny Black Plate 1b made £24,701 (£20,000) and a used Edward VII 5s Inland Revenue £2823 (£1200). A lovely collection of issues to 1951 achieved £42,345 (£25,000).

Spink will auction the GB 'Victoriana' Collection on 4 October. Enquiries Spink on 020 7563 4000 or see website www.spink.com ●

Royal Mail news New issues and products

Harry Potter Shown here are some of the products announced in the June *Bulletin* supplement. A Harry Potter package – two FDCs, generic sheet, stamp cards and pack – is available from Tallents House, price £19.40 •



The seven se-tenant 1st class stamps feature the cover designs from the original books.

The miniature sheet (below, shown on the first day cover) contains five 1st class stamps bearing the school crest of Hogwarts (centre) and its four houses.

A presentation pack (not shown) contains the seven stamps and the miniature sheet.

All five miniature sheet stamps appear on a Generic Smilers sheet (below), with labels featuring magic spells from the Harry Potter books, which are revealed when warmed.





Two of the Scout stamps are being reproduced on postally valid pre-stamped cards, and sold in a set of six: three bear the 1st class stamp and three the 54p stamp for airmail.

Special issues The three issues of special stamps this month will appeal to different groups of thematic collectors – Grand Prix (3 July), Harry Potter (17 July) and Scouts Centenary (26 July). The Grand Prix and Scout stamps were previewed here in March and April, and details of the Harry Potter issue given in a special supplement to last month's *Bulletin*. Two of the Scout stamps are being reproduced on postally valid pre-stamped postcards (as shown above) on sale from Tallents House from 26 July. The six cards reproduce the six stamp designs; three bear the 1st class stamp and three the 54p stamp for airmail postings. The set costs £4.80.

There are no special issues in August. The programme resumes in September with sets featuring endangered birds (shown here in May), and Army Uniforms (shown in June). Our stamp preview article this month features the issue for the diamond wedding anniversary of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The Christmas stamps, which feature angels, will be shown in September. As in 2006, the Christmas stamps will comprise four stamps at definitive size, plus two for 'Large' 2nd and 1st class inland letters. There will also be a Christmas miniature sheet, generic and Smilers sheets. The 2006 Christmas airletters (standard and Welsh) will be reissued •

Lest We Forget miniature sheet The second in a series of three miniature sheets entitled 'Lest We Forget' will be issued on 8 November in time for Remembrance Day (11 November). This sheet commemorates the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele. It features a new 1st class stamp and the four 78p country stamps printed as a se-tenant block. The sheet is printed by De La Rue in gravure. Price £3.46, pack £4. Serviced FDCs, with Tallents House or London SW1 postmark can be ordered from Tallents House by the day of issue, price £4.54 for UK customers, £3.87 overseas. Unserved FDC envelopes will be available, price 30p.

The 1st class stamp from the sheet will be available in a generic sheet, designed by Hat-Trick Design and printed by Cartor in lithography. The generic sheet, price £7.35, will be available from 8 November •



Army Uniforms prestige book Shown above are the four panes in this book, to be issued on 20 September. The pane with Machin definitives is printed in gravure, the other three panes in litho, all by Enschedé. The Machin definitive pane will be used on the first day cover serviced by Tallents House. See last month's *Bulletin* for a preview of the Army Uniforms stamp issue. Note that the Uniforms stamps are printed in a different order on the booklet panes to those on normal sheets ●

Generic & Smilers sheets Following the Wales and England sheets (1 March and 23 April 2007), a Glorious Scotland generic sheet goes on sale on 30 November, containing 20 1st class Lion Rampant stamps and adjoining pictorial labels, price £7.35. A Smilers version, with your own image printed on the labels, will be available.

The 'For Life's Special Moments' generic sheet containing all six of the small-size pictorial stamps (first issued in a stamp book in October 2005), will be withdrawn from 3 July. Details of Christmas Generic and Smilers sheets will be published shortly. For information on the Smilers service phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas), or see website: www.royalmail.com/smilers ●

Bulletin back issues John Marden will offer June 1996 and September 1996 - October 1997 to anyone who can collect from him. Contact him on 020 8715 2340 ●



Definitives Shown above are the revised business sheets of 100 1st and 2nd class self-adhesive stamps. The stamps revert back to the pre-Pricing in Proportion design, but information about the validity on standard size letters remains printed on the header. The sheets are available from Tallents House, price £34 1st class and £24 2nd class. Reprinted books with the pre-PIP stamps are also now available – 6 × 1st (£2.04), 12 × 1st (£4.08), and 12 × 2nd (£2.88). The standard letter validity information is printed on the back cover. The cylinder seen in the 12 × 1st book is w4 ●

BPMA British Postal Museum and Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near Mount Pleasant sorting office.

Open Monday-Wednesday & Friday 10.00-17.00, Thursday 10.00-19.00, Open Saturdays 11 August, 13 October and 8 December, from 10.00-17.00. Archive Tours at 14.00 on the last Thursday of each month until November.

British Postal Museum & Archive Museum staff have been very busy working on exhibitions. Now on show at Freeling House is a display entitled 'A Timeless Classic: The Evolution of Machin's Icon' to mark the 40th anniversary of the Machin series. A report on this exhibition will be published here next month.

A second Machin exhibition entitled 'Timeless and Classic: Elizabeth, Queen and Icon' will be on show at the Royal College of Art, near the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 from 18 July until 15 August. The exhibition explores the development of Machin's design from its original inspiration in the Victorian Penny Black to the final portrait that we all know today. The evolution of the design will be shown through original portrait photography and plaster casts, including works by Dorothy Wilding, Lord Snowden, John Hedgecoe, and David Gentleman. The exhibition – a follow-up to the BPMA's 'Elizabeth: Queen & Icon' exhibition (see *Bulletin* July 2006) – will also feature the radical stamp designs of 1965-66 instigated by the then Postmaster General Tony Benn, which controversially rejected the use of portraits. Although the monarch remained on stamps, these miniature works of art changed forever. The exhibition can be seen at the Royal College of Art, Monday to Friday 10.00-17.00, admission free.

The third exhibition – of vehicles from the BPMA's 'Moving the Mail' exhibition – can be seen at the Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire until 31 October.

A talk 'Timeless and Classic: The Machin Design' will be held on 26 July, 19.00. For further information and to book your place, see website www.postalheritage.org.uk or telephone the BPMA on 020 7239 2570.

The BPMA, run by the Postal Heritage Trust, comprises the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives ●

New postmark guide Royal Mail has published a new edition of *All About Postmarks*, a comprehensive guide to postmarking services and the rules which apply to them. It is illustrated throughout, and includes information on postmarks in general postal use, special handstamps, how to obtain the different postmarks, and sponsoring special handstamps. For a free copy, write to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Additional copies cost £1.20 each plus the usual handling charge: £1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 rest of world. Please quote order code PB373 •

Introduction

This booklet is a useful reference guide to Royal Mail's postmarking services, and an overview of the rules which apply to them. It is a guide to the postmarking services which are available. The booklet is written by Royal Mail's Postmarking Services Team. It is written for the general public, and is not intended to be a legal document. It is written for the general public, and is not intended to be a legal document.

