

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 42 Number 9

MAY 2005 £1.10

Motorcycles and End of the War • Pictorial book covers



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover 6 May, the anniversary of the Penny Black's first day of validity, is National Stamp Day. See page 267 for events in celebration of the occasion at the British Postal Museum and Archive.

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

Royal Mail Talents 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 £1.30, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps

5 May	Withdrawal Entente Cordiale coin cover.
10 May	Issue 42p country stamps printed by De La Rue (previously printed by Walsall).
11 May	Withdrawal E country stamps for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales (issued 14 October 2003).
17 May	Issue Ingot Pack: George V 1924 1d British Empire Exhibition stamp.
24 May	Withdrawal Royal Horticultural Society stamps, Smilers sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, prestige book (medal cover to be withdrawn 24 June; miniature sheet sold out).
31 May	Issue Trooping the Colour stamp cards (seven cards – six stamps and miniature sheet).
4 June	Withdrawal Self-adhesive stamp books: 4 × Euro-pean 40g, 4 × Worldwide 40g, 12 × 1st, 12 × 2nd, 6 × 1st (all issued 27 March 2003).
7 June	Issue Trooping the Colour stamps, miniature sheet and presentation pack • Smilers sheet: White Ensign stamp.
14 June	Withdrawal Sheets of 100 × 1st and 2nd self-adhesive stamps (issued 18 March 2003), self-adhesive book: 6 × 1st Olympic Bid (issued 15 June 2004).
21 June	Issue Smilers sheet: 20 × 1st class White Ensign stamps.
24 June	Withdrawal Royal Horticultural Society medal cover.
30 June	Withdrawal Standard airletter (July 2000) single and discount pack.

Please note The 10p and 20p definitives will not be issued with one phosphor band on 10 May as listed here last month. The change on low value definitives from two to one phosphor band has been cancelled. We regret any confusion caused.

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Illustrated stamp books In the first of two new articles, Martin Robinson considers the attractions of collecting the series of illustrated book covers introduced in 1968

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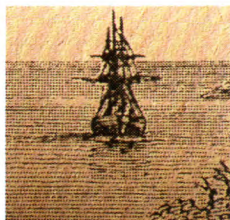
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Stamp scene Royal displays • Exhibitions • Czeslaw Slania • Auctions • Publications

Royal Philatelic Collection A display of 10 frames from The Queen's Collection will be on show at the Brno 2005 exhibition (see page 261). The first five frames cover Treasury Essays, the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue and the Penny Red from black plates. This group will also show the Kirkcudbright cover. The remaining five frames will show a miscellany, being the Post Office Mauritius 1d cover and 2d unused, the GB 2d Tyrian Plum, the Hong Kong 'Victory' issue of 1946, the Battle of the Falklands Islands 50th anniversary issue, including the 'ship error', and the 1976 GB Roses issue including the two copies in the collection of the missing value error – one unused, the other on cover.

For the Hanover exhibition in June, the display will comprise 10 frames, largely consisting of material in the Collection relating to former German colonies such as South West Africa, German East Africa, Marshall Islands, etc. In addition there will be a frame of Heligoland, which was British until 1890. Frames 9 and 10 will show items from the British Virgin Islands (including the 'missing Virgin'), Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, British Guiana and Bermuda.

There will be a display at the Museum of New Zealand (Te Papa Tongarewa) in Wellington, 16 July 2005 to 15 January 2006. The display, in nine frames, will be of early New Zealand material (the 'Chalon' head). The display is part of a much larger exhibition – Stamped – covering communication within and to/from New Zealand and coincides with the 150th anniversary of the issue of the first New Zealand stamps in July 1855.

The exhibition from the Royal Collection at the National Postal Museum in Washington (April 2004 to January 2005) was a great success. That museum is one of the smallest in Washington in the 17 or so Smithsonian Institution's group, but nevertheless during the period of the exhibition the visitor figures were high – just under 280,000, a high proportion of whom passed through the exhibit, and 12% up on the equivalent period a year earlier. During 2004/05 in fact most of the

Smithsonian Institution's museums suffered falls in visitor attendance. The design of the exhibit attracted a 2004 Good Design Award by the Chicago Athenaeum. Shown here is a special cover produced for the exhibition. *Michael Seft, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection* •



Belfast exhibition enquiries
Telephone Peter McBride 028
8673 7804.

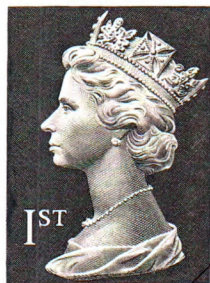
UK exhibitions A stamp exhibition will be held at the Wellington Park Hotel, Malone Road, Belfast on 28-29 May. The Wellington Park Hotel was the venue for Stampex Ulster in May 1975.

Midpex will be held at the Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill, Coventry on 25 June •

International exhibitions The next international exhibition will be in Brno, Czech Republic (10-15 May), organised by Czech Post and the Union of Czech Philatelists. The exhibition is being held at the Brno exhibition grounds, shown many times on Czechoslovak stamps, and the Brno Congress Centre. Czech Post has issued a number of stamps and items of postal stationery to promote the exhibition. Brno is the second largest city of the Czech Republic and the centre of Moravia. A successful philatelic exhibition was held there in 2000. See left for details of the display from the Royal Philatelic Collection. The Brno exhibition will be followed by others in Hanover, Germany (2-5 June), and Taipei, Taiwan (19-24 August) ●

Thematica 2005 takes place on 25-26 June at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (near Marble Arch). For competition entry forms (to be returned by 13 May) send a SAE to: Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG. For collectors who have never won a thematic competition at national/international level, there is the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy, requiring 16 pages on any theme; those with more competition experience should compete for the BTA Trophy judged by Stampex rules; medals are awarded (entry fee £15) ●

Obituary – Czesław Slania Devotees of finely engraved stamps will have heard with great sorrow of the death of Slania on 17 March at the age of 83. Born in Poland, Slania studied graphic art in Cracow and Vienna before joining the Government Printing Works in Warsaw to engrave banknotes and security documents. The first of over 1000 stamps he engraved was issued in 1951. He is best known for his stamps for Sweden (first issue 1960), and in 1972 was appointed Court Engraver. Amongst the best of his Swedish works was the miniature sheet showing the coronation of King Gustav III (1772), with a label commemorating his 70th birthday – the sheet being the Swedish Post Office's birthday present to its distinguished engraver. Slania was also Court Engraver in Denmark and Monaco; he engraved many fine stamps showing Prince Rainier and his family. His first British stamps were the 1982 Maritime Heritage set, followed by the Mail Coaches, Victorian Britain, Communications and Pillar to Post issues in 1984, 1987, 1995 and 2002. In 1999 he engraved the Machin high values and the intaglio 1st class stamp in the *Profile in Print* prestige book. In 2002 he was awarded the Reginald M Phillips medal for stamp design and the Rowland Hill Lifetime Achievement Award. Features on Slania were published here in August and September 1995, and July 2002. Although a very private person, he was always willing to talk to collectors and sign covers at philatelic events; a book about him was published in 1986, and a Slania Study Group operates in the USA. Always referred to simply as Slania, he was simply the best stamp engraver – truly the Master ●



Left: Slania with his Reginald M Phillips medal. Above: his 1st class stamp from the 1999 *Profile in Print* PSB.



A pen and ink essay signed by Harold Nelson for the 1929 £1 PUC stamp made £5980 (est £1200-1500) in Spink's sale of the Gerald Davis Collection on 3 March.

Spink Telephone 020 7563 4000 or website www.spink.com

Sotheby's Telephone 020 7293 5000 or website www.sothebys.com

For details about Sir Gawaine Baillie and his collection see the *Bulletin* September 2004, pages 4-5.

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions
Telephone 01332 250970 or
see www.cavendish-auctions.com

Auctions Spink's sale of the Marcus Samuel Revenue Collection on 2 March realised £151,156. Some 31 of the 275 lots went for over £1000 with top price of £5175 for a comprehensive selection of Companies Registration stamps with original die proofs (est £700-800). The 3 March GB Stamps and Covers sale included the Gerald Davis Collection of 20th century; total sales were £561,217 with a fair number of lots unsold. Top price of £20,700 was a Mulready 1d envelope with Lombard Street postmark of 5 May 1840, possibly the finest known example of this pre-official date use

(est £15,000-18,000). A fine collection of Victoria-George VI stamps went for £16,6757 (£8000-10,000). The 9-10 March auction of 'Important GB, British Post Offices Abroad, Crowned Circles and British Empire' achieved nearly £4 million. Richard Watkins, Spink's Director of Stamps, said: 'This magnificent result, a record total for a stamp sale in the UK, was due to the unique combination of superb quality and the fact that almost every lot was accompanied by a certificate of authenticity. There was huge international interest throughout the auction with the majority of lots selling to private collectors. The stamp market has gone from strength to strength which bodes well for future sales and especially the Edward M Gilbert Collection of Important British Empire Stamps to be sold on 14-17 June.' Over 30 of the 1381 lots made over £20,000 with top prices of £108,100 and £120,750 for a Niger Coast (Oil Rivers) 20s on 1s overprint of (SG 43, cat £70,000, est £45,000-50,000), and an interpanneau se-tenant block of six 1d and six 1s British Honduras stamps of 1865 (est £40,000-50,000) •

Sotheby's will hold the third sale of the collection of Sir Gawaine Baillie Bt in Melbourne, 13-15 July. The sale includes many fine unused stamps of the Australian States (1850-90), and great rarities from the first years of the Australian Commonwealth from 1913. Most rarities from this period are in institutional collections. Amongst the items are a 1913 3d pale olive-green marginal block of four, the lower pair with variety imperforate three sides (only three blocks known) estimated at £15,000-20,000, and a horizontal strip of four imperforate three sides (only this strip and two pairs known), estimated at £30,000-35,000. One of 10 examples of the 1915 5s deep grey & chrome yellow with doubly printed frame is estimated at £4000-5000, and a horizontal strip of four of the 1924-29 3d imperforate three sides at £6000-7000. The British Africa section will be auctioned in London in November. The Baillie collection is considered the most important sold for 50 years and has been estimated to fetch in excess of £11 million. The first sale, of GB material (29 September/1 October 2004) realised £3.6 million •

In Cavendish's 4 March GB auction a 1903 Admiralty Official 3d on defective OHMS registered cover to HMS *Edgar* 'Home Fleet' made £1725 (est £400), and a PO notice for the Penny Post 10 January 1840 £1495 (£1200). Matching plate x1 Penny Blacks and Reds made £632 (£400), and 35 lots of Yorkshire covers £10,000. A General Sale will be held on 16-17 June •



Rowland Hill Awards Shown here are Jeffery Matthews (at far left) and Glenn Morgan receiving their Awards from Julietta Edgar, Head of Royal Mail Philatelic Sector. Jeffery Matthews also received the Reginald M Phillips medal for stamp design.

