

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

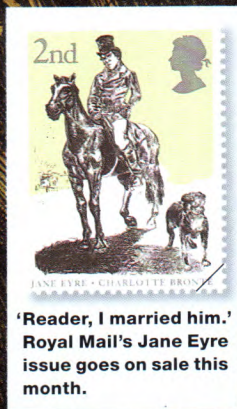
Bulletin

Volume 42 Number 6

FEBRUARY 2005 £1.10

World Heritage Sites issue •
The legacy of the Brontës

Rockester



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover *Rochester*, illustration by Sir William Nicholson, from *Characters of Romance*, published in 1900. © Elizabeth Banks/Bridgeman Art Library

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.

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29 January	Withdrawal Hong Kong Stamp Expo Smilers sheet.
1 February	Issue British Journey: South-west England stamp cards.
2 February	Withdrawal 2004 Occasions stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and Smilers sheet.
8 February	Issue British Journey: South-west England stamps and presentation pack.
17 February	Issue Jane Eyre stamp cards (7 cards – 6 stamps, 1 miniature sheet).
22 February	Issue Edward VII/George V ingot pack No 4 (10s Seahorse high value).
24 February	Issue Jane Eyre stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, prestige book and Literature coin cover.
25 February	Withdrawal Lord of the Rings stamps and stamp cards (presentation pack already sold out).
1 March	Issue Welsh Country Definitives coin cover.
8 March	Issue Magic! stamp cards.
15 March	Issue Magic! stamps, presentation pack and Smilers sheet.
22 March	Issue Castles miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards (5 cards – 4 stamps and miniature sheet).

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World Heritage Sites Four UK and four Australian sites are among many hundreds deemed special and valuable not just to their host nations, but to humanity. Royal Mail celebrates these remarkable sites with Australia Post **176**

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MAGIC HANDKERCHIEF



STEP ONE Sew a coin into a secret pocket in the corner of a handkerchief. Show a second coin while holding the secret pocket.

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Trafalgar stamps Brief mention was made in last month's Late News of new stamps from Crown Agents countries marking the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The series began in January and will continue until May, with further issues in October to coincide with the actual anniversary. The stamps for Tristan da Cunha feature Nelson's Quadrant (15p), HMS *Royal Sovereign* (20p), Nelson being helped by Thomas Swain after being shot on the deck of HMS *Victory* at Trafalgar (25p), HMS *Victory* (35p), portrait of Nelson (50p), and the painting *HMS Victory Leading the Line at Trafalgar 1805* by Francis Smitheman, an artist who excels in maritime images (60p). The 75p stamps in the souvenir sheet feature Captain Thomas Hardy and HMS *Victory* firing a signal gun at Trafalgar. The design of the 25p has local significance to Tristan as Thomas Swain, born in Hastings, ended his days on the island, often telling how he 'caught Nelson' after he had been shot. The six stamps are printed in sheetlets of six with a portrait of Nelson in the sheet margin. The Gibraltar stamps feature a Royal Marine guarding Nelson's body (preserved in a barrel of brandy) on board *Victory* (38p), HM schooner *Entreprenante* which rescued enemy sailors from the sea at Trafalgar (40p), portrait of Nelson (47p), and Smitheman's painting *Leading the Line* (£1.60). The £2 stamp in the souvenir sheet shows HMS *Neptune* towing the *Victory* to Gibraltar. The stamps for each territory will be available in an attractive folder listing Nelson's fleet at Trafalgar, and bearing Nelson's prayer and quotations from the Admiral.