Contents

- 1 What is a Postmark?
- 2-3 Postmarks in General Postal Use
- 4 Special Postmarking
- 5 How to Obtain a Special Postmark
- 6-8 Postmarking Rules
- 9 Prices
- 10 Sponsoring a Special Handstamp

For further information contact:

Customer Services at Royal Mail Mail, 100 Victoria Road, London E16 1JH
Tel: 0845 750 0000
Email: customer.services@royalmail.com



What is a Postmark?

A postmark is a mark which is placed on a letter or other postal item to show the date and time when it was posted. It is a mark which is placed on a letter or other postal item to show the date and time when it was posted.

A postmark is a mark which is placed on a letter or other postal item to show the date and time when it was posted. It is a mark which is placed on a letter or other postal item to show the date and time when it was posted.

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Coin and medal covers Shown below are the Brooklands medal cover, price £14.95, and the Centenary of Scouting coin cover, price £15.50, on sale 3 and 26 July respectively •



Bulletin back issues Mr A Greenfield offers a run of the *Bulletin* from September 1967 to August 2006 (just three issues missing), in exchange for a donation to a charity of his choice. Contact him on 01283 536833 •

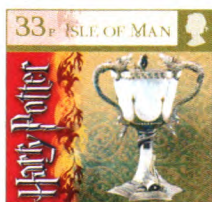
Britain abroad A Harry Potter issue from an unlikely source, by James Mackay



FRANCE is just about the last country I would imagine ever issuing stamps portraying British people. It could be argued that Eleanor of Aquitaine (on a stamp of 2004) counts as English, by marriage at least, as her second husband was Henry II. Three months later France issued a stamp portraying Blake and Mortimer, who sound British but are, in fact, comic book characters created by the Belgian cartoonist Edgar Jacobs. Similarly Sir Lancelot, arguably the most famous knight of the Round Table, does not feature in the Arthurian legends of Geoffrey of Monmouth, but makes his debut in the writings of Chretien de Troyes, so he too is a Gallic invention.

So it comes as a surprise to find a stamp and miniature sheet portraying young Daniel Radcliffe in his role as the eponymous hero of the Harry Potter films, based on the best-selling novels by J K Rowling. And that's not all, for these items are accompanied by a booklet of ten stamps in which Daniel appears on four, while his co-stars Rupert Grint and Emma Watson are each portrayed on three stamps, as Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger. The margin of the miniature sheet and the cover of the booklet both feature the Gothic structure of Hogwarts, the wizards' academy.

There are also three sheetlets, each containing five stamps and five labels. The sheetlet portraying Harry Potter has scenes from the game of Quidditch, while Hermione is partnered by some of the magical creatures which J K Rowling later made the subject of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, allegedly a Hogwarts textbook compiled by the magizoologist Newt Scamander. The Ron Weasley sheet contains labels associated with Albus Dumbledore, played in the films by Richard Harris (who died in 2002) and subsequently by Sir Michael Gambon.



Stamps with a Harry Potter theme were issued by the Isle of Man in December 2004 (left, shown at 83% of actual size), and by the Republic of China (Taiwan, above, shown actual size) in May 2004.

There is also an automatic vending machine label (LISA type) portraying Harry Potter and his chums. This was available at the Fete du Timbre et de l'Ecrit, which took place in March. As its title suggests, the aim of this stamp festival was to encourage kids to take up stamp collecting and also get into the letter-writing habit. To encourage the latter there was also 'un kit de correspondance' comprising ten sheets of notepaper, five envelopes decorated with portraits of Harry and five of the Harry Potter stamps. As if this were not enough, there is also a 'kit de correspondance creatif', similar to the first kit but also including a sheet of six stickers enabling youthful correspondents to personalise their Harry Potter mail.

With all this assorted merchandise, it's inevitable that La Poste is also providing an album to house stamps and covers. Purchasers of the album also receive a Harry Potter poster as a free gift. Between 10 March and 10 May this year La Poste was also organising a grand Mail Art Competition, inviting entries with the theme of Harry Potter and the characters and creatures from the books and films.

Daniel Radcliffe, born in Fulham in 1989, has now graduated to adult roles, notably in *Equus*. Rupert Grint, born in 1988, hails from Hertfordshire, while Emma Watson, born in 1990, was actually born in France where her lawyer parents were then working •

Special draw Win a collection of July issues

FOR THIS MONTH'S DRAW we offer packs, FDCs and stamp cards for the three special stamp issues in July – Grand Prix, Harry Potter, and Scouts. Five runners-up will be sent the Harry Potter pack. To enter the draw simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: July Stamps Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 31 July •

Diamond Wedding Anniversary A special



Technical details

Printer Cartor

Process Litho

Stamp size 41 × 30mm

Sheets 30 and 60

Perforation 14.5 × 14

Phosphor All-over screen

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

SIX STAMPS, printed in three se-tenant pairs of 1st class, 54p and 78p, will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and at Royal Mail Tallents House on 16 October to mark the diamond (60th) wedding anniversary of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

The stamps feature photographs of the couple: leaving St Paul's Cathedral following a thanksgiving service for her 80th and his 85th birthdays, 2006, and inspecting the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery in Regents Park, 1997 (1st class); at the Garter Ceremony in Windsor, 1980, and at Royal Ascot, 1969 (54p); and at the premier of *The Guns of Navarone*, 1961, and at Clydebank, 1947 (78p).

As the stamps, designed by Studio David Hillman, prominently feature The Queen, the usual silhouette head is not shown. The year '2007' is printed in microtext; the year of the photograph is shown at bottom right.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 30; sheets of 60 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

MINIATURE SHEET Royal Mail's first self-adhesive miniature sheet will accompany the six stamps. It contains a further four stamps: the Royal Family at Balmoral, 1972, and The Queen and Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace, 2007 (1st class); the Royal Family at Windsor Castle, 1965 (69p); and The Queen and Prince Philip with Prince Charles and Princess Anne at Balmoral, 1953 (78p). The 2007 photograph, by Lord Snowdon, was specially commissioned for the stamp issue. The sheet is printed in gravure by Walsall. Two of the stamps measure 41 × 30mm, one 35mm square, and one 27 × 37mm. These stamps have two phosphor bands with the year '2007' reversed out of the phosphor. On the reverse of the sheet are printed images from 1947, of the couple on their engagement day, preparations for the wedding, and wedding-day scenes.

A press sheet containing 12 miniature sheets will also be available. Each press sheet is numbered and has the title of the issue embossed in the top margin.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 16 October, price 30p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial Tallents House or Windsor first

issue to celebrate a special Royal occasion



day postmark must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark, FDO733), or to one of the Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres (Windsor postmark FDO734). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Windsor postmark. The First Day postmarks will be applied in silver ink.

Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. ►

Diamond Wedding Prices

Set of stamps	£ 3.32
Miniature sheet (MS)	£ 2.15
Presentation pack (stamps & MS)	£ 6.00
Stamp cards (set of 11)	£ 3.30
FDC envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced FDC stamps (UK orders)	£ 4.38
Serviced FDC miniature sheet (UK)	£ 3.00
Serviced FDC stamps (overseas)	£ 3.73
Serviced FDC MS (overseas)	£ 2.56
Press sheet	£34.85

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack, written by Jim Davies and designed by Studio David Hillman, features scenes from the preparations for the wedding in 1947, wedding day photographs, the official programme, souvenir issues of the *Illustrated London News*, *Picture Post* and *Country Life*, and first day covers of the silver and golden wedding issues of 1972 and 1997. Jim Davies, the pack writer, is a published author and columnist whose distinctive brand of cultural commentary has appeared widely in design magazines and national newspapers.

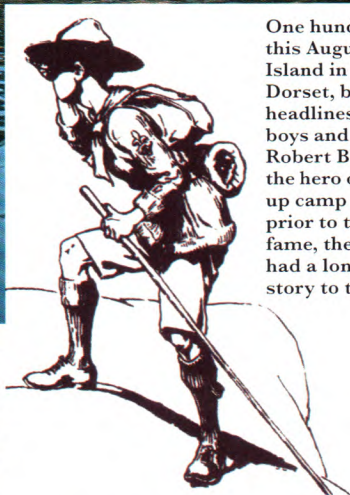
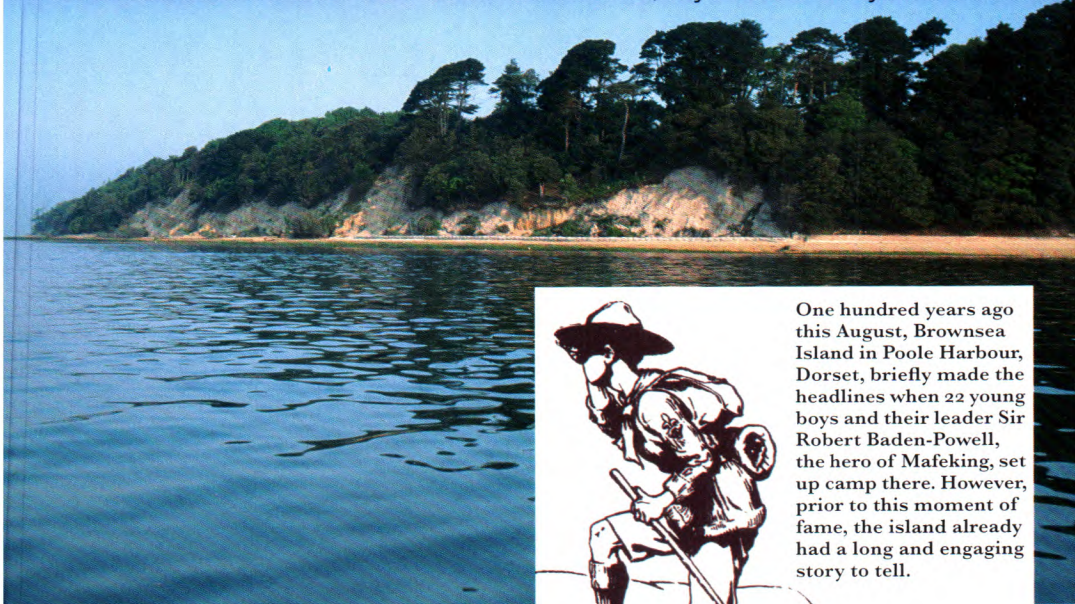
There will be 11 stamp cards, reproducing the 10 stamps and the miniature sheet. Details of a souvenir cover, publication, and coin (16 October), and a coin cover, and commemorative document (20 November) will be published later •

The first day cover (below) and the presentation pack (bottom), designed by Studio David Hillman. The pack was written by Jim Davies. First day postmarks will be applied in silver ink.

1947-2007



Brownsea Notes from a small island, by Rosemary Bennett



One hundred years ago this August, Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset, briefly made the headlines when 22 young boys and their leader Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the hero of Mafeking, set up camp there. However, prior to this moment of fame, the island already had a long and engaging story to tell.

BROWNSEA is a small island, about 1½ miles long by ½ mile wide at its broadest point. It is partly wooded and in spite of its small size contains two freshwater man-made lakes. Situated at the east end of Poole Bay it is in a strategic position for defence of the harbour and the town of Poole.

Traces have been found on the island of pottery and agriculture which may date as far back as the 5th century BC, and in 1964 the remains of a 33ft log boat believed to be even older were dredged up from a nearby channel. There is also a suggestion that the Romans may have used Brownsea, and after the legions left Britain in the early 5th century, the Anglo-Saxon invaders probably used it as a base when they established settlements on the nearby mainland, including the town of Wareham. During those times, a chapel, dedicated to St Andrew and belonging to the Abbey of Cerne, was built on the island and a hermit lived on Brownsea. He was probably a monk, and it was his responsibility to light beacons each night to guide to safety ships entering the harbour.

The island had by now become part of the Kingdom of Wessex, and at one time was ruled over by King Alfred. During his reign, the Vikings were active in the area. In 876 they attacked the Saxon stronghold of Wareham, but happily for the townsfolk King Alfred arrived in time and after a great sea battle chased their ships away. Sadly, the following years were far from peaceful, and in 1015 King Canute and his fleet spent the winter in the harbour and laid the whole area waste. He then used Brownsea as a place to store his loot from sacked monasteries and churches. ▶





Brownsea Island postmarks:
1963 National Nature Week,
and 2004 Woodland Animals.

Bruno's Island Before the Norman Conquest of 1066, Brownsea Island had belonged to an individual named Bruno, and so was once known as Bruno's Island, and this is believed to have given rise to its name. But by 1086 it may have become virtually depopulated and considered of little value as it is not even mentioned in Domesday Book. However, as it formed part of Studland, which was given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Robert de Mortain, its details were possibly included with those of that area. Its ownership later reverted to the Crown, but in spite of all this the monks of Cerne Abbey managed to retain their rights on the island, one of which was to receive any items salvaged from wrecks. In 1275, the Abbot fell out with the Constable of Corfe Castle, under whose jurisdiction Brownsea came, over some barrels of wine which had been removed from the shore, and in 1318 the monks of Cerne were granted the sole right to hunt wildlife on the island, with authority to punish severely any poachers they apprehended.

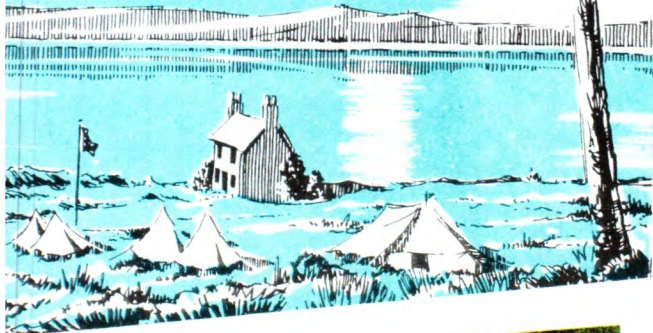
For several hundred years little was heard of Brownsea, although traces have been discovered of salt production and fishing, and Christian burials have been found dating from the 11th to 14th centuries. Indeed, there must have been a small population there throughout this period, owing to its strategic importance to the town of Poole. In the 16th century Henry VIII certainly realised its importance, as he fortified it and built a blockhouse which had walls 9ft thick and a gun platform on the seaward side.