Publications The third volume of *Medicine & Stamps* by Drs Marc A Sham-po and Robert A Kyle has recently been published by the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education & Research and Dowden Health Media. The handsomely produced book contains biographical sketches of more than 100 physicians and members of the scientific community. These persons have been honoured on postage stamps from the USA and many other countries. The work covers a wide range of interest, from mythology to Nobel Prize winners in physiology or medicine, physics, and chemistry. The stamps on which they, or their work, appear are illustrated. Amongst those featured are: Karl Theodore Dussik, pioneer in ultrasound (UK stamp); Robert C Gallo, discoverer of the AIDS virus (Brazil), Sir Alan Hodgkin, Nobel laureate for nerve transmission (Niger Republic); Dorothy Hodgkin, work on vitamin B₁₂ (UK); Sir Andrew Huxley, 1963 Nobel winner for medicine (Sweden); and Wilkins, Crick, and Watson for their work on the structure of DNA (Sweden). 215 pages, hardback with dust jacket •

The February issue of *The Coros Chronicle*, quarterly journal of the Collectors of Religion on stamps, includes features on stamps and postmarks marking 25 years of the Pontificate of John Paul II, Radegast (a pagan god of the Baltic slavs), Christianity and Philately in Bangladesh, stamps of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Christmas stamps of 2003, etc. A well-produced journal, of interest to all collectors of the religion theme •

Lists Andrew Lajer and Andrew Claridge have published their Spring 2005 list of GB stamps, Victoria-George VI. Fully illustrated in colour, the list includes Specimen and Cancelled stamps and an interesting Edward VII 1d stamp overprinted 'C.A.' (Commonwealth of Australia) postally used •

Rushstamps' latest Rush Telegraph No 32 has 64 pages with full updates on GB from 1840 to 2005, also thematic specials from Laos, Cambodia, Mongolia and Nicaragua, also Worldwide and lots of special offers •

UK Mail A number of readers have enquired about the UK Mail cover shown in Martin Robinson's article in the January *Bulletin* (page 143). The cover is still available from UK Mail, at the address opposite. For further details of this cover see *Commemorative Covers Review* for August 2004 •



Dowden Health Media 110 Summit Avenue, Montvale, NJ 07645 USA. E-mail mayo@dowdenhealth.com

COROS enquiries Mrs Verna Shackleton, 425 N Linwood Ave #110, Appleton WI 54914-3476 USA. E-mail corosec@sbcglobal.net

Andrew Lajer Old Post Office, Davis Way, Hurst, Reading RG10 0TR. Telephone 0118 934 4151.

Rushstamps (Retail) Ltd PO Box 1, Lyndhurst SO43 7PP. Telephone 023 8028 2044.

UK Mail Express House, Wolseley Drive, Heartlands, Birmingham B8 2SQ. Price £7.95 postpaid.

Bath Postal Museum Normal hours are Monday to Saturday 11.00–17.00 but please check before visiting.

8 Broad Street, Bath BA1 5LJ.
Telephone 01225 460333,
see www.bathpostalmuseum.org,
or e-mail enquiries to info@bathpostalmuseum.org

Bath Postal Museum The current exhibition at the museum is of greetings telegrams and postal memorabilia. The display starts with 1870 pre-paid telegraph forms (as telegrams were then called), delivery envelopes, photographs and other information relating to the early days of the service. It continues with numerous examples of colourful Greetings Telegrams for everyday messages and special telegrams for Valentine's Day, weddings, births and birthdays. Another section of the exhibition shows how people were encouraged to save money through the Post Office Savings Bank and expected to use postal orders instead of sending cash through the post. The exhibition continues until the end of December. The Museum covers three floors and has numerous items on show, some being semi-permanent displays and others temporary exhibitions that change regularly. An article on greetings telegrams was published in the *Bulletin* in March •

RBL stamp sheet Telephone Westminster Collection 08708 500 505 quoting F92/9441, or see www.rblstamps.com

RBL enquiries Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

Royal British Legion stamp sheet The RBL has produced a fund-raising customised sheet containing 10 Royal Mail 1st class stamps and 10 RBL 10p charity labels. Money raised from sales will provide financial, social and emotional support to millions who have served and are currently serving in the British Armed Forces and their dependants. There is a 50p handling charge irrespective of the number of sheets ordered (maximum 10) •

Royal Mail news Special issues • Printings • Ingots • Smilers • National Stamp Day



Special notice The Royal Wedding was postponed by a day, so Prince Charles could attend the Pope's funeral. The miniature sheet went on sale on 9 April although FDCs bear the 8 April date. A special 9 April Windsor postmark is available; collectors can submit covers to Special Handstamp Centres until 5 May. Sponsors of 8 April handstamps were offered similar postmarks with the 9 April date. Details have been announced in the *Postmark Bulletin*, and covers can be submitted until 5 May.

Special issues Shown in last month's *Bulletin* was the miniature sheet, issued on 9 April, to mark the marriage of The Prince of Wales and Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles. The 30p stamps feature the couple at the Mey Games in Scotland in August 2004 (photography by Christopher Furlong), and the 68p values depict them at Birkhall, the Prince's Scottish residence, in January 2005 (photograph by Carolyn Robb). The sheet was designed by Rose Design and printed in lithography by Enschedé in five colours – silver, magenta, cyan (blue), yellow and black with a phosphor screen on the stamps. The printer's sheets of 20 (5 × 4) were guillotined into individual sheets for sale.

There are no issues of special stamps this month; the programme continues with the Trooping the Colour set on 7 June. The Trooping the Colour presentation pack heralds the first of the new, improved-design packs for special stamps. While still being the same dimensions as the previous pack when folded, the new design holds the stamps in a protective plastic sheet that is attached directly to the pack. This new design completely integrates stamps and the pack. When opened out the pack is now a unique showcase for special stamps. Royal Mail is proud that the Trooping the Colour pack is written by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. As colonel of the Grenadier Guards, he is well placed to outline the Trooping the Colour ceremony. The Duke is also depicted on the £1.12 stamp.



The miniature sheet marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War (5 July) and the set of six stamps featuring Motorcycles (19 July) are previewed this month. Gastronomy is the theme of this year's Europa issue, on sale on 23 August. The stamps, to be printed by Enschedé in gravure, will be previewed fully here next month.

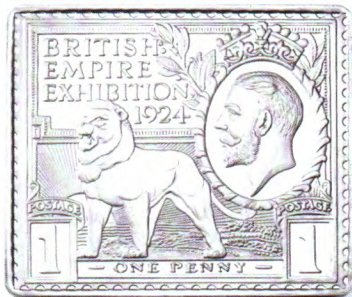
A set marking the 50th anniversary of Independent Television will be issued on 15 September (2nd, 1st, 42p, 47p, 60p, 68p; De La Rue litho). A key set of the year will be the issue commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar on 18 October (2 × 1st, 2 × 42p, 2 × 68p; Walsall litho). The annual Christmas issue will be go on sale on 1 November (2nd, 1st, 42p, 60p, 68p, £1.12; DLR gravure) •

Gastronomy Europa stamps: 2nd class Rice, 1st Tea, 42p Sushi, 47p Pasta, 60p Chips and 68p Apples. Shown here at proof stage, at 65% actual size.

Definitive and country stamp changes Owing to the move of De La Rue's printing works to Dunstable, they were unable to print the initial supplies of the new 35p lime green and 42p country stamps. Subsequent printings have been made by DLR; the 35p went on philatelic sale on 26 April, and the four 42p country stamps will be available from 10 May. The Northern Ireland stamp is printed in litho, the other country stamps in gravure. The 35p DLR stamp is from cylinder D2 phosphor D1 •

Coming off sale Remaining stocks of the Entente Cordiale coin cover come off sale on 5 May, and £ stamps for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on 11 May. The Royal Horticultural Society stamps, Smilers sheet, pack, cards and PSB will be withdrawn on 24 May (miniature sheet sold out), and the medal cover on 24 June. The British Journey Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland issues remain on philatelic sale until further notice; the books containing self-adhesive 1st class stamps are sold out •

New stamp ingot The fifth in the series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V will be available from 17 May. It features the 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition stamp. The sixth and final one in the series – 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress commemorative will be available from 9 August. Nos 1-4 featuring the Edward VII 1d and £1 stamps, George V 1d Mackennal head and 10s 'Seahorses' are all still available from Talents House. The six ingots are £26.95 each. The full set can be ordered for £161.70 which includes a free Collection storage box. The storage box is available separately, price £5.95 (order code AG008). The Victorian stamp ingot series is still available, price £26.95 each – see the back cover of the September 2003 *Bulletin* for full details •



The latest in the current series of ingots: 1924 British Empire Exhibition 1d stamp. Available now from Talents House, price £26.95.