Nigel Fordham, former Head of the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, has studied the career of Nelson for many years and will be writing about the events of 1805 in the *Bulletin*; his first article will be published next month •

Royal Philatelic Society
London 41 Devonshire Place,
London W1G 6JY. www.rpsl.
org.uk

Philatelic society meetings This month's displays at the Royal Philatelic Society London are: Togo – Overprints on stamps of the Gold Coast by Peter Duggan (3 February) and by the Egypt Study Circle (24th). In March displays will be given by members of the British Thematic Association (10th) and the GB Overprints Society. (17th) •

February's meetings at the National Philatelic Society will comprise Bohemia & Moravia by John Hammonds (12th), and Aspects of Rhodesia by Keith Hanman (24th). In March displays will be of New Zealand 1898 Pictorial Issue by Derek Diamond (12th), and Patrick Frost entertains (31st) •

The GB Philatelic Society will meet at Spring Stampex on 26 February, when John Sussex will display King George V stamps. Enquiries to the address opposite, or see website www.gbpps.org.uk •

National Philatelic Society

107 Charterhouse Street,
London EC1M 6PT, or www.ukphilately.org.uk

GBPS Debbie Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE.

Forthcoming UK exhibitions Spring Stampex, organized by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1, 23-27 February. The exhibition will be open 12.00-19.00 Wednesday; 10.30-18.00 Thursday-Saturday, and 10.30-15.00 Sunday. Admission free. 2005 marks the centenary of Rotary International, and an exhibit from the official Rotary collection will be shown on the mezzanine floor. On the 'Village Green', the invited display will be by the GB Philatelic Society and Postal Stationery Society – see special feature in this *Bulletin*. In the Gallery bays there will be the displays in the Dawes Cup Competition, this year organized by the Middlesex Philatelic Federation. David Harrop will be showing material from the Manchester Postal Museum and there are expected to be stands for the Bath Postal Museum and BFPD. Members of the National Philatelic Society will man the information stand, where visitors can pick up the free Stampex catalogue.

The Royal Mail stand will offer the full range of current stamps and related products, with the Jane Eyre stamps, miniature sheet and prestige book going on sale on the second day of the exhibition. As usual posting boxes will be provided for the daily Stampex postmark and for a special Stampex First Day of Issue postmark on 24 February.

A number of societies will be holding meetings at Stampex, and the National Youth Stamp Group will as usual arrange activities for young collectors, including a free auction on the Saturday.

Stampex will be giving a free limited edition postcard to the first 7500 visitors; the card features an unadopted essay for a postal stationery item by permission of the Postal Heritage Trust. The Stampex customized sheetlet of 10 stamps will celebrate the Rotary International centenary. The first 7500 visitors will receive a stamp from the sheetlet free, and further stamps and complete sheets can be purchased at the information stand •

Philatex (London International Stamp & Cover Show) will be held at Lawrence Hall of the Royal Horticultural Society, Greycoat Street, London SW1, 24-26 February. Some 110 dealers will attend. Open Thursday 11.00-19.00, Friday 10.00-18.00, Saturday 10.00-17.00. Admission free. The nearest Underground stations are St James Park and Victoria •

The 6th ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition will be held at the Riviera Centre, Torquay, 24-35 November 2006. The prospectus states that there will be competitions for Thematic, Revenue and Cinderella collectors; also invited displays, hopefully an exhibit from the Royal collection, and an exhibit of Rotary stamps. The organizers hope some 50 dealers will attend and that specialist societies will provide displays and hold meetings •



Stampex 01252 628006.

Philatex 020 8946 or 01793 513431 or see website www.stampshows.co.uk

National Philatelic Exhibition

For a prospectus and further details contact: Barry Horne, 29 Bowhay Lane, Exeter EX4 1PE.