Brownsea also came into prominence during the 16th century for another reason, it contains a mineral called copperas, also known as sulphate of iron or green vitriol, which was used in dying, tanning, and the manufacture of ink, and is still used for many purposes today. During the Civil War in the 17th century, the blockhouse became a Roundhead stronghold, and some additions were made to the rather simple building which gave it the appearance of a castle. After the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, interest in Brownsea Island diminished, and the castle was allowed to become almost derelict. In 1726, a man called William Benson was able to purchase the island for a trifling sum and, being something of a botanist, he turned it into a private reserve and indulged his passion for the cultivation of rare plants.

Island railway In the 19th century improvements to the fortifications were deemed necessary because of the increase in piracy and smuggling. Another preoccupation in that century was with the fact that china clay had been discovered there. Believing he would make a fortune by producing high-class porcelain, William Waugh, a would-be entrepreneur, purchased the island in 1852 and set about establishing a china clay works there, complete with a mile-long railway line. He built a church and a purpose-built settlement for his workers which he called Maryland after his wife, and for five years production continued. Sadly for Mr Waugh, the quality of the clay was only good enough to produce low-grade tiles, bricks and sewage pipes, and he eventually went bankrupt. This dire state of affairs may have been inadvertently hastened by Mary Waugh who was very deaf. One day



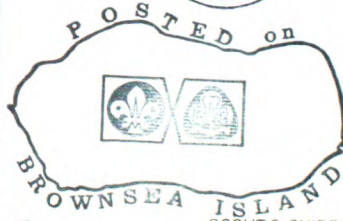
COMMEMORATIVE POSTCARD
BROWNSEA ISLAND
SITE OF EXPERIMENTAL CAMP



26p



29p



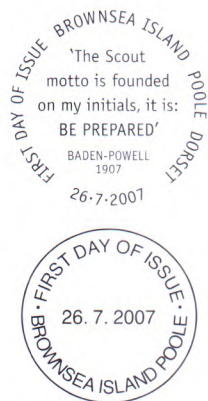
SCOUT & GUIDE CAMP SIT
BROWNSEA ISLAND
POOLE HARBOUR
DORSET



A 1982 Year of the Scout commemorative card with a Brownsea Island cachet, and Brownsea postmarks of 1967, 1992 and 1995.



BROWNSEA ISLAND and SANDBANKS



Brownsea Island postmarks for the Centenary of Scouting special issue, July 2007.

she saw a boat containing a number of important-looking men heading for the island. Recognising some of them as tradesmen to whom her husband owed large sums of money, but unable to hear what they were saying, she cried out 'Give us time, and we will pay!' In actual fact the men were the Mayor and Corporation of Poole who had been intending to ask William if he would be their parliamentary candidate.

First Scout camp The island continued to change hands, and in 1907 while Robert Baden-Powell and his wife were on holiday in Ireland they met the current owners a Mr and Mrs Charles van Raalte. Taking a liking to Robert they invited him to visit them either at their London house or on Brownsea Island and, as he had been thinking of carrying out an experimental camp for boys, this seemed too good an opportunity to miss. He already knew of the island, as he and his brothers had made unauthorised landings there as boys, although whether he owned up to these pranks to Mr van Raalte is not recorded!

Obtaining permission to hold such a camp there, he set about putting his plan into action, and in August of that year he and 22 boys, (not 20 as stated on the memorial stone on Brownsea), enjoyed the first Scout camp there. They were a very mixed bunch, about half of them being boys from public schools, and the rest youngsters from more humble backgrounds. There was even an extra boy, who, although not a member of the official group, took part in some of its activities. Young Arthur Broomfield, whose father worked for the van Raaltes, found the summer holidays rather boring since his siblings had grown up and left the island, so he watched the Scouts from a distance. Robert Baden-Powell spotted him and to his delight invited him to join the others around the camp fire, where their leader told them thrilling tales of Africa and his experiences in the Boer War.

Philatelic souvenirs Besides the famous Scout camp, Brownsea has also known its moments of fame in the philatelic world. In 1963, first day covers for the National Nature Week stamps were posted to receive a one-day Brownsea Island postmark showing an outline of the island. The cancel was not exclusive to Nature Week stamps however. Further special postmarks were used in July 1967 (National Patrol Leaders Camp) and in September 1992 and April 1995 in connection with the Green and National Trust issues. In September 2004 a beautiful National Trust cover was serviced with Woodland Animal stamps, a photograph of one of Brownsea's famous red squirrels and a squirrel postmark. Brownsea Island is, appropriately, the location for the alternative first day postmark for the forthcoming Scouts Centenary stamps on 26 July (see April *Bulletin*, page 241). A souvenir card was prepared in March 1982 bearing the Scout and Guide stamps; this bears a 'Posted on Brownsea Island' cachet and Bournemouth & Poole first day postmark.

There is no post office on the island, and in the early years of the 20th century, the mail was delivered and collected once a day by a postman who rowed over from the mainland •

Scouting information To find out about Scouting for boys, girls and adult volunteers, please visit www.scouts.org.uk/join or call 0845 300 1818.

Philately online Ron Negus looks at another Scouting site

Scout and Guide Stamps Club



[The Club](#) [Meetings](#) [Features](#) [Recent Issues](#) [Bulletins](#) [Sales](#)

AFTER my review of the Scouts on Stamps Society International website in the December 2006 issue of the *Bulletin*, my attention was drawn to a British site on Scouting. This site (address above) is managed by the same webmaster as the American one I described before. With the release this month of the GB commemorative stamps for the Scouting centenary, it seems appropriate to look at the British site now.

The Scout and Guide Stamps Club came into existence in February 1957, known as the Scout Stamp Collectors Club. It owed its foundation to the interest which had been aroused by the many stamps that were due to appear that year for the birth centenary of Lord Baden-Powell, and for the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the Scout movement.

Club membership now numbers over 300 from all parts of the world. The Club produces its own *Bulletin*, with six issues per year, which includes details of new issues and related articles on the topic. An annual auction is also held. Development work is in hand at present to provide members with an archive of articles from previous issues of the publication via the website.

An interesting feature on the website is the inclusion of an illustrated 'Chairman's Notes' page taken from each issue of the *Bulletin* from January 1998 to date. These editorial-type Notes provide a club perspective as seen by the Chairman. They cover his views of the status and future of the Club, current and upcoming events, and discoveries in the world of Scout Philately. They are

www.sgsc.org.uk This website contains a membership form which can be printed out and returned with the annual subscription. This conforms to the child protection policies of the Scout and Guide movements, and requires adult members in the UK to join by written application. For overseas addresses, membership can be initiated via the website, and PayPal facilities are made available to allow the necessary conversion of foreign currencies.

a useful extension to the History of the Club's first 25 years, which also appears on the site, contributed by the current Chairman, John Ineson.

The site contains a thematic presentation on St George and the Dragon. This covers 57 pages and was compiled by member Michael T Harrington. It is also available as a PDF file which can be downloaded directly from the website.