Customised Smilers sheets

For details of how to order, phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas) or pick up a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch.

Smilers sheets A generic Smilers sheet containing 20 'Hello' Occasions stamps was issued on 21 April, to coincide with the Pacific Explorer stamp exhibition in Sydney. The next sheet will be available from 21 June containing 20 White Ensigns stamps from the 2001 Flags issue. The labels alongside the stamps feature signal flags with messages: 'I require assistance', 'Man overboard', 'I require a pilot', etc. The sheet was printed in litho by Cartor. This will be followed on 15 September with a sheet containing 20 × 1st class ITV stamps, and a Christmas sheet on 1 November (Christmas 10 × 2nd and 10 × 1st class Winter Robins stamps).

For details of how to order customised versions of the sheets, with your own image printed on the labels, call the number opposite. At the Smilers website (www.royalmail.com/smilers), orders can be placed using digital photos ●

Miniature sheet album Price £15.50; additional inserts are £3.45 for 10.

Royal Mail stock book Price £7.95 (order code PA690).

Both available from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Miniature sheet album and stock book A new Royal Mail album to house miniature sheets is now available from Tallents House. The wine-coloured binder has a curved spine embossed with gold on three raised bands. It contains 10 black cards with single clear melonex film which hold the sheets securely. Additional inserts are available in packs of 10.

Our new stock book introduced last Autumn is proving very popular. With 16 pages, each with 10 acetate clear strips, it is ideal for keeping your stamps in prime condition prior to mounting in an album. The stock book has a racing green cover with 'Royal Mail Stock Book' inscribed in gold ●

National Stamp Day To mark NSD on 6 May there will be a showing of the two classic documentaries *The King's Stamp* and *Nightmail* at the Phoenix Centre, next to the British Postal Museum & Archive at 13.00. Admission is free although advance booking is necessary – phone number opposite. *The King's Stamp* was produced for George V's silver jubilee, 70 years ago. Also on 6 May, the BPMA will be marking National Stamp Day by inaugurating a new permanent handstamp and commemorative envelope. The handstamp's Penny Black reference is particularly appropriate, as NSD marks the anniversary of the first issue of the world-famous stamp. The envelope will be available from 6 May at the BPMA, and can be ordered by calling 020 7239 2570. The Special Handstamp Centre for re-posting will be Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, Farringdon Road, London EC1A 1BB.

An exhibition telling the story of British stamps in the 19th century, from the Penny Black to the 'Jubilee' issue of 1887, on show at the Museum & Archive until summer, includes unique registration sheets and items from the world-famous Phillips Collection. The Museum & Archive will be open on Saturday on 11 June, 13 August, 17 September, 8 October, and 10 December. Sessions giving a general introduction to the Museum & Archive plus a 'behind the scenes' tour will take place on 19 May, and 16 June (13.00). Call 020 7239 2570 to book a place or to visit the Postal Heritage Museum Store at Loughton, Essex on 7 May, 11 June, 16 July and 17 September.

The British Postal Museum & Archive is located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, open Monday to Friday 10.00-17.00 (Thursday until 19.00). The Museum & Archive, run by the Postal Heritage Trust, holds the collections of the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum •

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

LONDON WC1X

6 MAY 2005

The permanent BPMA handstamp features the new logo, with a design taken from the Penny Black's border and the date. For further details visit www.postalheritage.org.uk.

For further information about the Museum & Archive, telephone 020 7239 2570, or e-mail heritage@royalmail.com

Storing the Bulletin Binders and box files are available for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The sturdy box files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin* are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £9.95 each. Order codes PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the Philatelic and about 50 of the Postmark Bulletins. The traditional binders for the Philatelic and Postmark Bulletins cost £8.50 each (BB001 and PB322) •



Prize draw A Trooping the Colour collection

FOR THIS MONTH'S DRAW we have sheets of 25, a miniature sheet, and set of stamp cards of the Trooping the Colour issue (7 June) for the sender of the first card drawn on 31 May. Five runners up will be sent Trooping the Colour presentation packs. To enter the draw simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send to: Trooping the Colour Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ •

The illustrated stamp books by Martin Robinson: part 1

A FIRST DAY OF ISSUE handstamp used at Royal Mail Tallents House for the *Letters by Night* PSB on 16 March 2004 included the words 'Stamp Book Centenary', and indeed a catalogue will confirm that the first Post Office stamp books were issued in 1904. Why then did 25p and 30p books issued in April 1971 promote a National Postal Museum exhibition about 80 Years of British Stamp Booklets, putting their introduction at 1891? Because a private company, the Stamp Distribution Syndicate, under a licence from the PMG, issued books of stamps in 1891. The little 64-page books, some with advertising, were issued from machines, and a single 1d lilac stamp, perforated with 'SDS', was held in a diagonal slit in the back cover. Although the books were very popular, the machines were not reliable, and in 1892 the concession passed to the Stamp Distribution Company, which issued similar books from better machines until 1895, with the stamps perforated 'SDC'. The first Post Office books of stamps were not issued until 1904.

This is an introduction to the more recent history of British stamp books, those with illustrated covers, introduced in 1968. This series, with a host of varied and fascinating designs, ended in 1995, but there is still the odd pictorial cover. These articles are not concerned with the panes of stamps themselves, but only with the covers which are, compared with our special stamps, relatively neglected examples of minuscule art. A series of covers, like those of 1981-82 featuring 19th century women's costume, allows a subject to be developed every bit as fully as in a set of stamps.

The first illustrated booklets were issued on various dates in 1968; they had thin coloured card covers stitched together at the left and contained panes of £sd Machin stamps. Each edition conveniently has the month and year of issue on the back cover. A series of nine 10s books appeared between May 1968 and November 1970 featuring British explorers, with the design, in black on a coloured card, changing every few months, although some designs were used for more than one edition. The first to be shown was Livingstone, and the first two editions were printed on purple

card, which was subsequently changed to green. One woman – Mary Kingsley – was included in the series alongside five men. An interesting thing about this first series is that the Post Office logo changed twice: from 'GPO' surmounted with a crown, to the crown alone after the change from government department to public corporation in October 1969. During the same period there was a series of 4s6d books in blue covers featuring nine ships from *Victory* to *Queen Elizabeth 2*; one of 5s books in buff covers showing buildings from the 14th to the 19th centuries (ending in May 1970 with an extra edition publicising the Phillympia exhibition); and one of 6s books with orange covers showing birds.

These were all counter books, but stitched machine booklets with illustrated covers were issued too, upon decimalisation in February 1971. A set of ten 10p books with gold covers and featuring pillar boxes appeared between February 1971 and June 1974, now with helpful explanatory notes inside the front cover, including the name of the designer, Ronald Maddox. The April 1971 edition, showing the first London pillar box of 1855 as in February, had the design slightly reduced in size. This was followed by a series of three covers on postal uniforms, designed by Clive Abbott, which was issued in a total of nine editions from August 1974 to January 1976. A set of 25p counter books with mauve covers and featuring veteran transport was issued between February 1971 and February 1973; 30p books with cerise covers showing more birds appeared between February 1971 and August 1973 (the last in the series also appeared with buff covers); and 50p books with pale green covers featuring wild flowers between February 1971 and November 1972. Between Autumn 1973 and December 1974 a short series on British coins was issued, first as a 35p book with blue covers, and later, as postal rates rose, as a 45p book with buff covers. That, apart from prestige books, was the end of stitched books •

.....
Mr Robinson concludes his history of illustrated stamp books next month.

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STAMPS 10 at 4½p



Left to right, from top: April 1971 stitched counter book; An 1892 Stamp Distribution Company booklet; February 1969 stitched counter book; February 1970 10s stitched counter book; October 1974 10p folded machine book; September 1974 45p stitched counter book; and the Stamp Book Centenary handstamp.

Trafalgar The start of the race, the beginning of the chase: Nigel Fordham looks at the unfolding of events in May, 1805

'I this day steer for the West Indies. My lot seems to have been hard and the enemy most fortunate but it may turn – patience and perseverance will do much.'

Nelson to Viscount Sidmouth, 11 May 1805



AT THE BEGINNING of May 1805 Nelson was still fighting against the 'foul winds' that were holding him and his fleet in the Mediterranean. Able to see Gibraltar some way off, but being unable to make headway due to adverse winds, was all the more frustrating for him.

He was desperate that the Admiralty had heard nothing from him (rightly, as it turned out, as the Admiralty believed Nelson might have become petulant at their earlier appointment of Admiral Orde to the Cadiz station). Nelson was a prolific writer of letters but the mail of course was at the whims of the weather, available carrying ships, suitable overland transportation, attacks from the enemy, etc.

The Admiralty in fact received a letter from Nelson on 19 May (written 30 days previously), advising them that he did not think the French and Spanish were going to the West Indies, but were heading for Ireland or Brest! Either way, he advised them that he was waiting for more intelligence and (sensibly as it turned out) keeping his options open. This satisfied their Lordships that he had the matter in hand.