Basildon Exhibition The 5th ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition was held at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon, Essex on 20-21 November 2004. There were many fine displays, both invited and competitive, including some of special interest to collectors of GB stamps, postmarks, and postal history. In the Court of Honour John Bohn showed Mulreadys and 19th century pictorial envelopes and Max Melrose 1919 Strike Mail (see Richard Beith's article in *Bulletin*, June & July 1995), and displays by Essex members of the Royal Philatelic Society London included Aspects of George VI and George V Royal Cypher Issue. The competitive displays included Peter Lister's First UK Aerial Post, 1911 (awarded a gold medal); N Hudson's Airmail to the Scottish Islands (silver); and A Randall Jones' Edward VII ½d (silver-bronze). In the Social Philately class, Dr Jean Alexander's 'Supermarket Philately' on Royal Mail promotional material (covers, packs, etc offered on a variety of products) received a large vermeil and Len Stanway's intriguing 'Mails under London' earned him a silver bronze and a further medal of the same hue for his book on the subject. I thoroughly enjoyed Mrs Ruskin's display 'A Philatelist's View of London' and thought it deserved more than a bronze. K. Johnson's 'Alfred, Lord Tennyson' was also worth seeing and collected a silver. The Social Philately Trophy (and gold medal) was awarded to Margaret Morris for her 'Astronomical Communication in the 19th Century' which was also shown at Autumn Stampex (see December *Bulletin*, p121). The displays by philatelic federations included some GB material: Twopence Blue plate 4 and Britain's European Mails to 1875 (Scottish); Mileage Marks of Worcestershire (Three Counties); British Tax Markings UPU to 1966 (Kent); Edinburgh Late Mail 1796-1937 (North Western); GB Postal Rates 1839-57 (Surrey); Registration and its Forerunners 1705-1841 (Wessex), Profile Head 1912-22 (Yorkshire); and GB Manuscript Franks 1652-1764 (North of England). The Surrey Federation was the winner of the Interfed Trophy.

The venue, it has to be said, was not as good, in my view, as those for the earlier exhibitions in Newcastle, Hove, and Glasgow (I missed Chester in 2002), and more signage of the displays was needed. The Court of Honour for example should have been better positioned and signed. The Interfed displays were in a separate part of the building to the invited and competitive exhibits and the dealers' hall was, as a fellow visitor described it, 'dark'. On the plus side the venue was nearer the main railway station than the sites chosen for Newcastle, Glasgow and Hove. The catering facilities seemed good and there were more visitors than I expected given the minimal publicity. The catalogue was excellent value at 50p and includes a colour-illustrated article on the Ballymacclinton village at the 1908 Shepherd's Bush exhibition. A souvenir cover was produced bearing a Union Flag stamp with ABPS 10th anniversary label, and there were two different exhibition postmarks. The Society of Olympic Collectors also produced a cover with an exhibition SmartStamp. It was pleasing to see a reasonable number of visitors looking at the displays and collectors I spoke to enjoyed the exhibition, albeit with some reservations. We now look forward to the 6th national exhibition at Torquay in November 2006. *John Holman* ●

International exhibitions The Pacific Explorer 2005 World Stamp expo in Sydney, 21-24 April, will comprise up to 1900 competitive frames and over 100 dealers and postal administrations. The Court of Honour will include selected material from the Tapling Collection in the British Library which will be shown in Australia for the first time, together with key collections from the National Philatelic Collection, and private collectors will feature important items of Pacific related philately. Australia Post will release four stamp issues on the first day of the exhibition: a joint Australia-UK issue on World Heritage Sites, an issue entitled 'Creatures of the Slime' and issues marking the centenary of Rotary and the 150th anniversary of the first Australian coin. Other attractions will include a children's area, personalized stamps, and an opportunity to meet Australia Post's Design Studio •

The 18th Asian International Stamp Exhibition will be held in Taipei, Taiwan, from 19-24 August. The Taiwan Post Office will issue eight miniature sheets for the exhibition; the first (27 August 2004) features Taiwan landscapes •

Washington 2006, to be held at the Washington DC Convention Center, 27 May-3 June 2006, will feature 3800 frames of exhibits, over 150 dealers and postal administrations, a display from The Queen's collection, first day ceremonies sponsored by the US Postal Service and other authorities, specialist society meetings and seminars, interactive youth area, and more •

Magazines The December issue of *Stamp Lover* (journal of the National Philatelic Society) includes reports on Autumn Stampex, Spink's auction of the Frazer collection of British Virgin Islands stamps, an article on GB numbered postmarks, a useful checklist of articles in the British philatelic press (January-June 2004), book reviews and news of NPS activities •

December's issue of *Themescene* includes articles on Niagara bridges; GB first day covers, a tribute to Eric Waldo, book reviews, letters and details of British Thematic Association activities. The BTA, which has nearly 300 members, has been invited to display at Spring Stampex 2006 •