There is also an offer of a 'Checklist of Scout, Guide and Brigade Stamps of the World' for sale. This is the 23rd edition of this document, prepared by David McKee, and covers the issues up to the end of 2005. These lists cover over 9,000 stamps, including 2,700 miniature sheets, issued from 360 countries or territories. These detailed pages are arranged in various sectional groupings. At the present time, the checklist is offered on two 3.5in floppy discs, but presumably this will be changed to a CD-ROM issue soon, since floppy discs are becoming obsolete.

The website claims to feature the only section devoted to the study of the postal services operated by the Scouts and Guides in Great Britain, compiled by a club member, John Crabbe, who has attempted to bring together illustrations of the stamps, cancellations and special commemorative items used, and to record exactly when and where these items were in use. These services operate only during the month prior to Christmas, in accordance with legislation dating from 1981. So far this section of the website includes details of more than 340 different Scout and Guide related posts.

With the Scouting centenary issues from GB and elsewhere bringing the subject to collectors' attention again, this website is recommended as another useful source for background information on the topic •

Treasures of the BPMA Martin Robinson recalls the 1957



IN AUGUST 1957 I was on a camping holiday in Germany, and for most of the time it rained. It was also raining in England, where 35,000 Scouts from 85 countries were attending the Jubilee Jamboree at Sutton Park, in Warwickshire, and parts of their huge campsite became a quagmire. This did nothing to dampen the spirits of the Scouts or to deter the 750,000 visitors who came during the 12 days of the Jamboree. My father was one of the camp chiefs, and sent me (in Germany) a first day cover of the special stamps issued on 1 August, the first day of the event.

The Boy Scout Association had been lobbying for two years for a special stamp to celebrate the centenary of the birth in 1857 of Lord Baden-Powell and the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Scout movement in 1907, but their approaches to the Post Office were rejected until a memo from the Deputy Director General in March 1956 concerning the special stamp issuing policy said that 'current events of outstanding national or international importance' might be featured. The Baden-Powell centenary could not be specifically mentioned, but the Jubilee Jamboree could.

It was decided that the stamps, 2½d, 4d and 183d, should be twice the definitives size, like the 1953 Coronation stamps, the only other special issue of the present reign. As well as printing the stamps in sheets of 120, it was decided to produce them in rolls, to be used in conjunction with automatic stamp-affixing machines for FDCs, sales of which were anticipated to be very great.

Six artists and the four main stamp printing firms (Harrisons, Waterlow, Bradbury Wilkinson, and De La Rue) were invited to submit designs. The instructions specified that no effigy of Lord Baden-Powell or any other person was to be included, although POSTAGE and REVENUE could

be omitted (they had been included on the Coronation stamps, but were thereafter considered superfluous for special issues, even though they were valid for revenue as well as postal use). The 26 designs received were displayed at Headquarters Building where the Advisory Panel on Stamp Design met on 14 November 1956, and eight were selected, suggestions for modifications being forwarded to the artists concerned.

At a further meeting the designs were reduced to five – three first choices and two reserves – to be submitted to The Queen. These were by Mary Adshead (the 2½d), Pat Keely (4d) and W Brown (183d), with designs by Keely and G T Knipe (see above) in reserve, and The Queen duly approved the Panel's choice. On 24 April 1957 an order was placed with Harrisons for 1,700,000 sheets of the 2½d, 300,000 sheets each of the other two values, and 560 rolls of 4800 stamps of each value.

Meanwhile, discussions were taking place between the Post Office, the Boy Scout Association and Vacuumatic Ltd of Harwich (manufacturers of many PO machines) about FDCs and a machine to affix stamps automatically to them. The Post Office assisted by supplying rolls of testing labels marked FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY, consisting of imperforate pairs of the normal 'poached egg' test labels used in stamp machines (right). A prototype and two further machines were built and housed in the Birmingham Postal Customs Depot next to Sutton Coldfield Sorting Office.

Covers were fed manually into the machine, and fine jets of water dampened the area where stamps were to be affixed. The three stamps were brought into position, cut from the rolls and then pressed into place, and the cover was ejected into a bin for inspection. After drying on racks, covers were passed through a stamp cancelling machine

World Scout Jubilee Jamboree, and its long-awaited stamps

with a SUTTON COLDFIELD / WKS town die and a slogan reading WORLD SCOUT / 1-12 AUG 1957 / JUBILEE JAMBOREE. Collectors were to be disappointed that the commemorative slogan was similar to the one used 1-31 July in 50 machines at sorting offices throughout the country.

As well as official FDCs produced for the Boy Scout Association by the Mayflower Stamp Co, the Post Office announced that it would provide an experimental FDC service, aimed at dealers as orders had to be for at least 60 covers. Envelopes of a specified size were to be supplied fully addressed and would be stamped and postmarked with the Sutton Coldfield slogan for 2s each, including the cost of the stamps. Application forms were available from London Chief Office, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

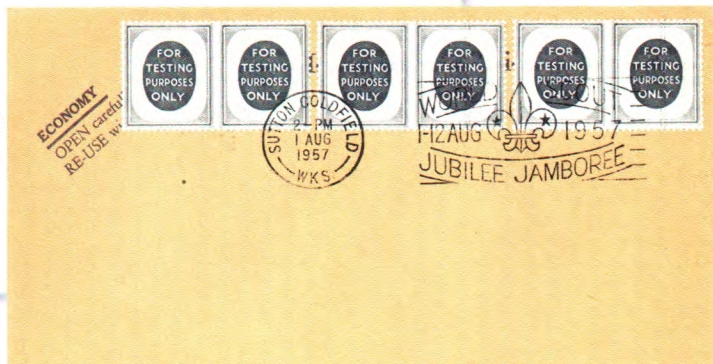
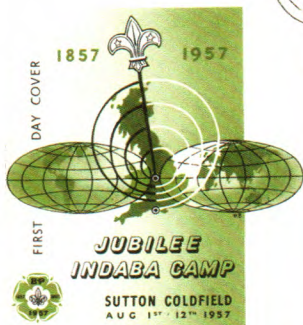
During the Jamboree seven pillar boxes were provided in Sutton Park, mail being dealt with at a temporary sorting office at Sutton Park Station. A temporary post office was open at the campsite from 29 July to 17 August, with 'skeleton' date stamps for registered post, postal orders and other counter transactions, plus a rubber parcel post handstamp. After the Jamboree, unclaimed items were marked with a rubber stamp reading CAMP DISBANDED / RETURN TO SENDER.

The special stamps were issued as scheduled on 1 August, and some of the large rolls were available at London Chief Office as well as being used at Sutton Coldfield. From 2 September some of these were rewound into smaller rolls of 240 (1s 3d) or 480 (other values) to make them more attractive to collectors; and all of the stamps were withdrawn from sale on 11 September. 70.4% of the 2½d stamps printed were sold, plus 28.1% of the 4d and 12% of the 1s3d, including those sold in rolls or overprinted for use at British Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia, so anticipated sales were much exaggerated, particularly for full sets of stamps and first day covers. The cost of producing these stamps was calculated at £19,000, but the total sales, disappointing though they may have been, amounted to over £1,866,000.