Nelson was also worried over public reaction (something he took very seriously) to his lack of progress in chasing the French and Spanish ships down, and was still suffering from the indecision caused by his uncertainty regarding the enemy fleets' whereabouts. This was a low point in Nelson's career, further aggravated by his continuing ill health and knowledge of mounting pressures

and fears of West Indies merchants in London, a powerful, critical and rich group. They were fearful for the fate of their investments in that part of the world, which were so vulnerable to attack from the French if their fleet arrived unopposed in the Caribbean.

The period of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars was the height of sugar trade prosperity, with the main business operating out of Jamaica. In the 18th century sugar consumption had risen from an annual figure of 10,000 tons to 150,000 tons and, as conflicts continued and trade was restricted, so prices went up. Sugar Islands in the Caribbean, and convoys, were rich prizes for all. Nelson knew this all too well.

Making no headway out of the Mediterranean, on 4 May Nelson put in to Tetuan in Morocco to water and take on supplies. Next day, the wind suddenly changed for the better; victualling was stopped immediately, a signal gun fired on HMS *Victory*, the Blue Peter was hoisted, and the fleet laid an immediate course for Gibraltar.

On 9 May, still frustrated by the weather and lack of news, Nelson anchored in Lagos Bay and took more stores on board. He was later gratified to learn from Rear Admiral Donald Campbell, a Scottish sailor hired by the Portuguese Navy (who came aboard *Victory* at sea in great secrecy), that Villeneuve and his fleet had been spotted on their way to the West Indies. Campbell was later sacked for this act by the Portuguese, following pressure from the French.



Nelson immediately wrote to the Admiralty, informing them that once Admiral Knight and the convoy he was escorting came in sight, he would ensure its safe passage to Gibraltar and then sail for Barbados. Nelson handed over the Mediterranean command to Rear Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton. On 11 May Nelson's fleet met the convoy that had come down from Lisbon; *Royal Sovereign* was detached to it for added protection and the sloop *Martin* was sent to Barbados to advise Cochrane that Nelson was on his way.

Villeneuve and his fleet meanwhile had made little impact in the Caribbean. He, like all French Admirals, suffered confusing, conflicting and far too many orders from Napoleon to be effective, including 'not risking his ships'. Napoleon had little knowledge of his Navy's abilities or use.

The British however had clear lines of communication, with the experienced Admirals of the Admiralty giving mutual understanding and directions when dealing with problems.

Admiral Villeneuve, the Franco-Spanish fleet commander, felt no support in his command (in fact he was under continual threat of being relieved of command by Napoleon), and the inherent and well founded fear of the British continued to haunt him.

Even at these times of high drama Nelson still had a mind to his other duties and his personal affairs. On 16 May he wrote to Emma Hamilton from HMS *Victory* concerning his daughter, whom they referred to as their 'adopted child'. 'As it is

my desire to take my adopted daughter Horatia Nelson Thompson from under the care of Mrs Gibson and to place her under your guardianship in order that she may be properly educated.' This, as well as other day-to-day ship tasks such as the adequate feeding of his crew, had to be fulfilled and despite his continuing ill health Nelson dealt with them all efficiently.

At last Nelson was doing what he had dreamed of – off after the combined French and Spanish fleet, racing across the Atlantic, spoiling for a battle – clear in his mind to protect the West Indies first, and ready to chase the French and Spanish for as long as it took to bring them to battle.

It is interesting to note that on 23 August 1805 the West Indies Merchants in London declared: 'That the prompt determination of Lord Nelson to quit the Mediterranean in search of the French fleet; his sagacity in judging and ascertaining their course have been instrumental to the safety of the West Indies Islands in general.' ●

Sea Britain 2005 events in May For further information visit the Sea Britain 2005 website: www.seabritain.com

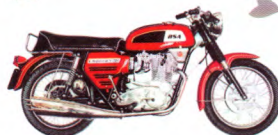
30.05	A taste of Deal
30.04-18.06	Art and the Sea Maritime Paintings, Southend
13-15.05	Blind Sailors Taster, Leavenington, Suffolk
27-30.05	Erne Boat Rally, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh
14.05	Lady Hamilton's Attitudes, Brighton, Sussex
22.05	Royal Marines Lighthouse challenge, Holyhead
05	Seafood exhibition, Anstruther, Fife

Motorcycles Six names that span a century

1st

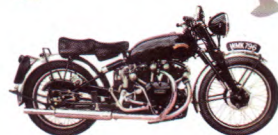
1991 Norton F1 road version of a race winner

40



1969 BSA Rocket 3 early three cylinder 'superbike'

42



1949 Vincent Black Shadow fastest standard motorcycle

47



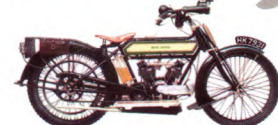
1938 Triumph Speed Twin two cylinder innovation

60



1930 Brough Superior bespoke luxury motorcycle

68



1914 Royal Enfield small engined motor bicycle

The stamps are designed by Ian Chilvers of Atelier Works, with illustrations by Michael English. Atelier designed last year's Crimean War stamps, and Michael English designed the Buses stamps of 2001; he is noted for his 1960s posters of bands like The Who.

A SET OF SIX STAMPS featuring British motorcycles from 1914 to 1991 goes on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 19 July. Part of the series of Transport issues which commenced with the Buses set in 2001, it will be issued to coincide with the British Motorcycle Grand Prix at Silverstone.

The stamps feature: 1st class 1991 Norton F1 road version of a race winner; 40p 1969 BSA Rocket 3 early three cylinder 'superbike'; 42p 1949 Vincent Black Shadow fastest standard motorcycle; 47p 1938 Triumph Speed Twin two cylinder innovation; 60p 1930 Brough superior bespoke luxury motorcycle; and 68p 1914 Royal Enfield small-engined motor bicycle. The Queen's silhouette, printed in silver, is positioned upper right, with the value or service indicator at top left. The motorcycles are from the collection at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham except for the Triumph Speed Twin and Royal Enfield motor bicycle which are privately owned.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25. However sheets of 50 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 19 July, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Solihull must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £3.79 UK or £3.23 overseas.

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), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (for the Solihull postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0517' (Tallents House), or 'FD0518' (Solihull). Covers can be posted or handed in at main

Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Printers

Process Lithography

Stamp size 41 × 30mm

Sheets 25 and 50

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Cylinders and colours

All values W1 silver ● W1 yellow ● W1 magenta ● W1 cyan (blue) ● W1 black ● W1 phosphor



2005

The Motorcycles

orton
1
1951

After a decade in the doldrums, the much-revered Norton marque made a dramatic comeback in the 1980s, with some unorthodox and race-track motorcycles, owned by piston-less Wankel star engines, their stunning power delivery was silky smooth. Based on Norton's successful rotary racer, the 1991 F1 had a judiciously cooled engine within an aluminium frame and sported the best in suspension and braking technology. Rapid acceleration and 145mph capability made the 1 a demanding, but exhilarating motorcycle to ride.

BSA
Rocket 3
1969

BSA's Rocket 3 was one of the original superbikes, offering mighty 120mph-plus performance along with superb roadholding and a high level of comfort. Its growing three-cylinder engine was designed to sustain high speeds without the vibration that plagued large-capacity British twins.

When the BSA Group first launched the Rocket 3, alongside the basically similar Triumph Trident, there were high hopes for American sales success. But the machines' unusual styling was not very widely appreciated and the British triples struggled to compete against sophisticated and lower-priced new machinery from Japan.

Vincent
Black Shadow
1949

An unrivalled top speed of 125mph and exceptional character made the highly priced Vincent Black Shadow a motorcycling legend of the 1950s. The hand-built Shadow's V-twin engine fully churned out fearless power. But, while it readily ate up the miles on the open road, the Vincent was also manageable in town. Lavish use of light alloys helped to keep the Black Shadow's weight to a minimum, as did a radical 'frame-keel' chassis, that utilized the combined engine and gearbox unit for structural strength. Vincent's cantilevered rear suspension layout was widely adopted by other makes in the 1980s.

Triumph
Speed Twin
1938

When Triumph's Speed Twin was launched in 1938, it changed the face of motorcycling. The Speed Twin, with its smooth and powerful parallel twin-cylinder engine, was such a revelation, that when postwar production resumed every major British marque had to offer a 500cc twin cylinder motorcycle designed on similar lines.

Designed by the brilliant Edward Turner, the stylish and compact Speed Twin could top 90mph but, being simple to manufacture, it was keenly priced. Swift 650cc twins derived from the 500cc original would make Triumph a world famous and profitable marque in the 1950s and 1960s.

Brough Superior
SS100
1930

Claimed by the company proprietor George Brough to be the 'Rolls Royce of Motorcycles', the Brough Superior was truly in a class of its own. Brough's most famous product, the handsome SS100, was sold with a 100mph guarantee and renowned for superb roadholding.

A lusty one-litre V-twin engine, made by JAP, powered the SS100 via a Sturmey Archer three-speed gearbox with hand change. This Alpine Grand Sport version has Bentley & Druce rear spring. One of Brough's most famous customers was TE Lawrence, otherwise known as 'Lawrence of Arabia', who owned six SS100s.

Royal Enfield
T140
1914

Royal Enfield got into its stride as a motorcycle maker in 1910 and became known for building solid, dependable products. One of the earliest was this lively Model 140, with a 425cc V-twin engine.