The November/December *Topical Time* includes features on stamps depicting Ronald Reagan, the cars of Franklin D Roosevelt, technological triumphs and tragedies, anemometers and windsocks, Romanesti cave concerts, regions of France, Space Shuttle missions, radio and aviation, etc. The Publications Reviews are useful for thematic collectors keen to ensure they haven't missed an article on their subject in the philatelic press •

December's ABPS *news* includes a report on the Philatelic Congress at Winchester, World Championship in Singapore, Autumn Stampex, details of new Royal Mail, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man and Gibraltar issues, and reports from local philatelic societies and federations. The magazine includes a most useful diary of forthcoming exhibitions and events •

The December issue of *Britannia News*, journal of the Netherlands-based Studiegroep Britannia, includes features on India Packet Letter and Parcel post postmarks, the current postal service in the Scottish Highlands, stamped to order postal stationery, reports of recent and forthcoming Royal Mail stamps, and a catalogue for the study group's latest auction •

Pacific Explorer 2005

21 April	11.00-19.00
22-23 April	10.00-18.00
24 April	09.00-17.00

See www.sydney.com.au for further information.

Taipei enquiries Chunghwa Post Co Ltd, 55 Chin Shan South Road, Sec 2, Taipei, Taiwan 106-03, ROC.

Washington 2006 For further details see www.washington-2006.org

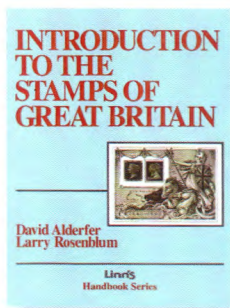
NPS enquiries 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT or see www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

BTA Peter Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford CM23 2BY, or www.brit-thematic-assoc.com

Topical Time is published by The American Topical Association, PO Box 57, Arlington TX 76004-0057, USA. www.american-topical-assn.org.

ABPS c/o British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT.

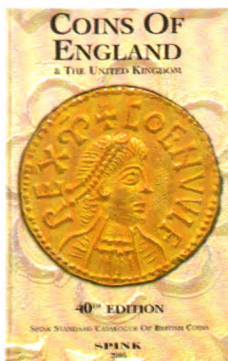
Studiegroep Britannia P de Rooij, Verlengde Horstiaan 4, 3971 MP Driebergen-Rijsenburg, Netherlands, or www.sgbritannia.nl



Published by Amos Hobby Publishing, PO Box 828, 911 Vandemark Rd, Sidney, Ohio 45365-0828, USA. Price \$30 hardback, \$25 softback.

New books Amos Hobby Publishing of Ohio has published *Introduction to the Stamps of Great Britain* by David Alderfer & Larry Rosenblum, well-known contributors of a regular column on GB stamps to *Linn's Stamp News*. The book is a compilation of their columns together with much new material, providing, in 10 chapters, a wide canvas, ranging from history to printing methods, papers, luminescence, and perforation. In their preface, Alderfer and Rosenblum set out what they believe are the main characteristics of British philately – security and conservatism. The predominant characteristic is security – from the design of the Penny Black to the optically variable ink used on the 1992 high value Castle stamps. Of ‘conservatism’ they write: ‘Although they were the first to create a postage stamp as we know it, the British stuck to the standard definitive design long after other countries began to issue commemoratives. Today, Britain’s stamp-issuing policy is restrained compared to that of many other postal administrations’. (Rosenblum seems to have revised his opinion somewhat in a recent article in the *cBCC Chronicle*.) In chapter 1 (‘Collecting Great Britain Stamps’) they suggest that GB stamps offer something for nearly every taste or budget. They advise on areas to collect, where to find British stamps, suitable albums and catalogues, and ways to get started. In chapter 2 on the Victorian era, they point out that Victorian high values ‘were not intended for postal use by the public’ but most collectors include them in a postage stamp collection as they ‘have a majesty and a mystique that most modern collectors cannot ignore’. The third chapter, on the reigns of Edward VII & VIII and George V & VI, covers a period of philatelic innovation – the first stamp books and coils, the introduction of photogravure printing, the first commemoratives, and the modernisation of stamp design for which Eric Gill and Edmund Dulac receive much praise. Chapter 4 looks at the Wilding definitives, the Castle high values of 1955 and 1988, and the regional/country stamps. The Machins are dealt with in a lengthy chapter of their own, with helpful tips on sorting this complicated series, a Machin quiz, and reviews of the main Machin catalogues. Chapter 6 covers Machin booklets and booklet panes, with a listing of the prestige books from 1969 to 2003, and a section on miscut panes. Somewhat disappointing is the rather scant treatment of commemoratives – in a single chapter with postage due issues. It is hoped the special issues will be dealt with at greater length in any second edition of this work. Chapter 8, on Postal History, is a good guide to the sort of material to watch out for in dealers’ boxes, and chapter 9 (Collecting Tips) supplies ideas on obtaining GB stamps with emphasis on mixtures (kiloware), highlights the difficulty of finding fine used examples of some stamps, and also covers errors and varieties, school specimens (black bar overprints), official overprints, and stamps overprinted for use in Ireland and British overseas postal agencies. The final chapter (Miscellaneous) is an eclectic mix dealing with printing methods, stamp design, Ha’penny stamps, perfin, Gerald King fantasy stamps, and Royal Mail Heritage. The book has three indexes – general, GB stamps, and GB stamps by Scott catalogue numbers. All-in-all a useful publication for new and established collectors of GB stamps. 248 pages ●