Much of the material described in this article, including the original artwork, essays, minutes and memos, can be examined in the British Postal Museum & Archive. For details of the postmarks mentioned, *Special Events Postmarks of the United Kingdom* and *Collecting Slogan Postmarks*, both published by the British Postmark Society, are to be recommended. For further details contact Colin Peachey, 19 Moorland Road, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1NH •



Opposite page: unaccepted designs by Pat Keely (left and centre), and G T Nipe (right). Left: experimental FDC bearing stamps from coils rather than sheets. Below: envelope used in developing a machine for affixing stamps to first day covers.



All change for the NPS Richard West reports on how the

TWENTY years ago it seemed as if the National Philatelic Society had found itself a proper, permanent home, where the office and library together with the monthly auctions and meetings could be situated under one roof. That 'home' was the premises acquired by the British Philatelic Trust in the hope of establishing a 'centre' for British philately. The NPS had enjoyed relative stability for some years, with its offices and library at 44 Fleet Street, although meetings had to be staged elsewhere. When the need arose to leave Fleet Street, a rather nomadic lifestyle resulted, using variously the National Liberal Club, the International Stamp Centre that existed for a while in Covent Garden, and the Victory Services Club, before being invited to be part of the new 'centre'. Sadly, the Trust has had to re-think its role following appraisal by the Charity Commissioners of its function. The outcome is that it is no longer viable to run the British Philatelic Centre, and the NPS has been forced to go on the move once again.

The NPS is over 100 years old, established by the legendary Fred Melville as the Junior Philatelic Society, after Melville was refused membership of the Royal Philatelic Society. Apart from its monthly meetings and auctions, its Exchange Packet and lively magazine, *Stamp Lover*, the Society has one of the three major philatelic libraries in the United Kingdom (the others held by the British Library and the Royal Philatelic Society). Apart from the wealth of books in English, the library also holds an unrivalled array of philatelic journals, both British and overseas. Where will it be housed in the future?

To the rescue Fortunately the British Postal Museum & Archive has come to the rescue, offering space so that the most-requested items from the library are still readily available in central London. A section of the bookshelves in the Search Room at Freeling House (Phoenix Place) has now been dedicated to the NPS Library. Other frequently used books are held in store at the BPMA and can be accessed in minutes. Items for which



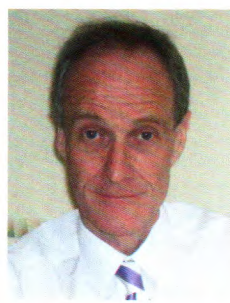
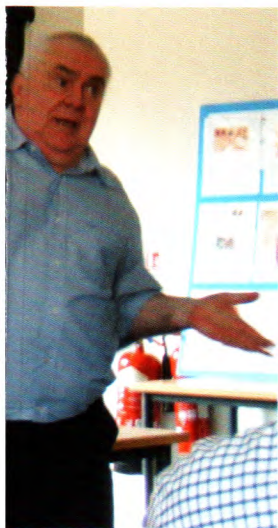
the demand is much less are being kept offsite, but it is hoped that members wishing to borrow such material can be sent the books by post within a few days.

Volunteers from the NPS will be available in the Search Room from 11am to 3pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays: it is only members of the NPS who can borrow books, but all books on the shelves in the Search Room may be browsed by anyone during the normal Search Room opening hours.

The society will continue to hold meetings on the second Saturday of each month, but these will now be in Room 3c, Northampton Suite, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB. The day begins with a viewing of the items offered in the 400-lot auction (those unable to attend can submit postal bids), followed by a display at 2.45pm. On alternate Saturday meeting days (June, August, etc) members can also use the full library facilities at Freeling House.

The NPS website (www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps) provides a useful reference to the works held by the NPS Library and where these are located (understandably it is not possible to borrow the rarer items). Items which are not easily accessible can therefore be ordered in advance.

BPMA has come to the aid of the National Philatelic Society



Far left: the first speaker at the new meeting venue was Tony Bosworth, who gave a display on Croatia. Left: Ted Halliday (left) discussing the NPS Library's new home with its Librarian, Glenn Morgan. Above: acting NPS President Dane Garrod.

So, thanks to the BPMA, the National Philatelic Society's new address is: c/o The British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL (just behind the Mount Pleasant complex). The dedicated phone number is 020 7239 2571: leave a message if no one from the NPS is there to take your call. An office has been found in north-east London for administration of the exchange packet and auctions.

The challenges facing the NPS had fallen on the shoulders of its President, Major Richard Pratt. Sadly, Dickie died in February, and his responsibilities have in the meantime been undertaken by Dane Garrod. The task of moving the library has been masterminded by Glenn Morgan, the Librarian, with invaluable help given by many members, not least Ted Halliday and Elizabeth Graham. Ever hard-working behind the scenes is the Society's secretary, Peter Mellor.

A range of services In addition to the library and Saturday meetings the society also publishes its own bi-monthly magazine, *Stamp Lover*. David Alford has recently taken on the role of editor, with plans for a new look in the future. The exchange packet provides three main circuits – for Commonwealth, Foreign and Postal History.

A recent innovation has been the holding of seminars on various topics, such as social philately. These are organised by Chris Oliver, and are currently held in London, although if the necessary support was forthcoming other locations could be envisaged. The aim is not to compete with but to complement judging seminars staged by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS).

There is in fact much co-operation between the ABPS and NPS, including jointly maintaining the 'ukphilately' website, and organising the information stand at major events such as Stampex. Chris Oliver represents the NPS on the Executive Council of ABPS.

The NPS will be repeating its success in organising the Literature Area for The Stamp Show 2000 with a similar involvement at London 2010 – Festival of Stamps in May 2010, in conjunction with the Royal Philatelic Society.

The NPS has always maintained the philosophy of Fred Melville in being a friendly society that provides a range of services vital for the general collector. The way is now clear for the NPS to be a major part of the BPMA's exciting plans for the future – you never know, there may arise a new British Philatelic Centre, with the NPS enjoying once more its own 'home' ●

Books The evolution of the Machin • GB Concise catalogue

A Timeless Classic: The Evolution of Machin's Icon

Available priced £19.95 plus £2.00 postage from: Product Sales, BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Order online from www.postalheritage.org.uk/shop or telephone 020 7239 5125.

Also available from Royal Mail Tallents House in Edinburgh.

An accompanying exhibition is on at the BPMA until April 2008, and a larger exhibition will be at the Royal College of Art from 18 July to 15 August 2007.



COLLECTORS of British stamps who were active 40 years ago will remember eagerly anticipating the first stamp issues bearing the Machin head. We were not disappointed, for the stamp's elegant simplicity reminded us of the Penny Black, not surprisingly for it was Arnold Machin's inspiration, and The Queen wore the same diadem. However, behind the stamp's apparent simplicity lay a long and patient process of trial, error and refinement, and it is in fact the stamp's sophistication that is the secret of its lasting appeal.

Douglas Muir's new book, *A Timeless Classic*, is the story of that process, and a good story it is too, told in a way that is at once clear, erudite and entertaining. The book begins with a foreword by Tony Benn and an introduction by David Gentleman, who between them were responsible for the revolutionary changes in British stamp design and issuing policy that had taken place in the mid-1960s. Oddly enough, their desire to remove The Queen's head from stamps (Gentleman for design reasons and Benn because he was a republican) led to the creation of the new effigy.