Its advanced features included automatic lubrication, and an all-chain transmission at a time when hide belts were still widely used to drive the rear wheel. An ingenious two-speed mechanism was operated by a 'coffee grinder' handle alongside the petrol tank. Royal Enfield went on to produce larger V-twins and a series of rugged single-cylinder machines.

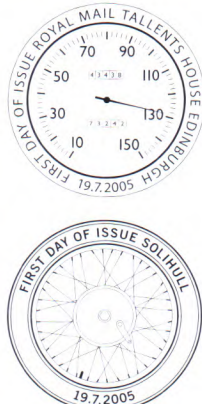
Motorcycles

Royal Mail First Day Cover



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkerton
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 5PB



Post Office branches for the Solihull postmark. A non-pictorial Solihull postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centres; request 'FD0518 NP'.

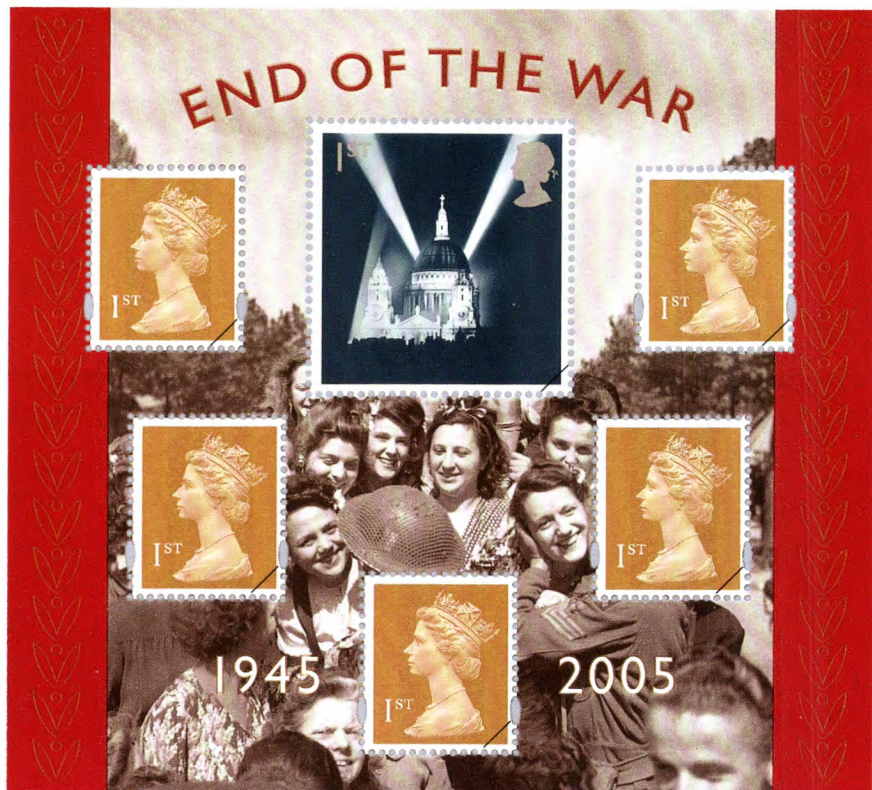
Details of sponsored handstamps for 19 July will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

A pack (top, price £3.40) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available at main Post Offices and philatelic outlets and from Tallents House. The pack was designed by Atelier Works and written by Mick Duckworth, a former Editor of *Motorcycle News*, and author of books on British motorcycles.

Motorcycles For most of the 20th century Britain was a world leader in the manufacture of motorcycles, and the stamps represent a wide range of UK manufacturers. Each cycle featured represents a major advance in design. The Royal Enfield (68p) was the first with an all chain transmission; before that, hide belts had been used. The Brough Superior (60p) from 1930, was sold with a 100mph guarantee. Its most famous owner was T E Lawrence (of Arabia). The Triumph Speed Twin (47p) was the first with a parallel twin cylinder engine which every other British manufacturer then replicated. The Vincent Black Shadow (42p) had a radical frameless chassis that combined the engine and gearbox for structural strength and its cantilevered rear suspension was widely adopted by other manufacturers. The BSA Rocket 3 (40p) was one of the first super bikes offering 120mph plus performance from its 3-cylinder engine. The Norton F1 (1st class) was powered by a pistonless wankle rotary engine and was a road version of Norton's champion racing bike of the 1980s •



60th anniversary of the end of the war



A MINIATURE SHEET containing six 1st class stamps will be issued on 5 July to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, priced £1.80. The issue date has been chosen to coincide with commemorations in London the following weekend. These will include a march-past of veterans attended by HM The Queen. The sheet (shown above at proof stage) contains a revised version of the 25p Peace & Freedom stamp of 1995 showing a floodlit St Paul's Cathedral, now as a 1st class stamp, and five 1st class definitives printed in gold. The stamps are on a background reproducing the design of the Peace & Freedom 19p stamp showing British troops in Paris on the liberation of France. The sheet has been designed by Jeffery Matthews. There will be no presentation pack or stamp cards.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A coin cover will be available bearing the miniature sheet cancelled by a special St Paul's London EC4 postmark and with a new Royal Mint £2 coin and Ministry of Defence commemorative medal (designed by Jeffery Matthews) encapsulated. Price £15.95, available from Tallents House and selected Post Office branches.

Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé

Process Grevure

Size 115 × 105mm

Perforation 14.5 (St Paul's);
15 × 14 (definitives)

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA



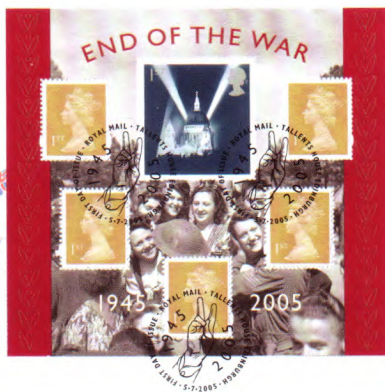
First day postmarks (top and middle), and the coin cover postmark (bottom).

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



END OF THE WAR 1945 – 2005
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

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



Royal Mint, Llantrisant, Pontyclun CF72 8YT

Details of other 5 July hand-stamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 in UK & Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to the Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 5 July, price 25p. The cover shows the Union Flag as hung across streets to celebrate the end of the war. Orders for FDCs with the miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Peacehaven, Newhaven must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £2.53 UK or £2.16 overseas. Please state clearly which postmark is required.

Stamped covers may be sent on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Peacehaven postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0515' (Tallents House), or 'FD0516' (Peacehaven). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Peacehaven postmark. A non-pictorial Peacehaven postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FD0516 NP'.

The end of the war There have been a number of Royal Mail issues connected with the Second World War, beginning with two stamps (below, top two in the centre) popularly known as the 'Victory' issue, or more accurately Peace & Reconstruction, issued in June 1946 (see *Bulletin* February 1975). A small selection of these issues is shown here •



Bulletin poll A selection of voters' views, by Glenn Morgan



A NUMBER OF VOTERS added comments to their forms. Starting with general adverse comments, these related to the lack of second class values (six were 2nd, 34 1st) – despite newspaper reports that up to 70% of all mail posted is second class. Also, the cost of collecting an ‘over-ambitious issuing policy’ was proving ‘far too expensive’ for some, with a few choosing not to continue in 2005. One elderly reader wrote: ‘after 70 years of collecting I’m oh so near to packing-up in disgust’. Let’s hope that he reconsiders. ‘Staff look as if I have spoilt their day when asked for anything as mundane as stamps’ is hopefully not a typical reaction from Royal Mail staff on the front line.

Several readers wrote that ‘the special stamps need to be available more than just on the issue day’, and that they ‘disappear before the general public is aware of them’. Others observed that it was ‘yet another year of very second rate stamps’. Harsh! The increasing addition of ‘extras’ was, perhaps surprisingly, only noted by one reader, who wrote, ‘every issue has either a MS, prestige book or Smilers sheet, or a combination’.

The Lord of the Rings and Occasions (‘atrocious’) sets received few votes or comments. Several readers remarked on the number of designs that were ‘too dark’, ‘uninspiring’, ‘out of focus’, ‘drab’, or in ‘unrealistic’ colours (especially the British Journey and RHS issues). One reader said ‘I feel that the British Journey series is so dark and dreary that people would be put off visiting our lovely countryside’. One concluded ‘words at the miniature scale are NOT a good idea’ – the reason perhaps for the RSA issue’s poor score.

The Ocean Liners and Woodland Animals sets received no adverse comments. The 20p Classic Locomotives design ‘should have been 2nd class, as it had a limited life-span before a postal rate rise’ according to one reader. Another wrote that the ‘Railway miniature sheet was a joke, as it was too big to fit onto the MS postcard’.

The voters appear not to have understood the Entente Cordiale (or *discordiale*, as one reader called it) issue. The 28p stamp (depicting *Lace 1*) scored just one point, while the 57p value (showing *Coccinelle*) received 13 votes. One reader has already come up with his design idea to celebrate the 200th anniversary in 2104: ‘they should show Britannia and Marianne linking arms against a backdrop of the Union Flag and the French Tricolour’. One for the Stamp Advisory Committee diary, I think!

The Crimean War issue was printed in monochrome, as the designs used contemporary black and white photographs commissioned by Queen Victoria. Several readers thought that they should have been reproduced in colour, although Louis and Auguste Lumiere did not invent colour photography until 1907!

The decision to produce yet another secular Christmas issue was cause for concern to several voters, and views such as ‘Rubbish’, ‘Thumbs down for make believe Christmas stamps. Surely this was an opportunity for depicting what Christmas is about’ and ‘Christmas is not just about children’ were typical. ‘To call these Christmas stamps is a great travesty – nothing to do with Christ-mas at all. Don’t give me the line – [followers of] other religions would be offended – they in their countries show their festivals!’ was perhaps the strongest viewpoint.