Readers who also collect British coins will be interested in Spink's new (40th) edition of *Coins of England and the United Kingdom*. This well-established work, first published by Seabys in 1929, opens with a Beginner's Guide to Coin Collecting with useful information on cleaning and buying and selling coins, minting processes, condition, security and insurance. This is followed by Market Trends, the key development over the past year being a market 'now confident that coins are now more likely to appreciate or to hold their value than to fall'. This is in marked contrast to the statement that 'for much of the 1980s and 1990s it could plausibly have been argued that the collecting of British coins, as a serious endeavour, was a thing of the past.' The well-illustrated listings cover Celtic coinage, Roman Britain, Early Anglo-Saxon, Middle Anglo-Saxon, Viking, Kings of Wessex and All England (from 959), Late Anglo-Saxon, Norman Kings, Plantagenet Kings, House of Lancaster, House of York, House of Tudor, House of Stuart, Commonwealth, House of Orange, and the Houses of Hanover, Saxe-Coburg Gotha, and Windsor. As with stamps, the value of coins depends very much on condition and values are quoted for fine, very fine, extremely fine and uncirculated states. Values are also sometimes given for coins in FDC condition; here this abbreviation stands for *fleur de coin* (mint), not first day cover! The text includes historical notes on monarchs' reigns as well as numismatic information on engravers and designers, making this more a handbook than a catalogue. The illustrations are of good quality, making it easy for collectors to identify their coins. Looking at the section on modern decimal coins, it is interesting to see how many new designs there have been on standard value coins as well as special crown coins. Some of these are very interesting and it is sad that so few appear to be in general circulation. It is interesting to note that the last of the 1/2p coins, dated 1984, is now valued at £2 (400 times face value) compared to SG's valuation of just 10p for the last 1/2p stamp (phosphorised paper, 1980) ●



Available from coin and book shops and from Spink & Son Ltd, 69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET. £20 (UK postage £3.45). 550 pages, hardback.

Auctions Cavendish's 25-26 November sale included the 'Culford' collection of Falmouth Packet mail 1686-1847. Top price was £5060 for a 1772 cover with Philadelphia, New York, and London markings. Over 21 items went for over £1000 each. There were some 600 GB lots and the usual rush for decent collections – no bargains here! A first day Mulready made £4140 and an India paper proof £747. An essay for the 'London Postal District' 1d letter sheet reached £362 (est £120), and a rare 'Houses of Parliament' envelope used in London reached £1495. A carton of 1d red plates containing over 10,000 used examples was very popular at £4830 and a smaller lot made £2185. The Dr Colin Ross collection of Cork Postal History saw good prices with top realization of £1495 for a 1761 Cork and 'Ship' marks ●