The following chapters begin at the beginning, with the Penny Black; the problems associated with the Wilding portrait of The Queen; Arnold Machin's artistic growth; the development of a new coinage portrait; the unsuccessful campaign to get rid of The Queen's head, the highlight of

which is an interview between Benn, then PMG, and The Queen, at which he surprised her with a sample of Gentleman's work (this chapter, the weightiest in the book, was summarised in the *Bulletin* in April, May and June 2007); and what is referred to as the Battle of the Commemoratives, beginning with those devoted to Churchill and the Battle of Britain, in which radical new ideas about stamp design emerged and had a formative influence on British stamps. The contents of the famous 'Gentleman Album' of suggested special stamp designs look familiar nowadays because so many of the ideas have been adopted, but at the time they were startling. We follow the search for a suitable new royal portrait; the development of Machin's coinage head into one suitable for stamps; and, after consideration of the photographic alternative, the long process of refinement of Machin's portrait from sketch to clay model to plaster cast, photographs and essays leading to the issue of the stamps; and finally the new portrait as adapted for high value stamps, commemoratives and postal stationery.

Some of the story is familiar, for the Machin stamps are amongst the most intensively studied by collectors, but the author has uncovered much new material since his first Machin exhibition 20 years ago – from the BPMA's own collections, the Royal Mint and the Machin Arts Foundation.

From the many, many illustrations (over 300) we get a clear understanding of the ideas that were considered from start to finish of the stamp design process, including the abortive attempt to produce a new royal effigy for the 30th anniversary of the Coronation in 1983, in which Lord Snowdon, Jeffery Matthews and his son Rory and several other artists were involved. In the end it was realised, not least by The Queen herself, that only 'a work of real quality' could surpass, or even equal, the iconic status of the Machin portrait.

There have been successful modifications to the design, such as the Jeffery Matthews regional variations, the landscape version used for the first self-adhesive stamp books in 1993, the new range of colours, and his highly-praised double head portrait used on the temporary definitive stamps issued to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black in 1990.

The book ends with a touching personal memoir of Machin by his son Francis, who, having contributed so much to the book, tragically died two weeks before its publication. This is a superb piece of work, a good story well told, a treat for the eye and an essential book for any student of modern British stamps. *Martin Robinson* •

Stanley Gibbons GB Concise Catalogue 2007 For most collectors of GB, this is probably the best catalogue available, steering that happy course between too simplistic and too specialised. The fact that all stamps are illustrated in colour, and the listings are clear, in typeface and in layout, adds to the usefulness. It is no mean feat making a catalogue 'user-friendly' given that many issues present complications, especially when stamps are issued in several different formats.

However, for most perhaps the greatest interest is the pricing. Here the messages are mixed. Items making recent headlines, such as the Diana Princess of Wales presentation pack in Welsh, the first Wildings 50th anniversary miniature sheet presentation pack, early generic Smilers sheets, and the Classic Locomotives miniature sheet are unaltered in price compared to the 2006 edition (although 2001 Christmas sheets with Consignia imprint are priced for the first time at £1400 the

pair). Other items often taken as a barometer of the market, such as the 1929 PUC £1, are also unchanged. Nevertheless, some items show a steady, and healthy, increase. Basic prices for the Penny Black and Twopence Blue show good rises. The Queen Victoria embossed stamps are all up, as are QV high values. Indeed, throughout the reigns of Victoria and Edward VII virtually all stamps show an increase, however modest in some cases.

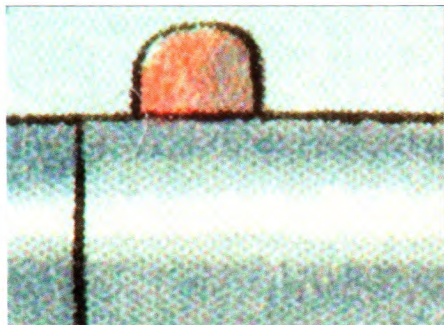
In other reigns, there is less of a pattern, and much remains unaltered, although there are exceptions. For example, among 'Seahorse' high values, the De La Rue printings have moved up. 1997 Castle high values with the silhouette portrait have moved from £68 to £75 for the mint set of four, while the biggest surprise is the 1969 £1 Cook book up from £250 to £300 for the stapled version (the stitched version increases from £9 to £11). 2001 Punch and Judy 1st class self-adhesives are £15 each (up from £10), although the booklet pane, perhaps in error, remains at £16.

If there is a growth area, then without doubt it is modern errors and varieties. Not in all cases: the spectacular 1961 PO Savings Bank 2½d missing black, for example, is still at £16,000. However, here are a few examples where prices have increased (2006 figure given in brackets): 1962 National Productivity Year 3d missing light blue £2000 (£1200); 1963 Red Cross Centenary 3d phosphor red omitted £20,000 (£12,000); 1963 COMPAC 1s6d black omitted £5250 (£4000); 1964 Geographical Congress 8d watermark inverted £1200 (£700); 1965 Post Office Tower 3d 'Tower' omitted £3500 (£2000); 1966 British Technology 6d missing Minis £10,000 (£7500); even the more recent 2001 Submarines self-adhesive imperforate booklet pane is now £4500 (£1750). A list of examples could continue.

What conclusions can therefore be drawn from the pricing in the 2007 edition? I will leave you to your own thoughts. Suffice to say, this new edition is essential for every GB collector's bookshelf. *Richard West* •

The *Concise* catalogue is available from the SG shop at 399 Strand, London WC2 or by post from Stanley Gibbons Publications, 7 Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH, price £24.95. Mail order Freephone (UK) 0800 611622.

Competitions Win £100 in two easy-to-enter competitions



April identify The detail was from the 2007 *Lest We Forget* Poppy stamp. The winner was B Kassner, Germany.

April knowledge Answers: 1) 1982; 2) red or bright carmine; 3) Douglas Myall. The winner was Mrs M Powell, West Midlands.

Runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to *July Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to *July Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 Who designed the 1994 Summertime stamps?
- 2 Where is the library of the National Philatelic Society now located?
- 3 In which year did Sir Henry Wood feature on a stamp?

Send your answer (addressed to either the *July Identify* competition or the *July Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 10 August will receive £50. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, stamp cards or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

Until 31 October Vehicles from the 'Moving the Mail' exhibition will be on display at Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire. Exhibition organised by British Postal Museum & Archive. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

Until May 2008 'A Timeless Classic: The Evolution of Machin's Icon' exhibition at British Postal Museum & Archive, London WC1. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

30 June Midpex at Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled, Cromwell Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry. **Enquiries** Colin Searle: email searlecol@gmail.com or see website <http://www.midpex.co.uk>

18 July - 15 August 'Timeless and Classic: Elizabeth, Queen & Icon' exhibition at Royal College of Art, London. Monday-Friday 10.00-17.00. Organised by BPMA. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

26 July Talk 'Timeless and Classic: The Machin Design' at the BPMA, Freeling House, London WC1, 19.00. Book tickets on 020 7239 2570 or e-mail info@postalheritage.org.uk

31 July Talk 'Envelopes: A Puzzling Journey through the Royal Mail' at BPMA, 19.00. See above for ticket booking information.