However, it is not all doom and gloom, as there were many favourable comments about the designs and the overall special stamps programme. ‘The stamps of 2004 were, in general, a big improvement on the 2003 stamps’, ‘the best year in ages’, ‘It is extremely difficult to make my decisions with so many excellent stamps’, ‘I have noticed a big improvement in the past couple of

years', and 'I expect this year's votes will be all over the board – there are so many great stamps' were some of the kindest general observations. One reader noted that 'at last, most issues have a caption that adequately describes the subject matter – without them they mean very little and are just pictures'.

Clearly, if transport and wildlife themes are featured, then the stamps will be well received by many voters and especially so by one Guildford reader who wrote 'as I have an active interest in railways and ocean liners and wildlife, last year was a truly Vintage one!'. 'The woodland animals are absolutely superb. The degree of difficulty in obtaining such portraits is what makes it the best set' was typical.

The Occasions 'showed great wit and formed a pleasing, coherent set' and the Christmas designs were 'much improved over previous years'. The Crimean War issue resulted in one reader commenting that 'I grew to love the Crimean set as I used the stamps – those eyes from the past seemed to say so much about the suffering'.

Another wrote, 'this set was a great honour to the men of the Crimean War. I was very pleased with this set'. There was only one comment made about the Lord of the Rings set, and that was 'I am pleased that the LOTR set stuck to the original book, rather than the Hollywood-type sets from New Zealand'.

All of the above comments – pro and anti – are perfectly valid, of course. For many years, I have been involved in print and production and know that when it comes to design matters, everyone has a view! The special stamps programme continues to live up to its one-time strapline 'stamps stimulate'. Long may this prove to be the case.

Special thanks to all who returned the voting form, particularly those overseas readers who responded from Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, BFPOS, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong SAR, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Macao, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the USA •

The British Postal Museum & Archive by Tony Conder

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

The British Postal Museum & Archive's new logo, and Tony Conder, CEO. The BPMA is an independent charitable trust.



MANY READERS MAY NOT KNOW that when the National Postal Museum closed its doors to the public in 1998 it combined with the Post Office Archive and became Heritage Royal Mail. On 29 March 2004, this combined force became an independent charitable trust that officially received a donation of the former National Postal Museum collections and became responsible for managing The Royal Mail Archive (formerly PO archives).

Royal Mail supported the creation of The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA), and is contributing financially with charitable donations and contract work. With the collections safeguarded, we can now apply for external funding to develop access to the collections.

We have already redesigned the public Search Room especially for disabled visitors, as well as many other improved facilities. An important step forward has been the creation of a small display area for the philatelic collection. Four showcases have a changing display, currently based on the genesis of British stamps, and including some examples from the Phillips collection. Selected Saturday and late night openings have created more opportunities for everyone to use the Search Room and look at the exhibition. Our large object store, including letter boxes and vehicles, will also be open to the public for four Saturdays this summer.



Above: A small display area has been created with four showcases; the current display is on the genesis of British stamps. Right: the public Search Room has been redesigned with many improved facilities.



The BPMA wants to provide for the widest possible audience, and is researching putting stamps digitally on the internet. The initial idea for this came from one of a series of consultations held with the philatelic community at a focus group at Spring Stampex 2004. The BPMA is working with an experienced digitisation laboratory to look at copying the Phillips Collection and link digital images to the catalogue to open up very wide access to this important national collection.

For the longer-term future, the BPMA is working to re-establish a centre for research, exhibitions and education – at present they are in negotiation for a 3500m sq site at Woolwich Royal Arsenal where all the BPMA collections could be drawn together and accessed as one.

Philatelic collections The philatelic collections cover four main areas: all things to do with British stamps and postal stationery from 1840 to the present day; the famous specialised R M Phillips collection of Victorian British stamps; letters with markings illustrating the postal history of the British Post Office from 1661; and world stamps from the Universal Postal Union.

For British stamps, they comprise registration sheets of stamps from the Penny Black to date, together with essays and proofs of all stages of

production. Included are selected metal dies and printing plates, all for the letterpress or intaglio printing processes. This also applies to imprinted postal stationery. From 1924 the collections include all artwork, adopted and unadopted, for each British stamp issue and for some which were proposed but did not come to fruition. These are constantly added to with each new stamp issue, and some 500 pieces of artwork, termed presentation or development visuals, are received from Royal Mail's Stamp department every year.

To these have been added a number of 'postal history' collections: ie postal markings on letters and envelopes from 1661 to the present day. These are both typological in terms of markings (Penny Post, Paid At etc) and thematic in terms of services and method of transport (maritime, railway, airmail, postal mechanisation etc). Collections acquired include those of Frank Staff (Penny Post and maritime mail, especially transatlantic).

Most of the stamp etc collections are public records, including the Phillips collection and the collection of world stamps. Postal history items have generally been bought to illustrate the history of the posts and so are not public records •

This is the first in a series of articles that will look at different aspects of the BPMA's collections.

70th anniversary of the George V Silver Jubilee issue



This is an edited version of an article by James Watson in the *Bulletin*, October 1974. An account of the Prussian Blue by N Donen, A Hackett & H Russell appears in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, July 2004.

6 MAY 1935 WAS THE 25th anniversary of King George V's accession, an event for which the Post Office issued (on 7 May) four stamps – 1/2d, 1d, 1 1/2d and 2 1/2d – in a uniform design featuring the 'MacKenna' head, as used in the 1934 series of definitives (the first GB photogravure types).

The 'Jubilees' were notable in several respects: they were designed by a pre-eminent artist, lithographer and book illustrator, Barnett Freedman; they were Britain's first photogravure commemoratives, indicating that the PO and the printers, Harrisons, had finally accepted and adopted this printing process; and they inadvertently provided collectors with one of the rarest GB varieties, the 2 1/2d 'Prussian Blue'.

Many artists were invited to submit designs, including Harold Nelson of 'Wembley' and PUC £1 fame, and Edmund Dulac, as told in the *Bulletin* for June and July 1971. The final design selection was whittled down to that submitted by Freedman. The printers submitted vertical (above, top right and p259) and horizontal essays, with the 'Vandyke' and 'MacKenna' heads of the King in two sizes. The smaller 'MacKenna' head in the horizontal design was the ultimate choice.

Barnett Freedman (1901-58) was a fine craftsman, particularly in the field of lithographic illustration, or 'auto-lithography', which he pioneered. Born in London's East End, he was bedridden in his youth for several years, then won a scholarship to the Royal College of Art. During the Sec-

ond World War, he became an Admiralty artist, sketching scenes at Dunkirk and later on the Normandy beaches. He was created CBE in 1946.

Freedman's Jubilee stamps revealed his grasp of the opportunities for exploiting light and shade provided by the graded colours of the photogravure process. He even applied the principle of tonal variation to the lettering in his design – the 'banner headline' 'SILVER JUBILEE' and the values in words at the foot – giving the stamps what John Easton described as a 'shot silk' appearance. Flanking the King's portrait are the dates of the reign, with the crown in the left-hand panel and variations on the laurel wreath and olive branch themes in each of the right-hand panels.

In June 1935, a businessman (who was also a collector) bought some 2 1/2d Jubilee stamps in a post office at North Edmonton, London. Noting the unusual greenish-blue colour of the stamps, he enquired if he could buy any more in the same shade. 'Oh yes', said the helpful postal clerk, 'We had three sheets of them'. The astute collector bought the remaining 320 stamps and sold most of them at a handsome profit. These were the celebrated 2 1/2d 'Prussian Blue' stamps – three rejected imperforate colour proofs in the official 'turquoise' shade which had been perforated and issued in error. The fourth imperforate sheet ('imprimatur') is now in the British Postal Museum & Archive collection. The 'Prussian Blue' is catalogued by Gibbons at £6000 unused or used •

A postmark passion Richard West talks to Colin Peachey

THINK of postmarks and you think of Colin Peachey – not one to snub slogans since he saw HM The Queen cocking a snook back in 1960. That postmark, for World Refugee Year, was originally designed with a hand whose thumb made it look as if The Queen was making a gesture. This offending slogan was withdrawn, although Halifax had used it with the hand ‘blacked out’. This started Colin’s interest in slogans, recording as much data as he could, soon sharing his interest with George Pearson.

Colin believes that ‘tomorrow’s postal history is recorded today’. Postal history should not be limited to what happened before 1840: memories are short, so information must be recorded today: ‘collect the maximum amount of data from the word go.’ Such records are not just for Colin’s benefit. He is keen to share his knowledge with others, with an impressive portfolio of publications, ranging from listings of slogan postmarks from the 1960s to the 1990s, first day postmarks from 1963 to 1983 to special event postmarks. The two ends of the spectrum are epitomised by the more simplified *Collect British Postmarks* and *Collecting Slogan Postmarks*, and the highly detailed *UK Slogan Postmark Listings*, which records every machine in use in every town. Many of his works have been collaborative, and in some cases Colin admits he is now taking more of a back seat, leaving others to follow in his footsteps.

Many of his books have been published by the British Postmark Society which he joined in 1961. He has been President of the Society, and edited its *Quarterly Bulletin*, to which he is a frequent contributor. Many of his listings appear first in the *Bulletin*, allowing others to contribute to the information before it is committed to book form.