Sotheby's will auction the British West Indies and South Atlantic collection of the late Sir Gawaine Baillie on 16-18 February. For details of the Baillie collection see Stamp Scene in September 2004 *Bulletin* ●

Spink will auction the GB Revenues collection of Marcus Samuel (1904-97) and some fine GB postage stamps and proofs on 2-3 March, and important GB used abroad, Crown circles and British Empire on 9-10 March ●

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions

Telephone 01332 250970 or see www.cavendish-auctions.com

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

Spink Telephone 020 7563 4000. www.spink.com

Royal Mail news New issues programme • New ingot • Smilers • Coin cover • Archives



Forthcoming special issues There are two stamp issues this month – British Journey/South West England (8 February), and Jane Eyre (24 February). Both issues were previewed in December. The set marking the centenary of the Magic Circle (15 March) and the Castles miniature sheet (22 March) were previewed last month, and this month (pages 176-77) we feature the joint issue with Australia Post on the subject of World Heritage Sites (21 April).

A set featuring the Trooping of the Colour will be issued on 7 June; the stamps are shown here at proof stage, 87% actual size. A miniature sheet marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War will follow on 5 July, and the Transport theme issues of recent years are continued with a set featuring motorcycles on 19 July. This year's Europa theme is Gastronomy, and a set of food stamps will go on sale on 23 August, followed by a set marking the 50th anniversary of Independent Television on 15 September. A key set of the year will be the issue commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar on 18 October. The annual Christmas set will go on sale on 1 November •

New stamp ingot The fourth in the series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V will be available from 22 February. It features the George V 10s Seahorse high value. The last two in the series, featuring the 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition, and 1929 £1 PUC commemoratives will be available from 17 May and 9 August respectively. Nos 1 and 2, featuring the Edward VII 1d and £1 stamps went on sale in June and September – see the July *Bulletin* for details. The six ingots cost £26.95 each from Tallents House. Collectors subscribing to all six will be charged £13.50 for the Edward VII 1d and will also receive a free Collection storage box; the box is also available separately, price £15.95 (order code AG008).

The Victorian stamp ingot series is still available, priced £26.95 each – see the back cover of the September 2003 *Bulletin* for full details •

Stock book Orders to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Price £7.95 (order code PA690)

New Royal Mail stock book A handsome stock book with 16 pages, each with 10 glassine paper strips, is now available – 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 •



Smilers sheets A generic Smilers sheet is now available containing 20 Farm Animals stamps. The stamps in these Smilers sheets are all printed by lithography, whereas the stamps from ordinary sheets are printed in gravure. Price £6.15. The next Smilers sheet will be for the Magic issue (15 March) and contains 20 of the 1st class stamp, price £6.15. The labels alongside the stamps illustrate how to perform four magic tricks.

For details of how to order customised versions of the sheets, with your own image printed on the labels 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. At the Smilers website (www.royalmail.com/smilers), orders can be placed using digital photos. Customised sheets will also be available through Snap Digital photobooths at selected Post Office branches and Safeway stores ●

Labels on the Magic Smilers sheet show four magic tricks: Coin from thin air, Nothing up your sleeve, Magic handkerchief, and Coin in a bread roll.

2006 stamp programme The subjects for next year's issues are as follows. The exact dates of issue and values will be announced nearer the time of issue. Please note that dates are subject to change ●

January	Children's Book Illustrations*
February	British Journey: Northern England
February	Brunel
March	Ice Age Mammals
April	The Queen's 80th birthday
May	Cultural Integration

June	World Cup
June	Architecture
September	Victoria Cross
October	National Portrait Gallery
November	Christmas
* joint issue with USA	



Written Word coin cover A new coin cover will be available from 24 February, day of issue of the Jane Eyre stamps, miniature sheet and prestige book. The coin cover, price £13.50, is entitled 'The Written Word and the Printed Page' and bears the Jane Eyre stamps cancelled by a special Hay-on-Wye postmark. Encapsulated in the cover is a new Royal Mint 50p brilliant uncirculated coin marking the 250th anniversary of the

publication of Samuel Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language*. The filler card in the cover features notable characters in the history of English literature including Shakespeare, Johnson, Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë and J K Rowling ●