30 August - 1 September Picture Postcard Show at Lawrence Hall, Royal Horticultural Society Halls, London SW1. **Enquiries** 020 8886 0469.

4 September Talk 'Tommy Flowers and the Birth of Colossus' at BPMA. See above for ticket booking.

19-22 September Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1. **Enquiries** Stampex 01252 628006 •

Late news

Auctions Cavendish's Worldwide & GB sale on 26 April included an unusual stamp snake, made up from some 6900 used GB late 19th century stamps. It sold for £240, twice its estimate. A fine pane of six of the 1958 1½d graphite with upright watermark made £200 (est £180), and a block of eight 1961 3d POSB, two with missing orange-brown and a further two with colour partially omitted realized £190 (£150). A set of four Edward VIII profile head Coronation essays (only six sets are known in private ownership) went for £2000 (est £2400). For details of future sales contact Cavendish: telephone 01332 250970 or see website www.cavendish-auctions.com •

Spink will auction the 'Victoriana' collection of GB stamps, specimens and covers on 4 October. This collection has remained untouched for over 40 years, and includes a sheet of 20 of the 2s stamp overprinted SPECIMEN, a cover bearing 14 Penny Blacks, and many other fine items. For details telephone Spink on 020 7563 4000, or visit www.spink.com •

Grosvenor's GB sale on 17 May totalled an impressive £1,191,350. There was much Elizabeth II material. A used example of the 1965 missing Post Office Tower error sold for £850 (est £400-500) – used examples are much scarcer than mint. Imperf imprimaturs of the 1966 Burns stamps went for £2100 (£1500-1600), and a pane from the 2006 VC prestige book with missing Queen's head, value and phosphor made £6200 (£4000-4500). Machin items included many imperf and uncoated paper errors and scarce printings. A block of 12 of the top orange-brown two bands imperf between stamps and top margin sold for £1700 (£600-800), and a large block of the 13p pale chestnut with imperf and partially imperf stamps achieved £2800 (£1200-1500). Enquiries: Grosvenor, telephone 020 7379 8789 or see www.grosvenorauctions.com •

Harmers' sale on 22 May included a George V Silver Jubilee Prussian Blue which sold for £6525 (£5500), and a number of pieces of artwork by Michael and Sylvia Goaman. A hand-coloured essay for the 1967 Sir Francis Chichester stamp

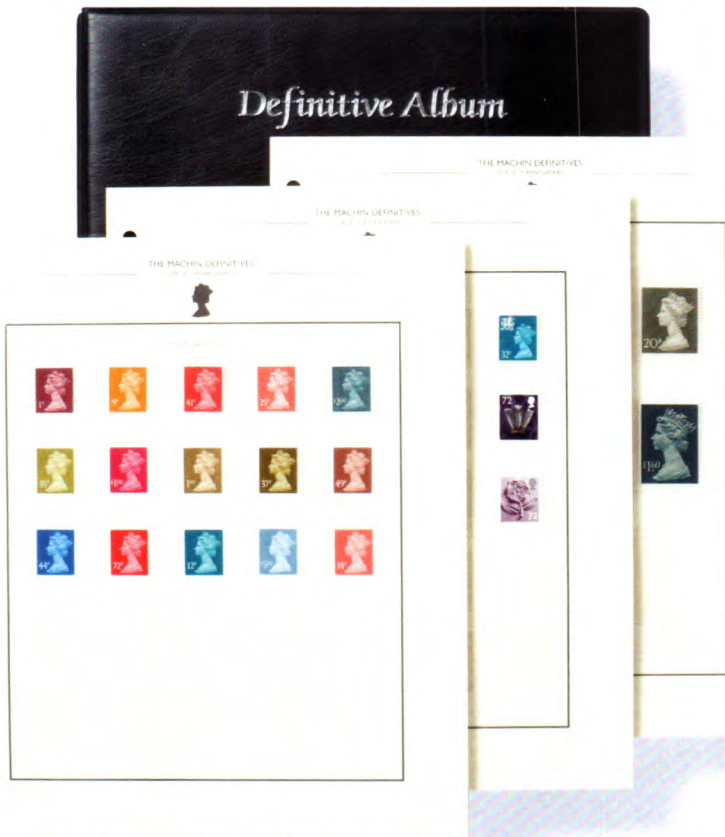
went for £708 (£500), and seven engraved essays for Tree stamps and five engraved essays for HMS *Victory* stamps both went for £5310 (£5000). Imperf die proofs of the 1969 Machin high values finished at £9563 (£4500). Enquiries: Harmers, telephone 020 8747 6100 or www.harmers.com •

Cross Post The Spring issue of the journal of the Friends of the BPMA contains articles of major reference importance. Douglas Muir writes on the 40th anniversary of the Machin with illustrations of material at the Machin Arts Foundation run by the late Francis Machin to house the work of his father Arnold. Glenn Morgan and Graham Eyre offer a very comprehensive guide to British Stamp Vending Machines, and Editor Richard West talks to stamp designer Clive Abbott and illustrates his issued and unissued British stamp designs. Finally, Cyril Parsons' 'Carrying Mail Within the UK from 1900' looks at mail by train, plane and helicopter with some evocative photographs of mail transport. For more information on the Friends of BPMA, visit the BPMA's website: www.postalheritage.org.uk •

Stamp Active Network In his November 2006 and June 2007 'Stamp Scene', Glenn Morgan mentioned the excellent work of Stamp Active Network. Stamps (except 1st and 2nd class Christmas stamps), covers, and philatelic products are always required and gratefully received for use at the Kids' Corner at Stampex. All material should be sent to David Armitage at his new address: 31 Barley Hills, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4PS. We hope *Bulletin* readers will continue to support this worthy project •

Frank Langfield We regret to report the death of Frank Langfield who in 1963 set up the Philatelic Bureau and the *Bulletin*, and retained a keen interest in both until the end; he was due to visit the current Editor this month. Frank was a guest of honour at the opening of Tallents House in 2001. An appreciation will be published in next month's *Bulletin* •

Definitives: a new album from Royal Mail



Prices

Album: £19.50, order code PA723

Extra pages £6.99 (pack of 10), code PA725.

Slipcase: £7.50, code PA676 (Smilers slipcase, which is the same colour) Machin anniversary pages £15.99

Handling charge: Album & slipcase: £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 elsewhere. Pages: £1.45, £1.55 or £2.15

To coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Machin definitives, Royal Mail has introduced a stylish new album designed to house all types of definitives, with quadrille pages headed as Country, Castles and Wilding, as well of course as the current Machin series.

Silver embossed on black leatherette, containing 12 Wilding/Machin pages, five country definitive pages and three Castle definitive pages.

Machin anniversary pages Specially prepared pages with the Machin head at the top of each page are available for the Machin anniversary. They can be used in either the Definitive or Universal album. 18 pages.

Royal Mail

Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
Telephone orders: UK 08457 641 641; overseas +44 131 316 7483. Internet orders: www.royalmail.com/shop



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