His more recent researches have been of skeleton postmarks of England and Wales, acquiring in 1992 the initial listing compiled by James and Joyce Mackay. This has been expanded with the help of many collectors and societies, many of whom had not previously recorded their findings.



The information doesn’t come easily. Letters are sent but do not always receive a reply. Waste paper baskets are scoured. Often a visit may be required to sort out a problem personally. Fortunately Colin’s wife Valerie is supportive, accompanying him on his many trips, demonstrating that she is excellent at map reading.

Out and about It is not just postmarks that fascinate Colin: he is also a devout follower of postbuses. He had seen all of them since 1974, photographing each bus and buying a ticket although not always traveling on the service. His first photograph was of the Martindale service (Lake District) with his daughter (then aged eight) sitting in the bus. Places have to be re-visited as new vehicles are introduced. Consequently Valerie has acquired an excellent knowledge of tea shops around the UK.

Travelling involves more than just postbuses: it also means visiting post offices. ‘We have seen some glorious places. Places you would not otherwise visit.’ A particular favourite is the north-west of Scotland, areas such as Argyll, visiting every post office, and ex post office, obtaining certificates of posting wherever possible. Colin has recently acquired a collection of postmarks of Inverness, and so a visit proved inevitable.

Obtaining material can be variable. Postcards are a good source of postmarks, but the habit of sending postcards tended to die during the 1940s and 1950s. Come the 60s and 70s many collectors were sending off envelopes to obtain new slogans, but this practice ended, so material from the 80s and 90s is difficult to locate.

Clearly going through dealers’ boxes at stamp fairs is essential, but postcard fairs can be equally rewarding. However, material from offices, exchange packets and even auctions can all prove worthwhile. ‘Every day something turns up that gives immense satisfaction.’ One thing Colin feels is essential: if someone sends along something for the collection, he always says ‘thank you’.

His research is like detective work, arranging the pieces of a jigsaw. The excitement comes from new material, filling in gaps or making discoveries. The downside is the failure rate: those who do not respond to his enquiries. And of course the poor quality cancellations, although, as he says, this is something he has learnt to live with.

Much of the collection is kept in drawers, but some is kept in cover albums, and some on album sheets housed in storage boxes. Colin does give talks to societies, on his special event postmarks.

Colin admits that he reached 'a nice plateau of satisfaction', and that now he is winding down, his ambitions being for the success and happiness of his son and daughter.

Although he is best known for his work on postmarks, Colin is a keen stamp collector and was a founder member in 1963 of Hemel Hempstead Philatelic Society. He served on the Committee (Chairman, President, Treasurer, etc) non-stop for 33 years before being 'nicely retired' in 1996. ●

SOME QUESTIONS PUT TO COLIN PEACHEY

Did you collect stamps before you discovered postmarks? I started collecting stamps when I was about eight years old. It was mainly Commonwealth, but later I sold the collection.

Where is home? My home was in Forest Hill. After university I worked for Shell Mex/BP, initially at Kingsway in London. The job then moved to Hemel Hempstead. On the weekend Valerie and I were married in 1963 we moved to a new home in Hemel.

Do you collect anything other than postmarks? I like all ephemera associated with the Wembley exhibition of 1924/25. The items I own range from cups and saucers to butter knives and toffee tins.

Do you have any children, and do they collect? We have a son and daughter. My daughter and her husband are collectors, especially anything connected with Wembley.

Do you have other hobbies? I enjoy classical music, especially Handel and baroque music, finding it very therapeutic. I also enjoy following international rugby football.

How do you view Royal Mail's stamp-issuing policy? I do wonder whether Royal Mail could be destroying our hobby. The fundamental question these days is whether the Post Office needs stamps at all. I really feel the policy is crazy, and that Royal Mail is only paying lip service to encouraging the young.

Spring Stampex Highlights and displays, by John Holman

FOR FOUR OF THE FIVE days of Spring Stampex (23-27 February) it was bitterly cold, it snowed, trains were delayed, and driving was treacherous. Everyone was urged to stay at home. Yet 6750 determined collectors made it to the exhibition – the third highest total since 1997. Some collectors even phoned in with apologies for their non-attendance! The standholders seemed reasonably happy, so visitors were finding the required material and were in a buying mood. Royal Mail launched the Jane Eyre stamps on the second day of the exhibition – with queues at the counter for the stamps, miniature sheet and prestige book. Also popular with customers were the Farm Animals Smilers and Royal Mail's range of albums. The Malta and Germany Post Office stands sold special covers with a Stampex handstamp. All visitors received a free exhibition catalogue containing the latest Stampex customised stamp and a postcard reproducing a design for a reply paid postcard in 1878 – the original is in the British Postal Museum & Archive.

The main attraction was the extensive display by the GB Philatelic Society and Postal Stationery Society, positioned on the 'Village Green' opposite the Royal Mail stand. The GBPS display was arranged in 10 sections covering Pre-stamp (9 frames), Queen Victoria (25), Edward VII (8), George V (19), George VI (9), Elizabeth II (12), Social Philately (6), Airmails (4), Revenue & College stamps (4), and Postal Stationery (4). I suppose it was inevitable that Victorian stamps (and Penny Blacks, Twopence Blues and Penny Reds in particular!) would take the largest section, but all-in-all it was a good mix of material. Some of the displays were familiar, having been shown at Stampex before (Lady Mari Bury's Edward VII, Alan Sabey's Empire Exhibition and Tony Walker's pre-decimal Machins), but most of it was new and made for one of the best displays at Stampex in recent years. A Hurst's two displays on Mail in Northumberland 1600-1750 and Holy Island Postmarks 1720 to Present were enjoyable and included the earliest known town stamp of

Newcastle. P Sargeant and R Simpson showed how stamp perforation was pioneered and developed in GB at Somerset House. Their display included early unofficial methods of perforation, through to official perforation trials, and highlighted practical problems by showing the resulting errors and varieties. C J Pearce's Edward VII Errors and Flaws on Used Stamps comprised a range of values and included enlarged images so that the faults could be easily seen. The printing plates were repaired regularly, hence many flaws only appeared on limited parts of the run, making the positioning of them difficult. P Tanner's George V Photogravure 1933-36 display included the Harrison typograph trials using the 1½d profile head portrait; Bradbury Wilkinson recess printed essays, together with various colour trials; trials by Harrison with full-face portrait by Lafayette; the issued stamps; varieties, specimens and cancelled overprints; booklet panes; and the George V memorial essays. In the Elizabeth II section, Chris Harman featured some examples of modern postal history – Wildings and commemoratives used on covers in the 1950s and 60s; some of the postal rates featured in this display are now considerable rarities. Some nice examples of the Regional stamps used on cover were also included in Phil Kenton's display; and C J Pearce showed the different values used to make up the difference between 2nd and 1st class postage since decimalisation in 1971. G Calver and R Phelps provided good displays of modern commemoratives, concentrating on errors and constant varieties.

The Postal Stationery Society displays were not confined to GB material, also including items from Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Germany, India, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Tonga, and many other countries. The GB section comprised a third of the total display and began with a very useful Introduction to Postal Stationery (Dr Alan Huggins) illustrating the different classes and the range of types that make this such an interesting and varied aspect of philately. Michael Lockton's Penny Pinks showed the Whiting/Wyon developments leading to the issuing of two sizes of Penny Pink envelopes at London post offices in Febru-

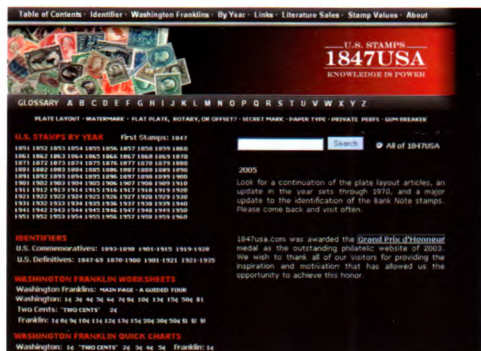
ary 1841; they went on sale elsewhere in September. N Sargent's Victorian Stamped to Order Stationery explained that with the popularity of postal stationery, there was strong demand for private stationery to be printed to order, particularly for rates not available from the Post Office; envelopes were produced from 1855, and postcards from 1872. Peter O'Keefe and Colin Baker displayed stationery of the reigns of Edward VII to George VI. The first half of the 20th century saw a dramatic change in the use of stationery; the two wars, franking machines and the business reply service accelerating its decline. The variety of items available was reduced, the only major change being the introduction of the air mail letter in 1942. Sheila Marshall displayed the colourful air letters issued by Guernsey and Jersey since postal independence in 1969. It was encouraging to see more than the usual number of visitors looking at these displays, and both the GBPS and PSS officials on hand were pleased with the interest shown. It should always be remembered that Stampex is an exhibition, not just a dealers' fair.

At the rear of the mezzanine floor there was a display of material to celebrate the centenary of Rotary International, with 20 frames from the association's official collection, supplemented by items from members' collections. On display in the Rotary area was a 'Home for Ten in a Box', with a 10-person tent, sleeping bags, tools, cooking utensils, water purification equipment and other necessities for life after a disaster – a large number of these 'Homes' have been shipped to needy areas.

We now look forward to Autumn Stampex (14-18 September) which will include the entries for both senior and junior National Competitions – always well worth seeing ●



Philately on-line Ron Negus visits a site for USA collectors



www.1847usa.com Bob Allen, the senior editor of this site designed for collectors of USA stamps, tries to keep it up to date as new information arises. He provides an e-mail link and asks users who find any errors, or have later details about any stamps shown, to contact him by this means.

and airmail. The printing method, perforation details and number of plates used are given, plus date of issue and numbers printed for each value.

For advanced collectors, another section is devoted to the 'Washington Franklin' series of definitives that first appeared in 1908. The 1908 set, and its subsequent printings, tried to copy European designs that used a framed picture of the monarch's head. Since the USA had no monarch, the postal authorities decided to use portraits of two former Presidents and selected vignettes of Washington and Franklin for the purpose. The site says that 'from these two simple elegant designs one will find 220 major and 99 minor stamp varieties... (arising from) the use of five design variations, two paper types, two types of watermark plus unwatermarked paper, three printing methods... fourteen distinct perforations or combinations thereof, two overprints, a full spectrum of colours and twenty denominations.' This amount of complexity provides a fascinating study area and the various worksheets included on the site provide an excellent introduction to the subject. For collectors who are unsure of terminology, a comprehensive Glossary of Philatelic Terms is included on the site: reached via an initial letter index found on the home page.

It is encouraging to find that the site also addresses the time-honoured question 'how much is this collection worth?'. This is written in a very friendly style, addressed to novice collectors, and explains why the answer 'very little' is normally the correct one. The general comments made in this regard apply to all countries, not just to USA material.

Overall, 1847usa.com is very well designed. I would recommend it as a model for anybody wanting to construct a site about his or her own collecting interests – either a specific country or a theme ●

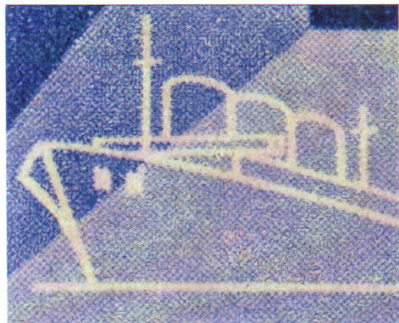
REGULAR READERS of this column will know I like to examine websites that cover the philately of a single country. Recently I have looked at sites about stamps of the Philippines (October 2004), New Zealand (January 2005) and Luxembourg (last month). My subject site this month (address above) is one that has been designed specifically to interest collectors of USA material.

Comparison of single country sites is interesting. It reveals the way in which different web designers approach the common tasks of making a site easy to use for newcomers to the country concerned, whilst retaining a high information content to interest collectors of USA material.

In this instance, this site employs alternative navigation methods to allow users to find information about particular issues. The first method uses conventional alphabetic or chronological indexes that allow the experienced collector to go directly to the web page for a particular stamp series by subject or year of issue. For beginners, the second approach provides access to 'identifier' pages that contain images of sets of both definitive and commemorative issues. Clicking on any particular image takes the user to information about the full set of stamps selected, including illustrations of each value in that set.

These information pages contain background on the subjects pictured on the stamps and other data as well. The latter includes the postage rates when the set shown was current. Listed here are the relevant rates for domestic mail, postcards, special delivery and foreign letters by both sea

Competitions Win £200 in two easy-to-enter competitions



February identify The detail was from the 1983 20½p Christmas stamp. The winner was L Blom of Sweden.

February knowledge The Answers: 1) light tan (or dull orange); 2) Water & Coast; 3) T Evans. The winner was Mrs J Benford, Nottinghamshire.

Ten 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 May *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to May *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 Which years did W G Grace feature on stamps?
- 2 What colour was the George V 2d stamp?
- 3 In which city was the Pacific Explorer stamp exhibition held?

Send your answer (addressed to either the May *Identify* competition or the May *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 14 June will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

30 April Exeter & District Phil Soc Annual Stamp Exhibition & Fair at Priory School, off Topsham Road, Exeter, 10.30-16.30. 12 dealers, philatelic displays, refreshments, free car parking, regular bus service from city centre. **Enquiries** A Pavey, 01392 445194 (evenings and weekends).

30 April Federation of South Wales Phil Socs Annual Convention Stamp & Postcard Fair at Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. 15 dealers, Kids activity area, light refreshments, limited free car parking. Souvenir card. **Enquiries** G Prior 01656 740520.

14 May Worpex 2005 (Worcester & District Philatelic & Postcard Society) at Oldbury Park Primary School, Oldbury Rd, St Johns, Worcester, 10.30-16.30. Admission 50p. 30 dealers, Midland Federation Spring Convention. Full details see website www.worpex.com.

14 May Rotherham Stamp & Postcard Club open day at Broom Valley Club Room, off Brunswick Road, Broom Valley, Rotherham, 10.00-16.00. Dealers, displays, refreshments. **Enquiries** 01709 837073.

10-15 May Brno 05. See page 261.

28 May Stampessex 2005 at St Peters, Market Hill, Sudbury, Suffolk, 10.00-16.00. Dealers, displays, raffle, souvenirs. Parking and refreshments available. Admission free. **Enquiries** I Pittway, 01787 461691.

28-29 May Stampex Ulster. See page 260.

2-5 June Naposta 2005, Hanover. See page 261.

4 June Yorkshire Philatelic Association Stamp and Postcard Fair at Pudsey Civic Hall, Leeds, 09.30-17.00. Approx 30 dealers attending. **Enquiries** M Lewis, 01904 701464 ●

Late news

Philatelic Congress The Philatelic Congress of GB will be held at the Midland Hotel, Derby, 7-10 July. Arrangements are being made for the Signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and the presentation of the Congress Medal at the Royal Crown Derby Centre. The 2006 Congress will be held in Renfrew (6-9 July) and future events in Leeds (2007), Manchester (2009), London (2010), Norwich (2011) and Perth (2012). The first Congress was held in Manchester in 1909 •

Auctions Grosvenor will hold a GB sale at the end of May, followed by a General Sale in early July. Enquiries: 020 7379 8789 or visit website www.grosvenorauctions.com •

Obituary Daniel Cooke who worked at Stanley Gibbons in the 1970s and early 1980s died on 28 March aged 56. Dan was Manager at the new SG shop at 399 Strand when it opened in 1981, and attended overseas exhibitions on behalf of the company. After leaving SG he worked as a tour guide, then for British Airways and easyJet. He served as a councillor for Welwyn Hatfield Council, stood as the Liberal-Democratic candidate at the 2001 general election, and intended to stand again in the election in May. Michael Saminaden, Chief Executive of Welwyn Hatfield Council, said 'We are all going to miss him, he was a real gentleman. He treated officers with respect and there is general sadness in the council'. Dan's main philatelic interests were in stamps featuring a Royalty; he was extremely knowledgeable on the genealogies of Royal Families, especially of former monarchies. He corresponded with members of Royal Families, and met many on his travels. One former monarch told Dan that he knew more about his family than he did himself. He wrote on the subject in various magazines, including articles in the *Bulletin* in November 1997 and February 2002 to mark The Queen's golden wedding and golden jubilee. I hoped that when he retired he would write more for the *Bulletin*. Dan had an imposing presence, was invariably jovial, and the life and soul of any gathering. He will be greatly

missed in public life, by innumerable friends, and especially by his wife Pippa and daughter Kate, to whom we extend our sympathy. *John Holman* •

We are sorry to report the death on 13 March of Geoffrey Banfield, who was profiled here by Richard West last September. Mr Banfield, who was 98, was a keen collector to the end •

Philatelic Societies The March/April *GB Journal* includes several short articles to interest specialist collectors of Victorian, George V and George VI stamps, reviews of books on the Queen's stamp collection, the line-engraved halfpenny, Oxford and Cambridge College posts, foreign rate postcards, and royal cipher labels. The accompanying GBPS Newsletter includes notes on watermarks 1840-80, Maltese Cross cancels, provisional labels on registered envelopes, illustrated reports of society displays and members' views. The next meeting will be at 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1 on 21 May (11.00) for GB Maritime Mail (Malcolm Ray-Smith), Members' Displays, and AGM. Membership enquiries: GB Philatelic Society, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE, or see website www.gbps.org.uk •

This month's displays at the Royal Philatelic Society London are: Madam Joseph Forged Postmarks by Brian Cartwright (5th), and Queensland – Stamps, Revenues & Railways by Francis Kiddle (19th). Enquiries: Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, or see website www.rpsl.org.uk •

May meetings of the National Philatelic Society are: Morocco Agencies by Barrie Cook (14th) and German Occupation of the Channel Islands by Alan Moorcroft (26th). Enquiries: National Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse St, London EC1M 6PT or www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps •

February mystery prize draw The winners were: V Stacey, Farnborough; D Johnston, Stubbington; C Wolstencroft, Evesham; L Wall, USA; B Glendinning, Canada; P Pincket, Belgium; Dr C Jansen, Germany; Mrs J McFadyen, Dalkeith; D Evans, Plymouth; and J Spaham, Margate •

*To commemorate the Royal Wedding,
here are some pictures
for your album.*



On the 9th of April, HRH The Prince of Wales and Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles were married at Windsor. And what better way to commemorate this special occasion than with this beautiful Royal Wedding Special Stamp issue?

By far the most celebratory way to collect these stamps – two 30p and two 68p – is in a Presentation Pack. These special packs contain a Miniature Sheet of the four stamps in a protective folder, as well as additional commemorative photographs of the couple.

The stamps are also available as individual Miniature Sheets, or First Day Covers which are personalised envelopes bearing a unique hand stamp.

This Special Stamp issue would also make an ideal present for a friend or loved one, or indeed anyone who'd like to remember this Royal event.

**The perfect Royal Wedding present,
from only £1.96.**

To order these stamps, call **08457 641 641** quoting reference 06AAA between 8.30am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Alternatively, you can order them online at **www.royalmail.com/bulletin**



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