Jane Eyre stamps The plate numbers and colours are: 2nd class w1 silver w1 pale sage green w1 grey w1 black; 1st and 40p w1 silver w1 yellow w1 magenta w1 cyan (blue) w1 black; 57p and £1.12 w1 silver w1 grey w1 black; 68p w1 silver w1 pale grey w1 yellow w1 magenta w1 cyan w1 black. Phosphor w1 all values ●

Coming off sale Any remaining stocks of the 2004 Occasions stamps, pack, stamp cards and Smilers sheet will be withdrawn from sale at Tallents House on 2 February. The Lord of the Rings stamps and stamp cards will be withdrawn on 25 February; the pack is already sold out ●

Royal Mail Archive Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Open Monday to Friday 10.00-17.00 (Thursday until 19.00). Telephone 020 7239 2570. E-mail heritage@royalmail.com

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

Royal Mail Archive An exhibition of Victorian stamps is now on display at Royal Mail Archive. The exhibition tells the story of British stamps in the 19th century, from the Penny Black to the 'Jubilee' issue of 1887. The items on show include unique registration sheets and items from the world-famous Reginald M Phillips Collection. The exhibition runs until Summer 2005; the items on display will change from time to time. A well-produced brochure has been produced to accompany the exhibition.

The Archive will be open on Saturdays 26 February, 9 April, 11 June, 13 August, 17 September, 8 October, and 10 December. Sessions giving an introduction to the Archive plus a 'behind the scenes' tour will take place on: 17 February, 10 March, 21 April, 19 May, and 16 June – at 16.30 on 10 March and 21 April, and at 13.00 on other dates. Call 020 7239 2570 to book a place. A free lunchtime talk on 'Family History in the Royal Mail Archive' will be held at 13.00 on 15 April – call 020 7239 2570 for a ticket.

Large items such as vehicles are kept at the Postal Heritage Museum Store at Loughton, Essex which will open to the public on 7 May, 11 June, 16 July and 17 September. Please book in advance if you wish to visit ●



Magic stamps Shown at left is the first day cover for the Magic stamps. The stamps were accidentally omitted from the cover and the presentation pack illustrated in last month's *Bulletin* ●

Philately on-line Ron Negus on a Victorian postmarks site

Great Britain Philately



George V - High Value Definitives - 'The Sealers'



Exhibition Pages:

Problems of the Penny Plates

NEWSPAPER stories today often report a decline in postal services and tell how many rural post offices are being forced to close. These closures often lead to the loss of postmarks bearing town and village names that have been in use for many years. For the postal historian, tracing post towns from postmark impressions is often a labour intensive task. It becomes even more difficult when the stamp or cover being investigated has only a few letters of the name visible on an incomplete strike.

John A McCulloch, a collector in the USA, has created a useful site (address above) to help others wanting to discover where a partial postmark might have come from. It is particularly aimed at the GB post-towns that were current in the Victorian era. The searching facility is very easy to use. It is only necessary to type in whatever consecutive letters can be deciphered on the postmark, and then to press the 'Search' button. A list of the post-towns in which those letters occur is shown in a results panel.

As an example, searching for the letters 'robe' found two possible locations – from 'Ballinrobe' and 'Robertsbridge'. The author recognises that there may be other towns that were not on the various lists he used to construct the site. He requests, therefore, that any user who finds a missing town should send him an e-mail so that his listing can be updated.

In another section, John McCulloch has reproduced an introductory study paper that he wrote concerning the problems that can occur when

<http://philately.ttrr.org/gb> Note that the usual www. prefix is not required. It is a companion site to a larger one that is concerned with the history of some local railways in the USA. The webmaster is also a philatelist who has incorporated various stamp pages.

studying the Penny Plates of GB Line Engraved stamps. This brief overview of the production process for these issues is designed to assist collectors to understand the varieties which can be found on them. Illustrations of some of the printing flaws that occur are shown, with enlarged pictures to make them easier to see.

These various plating problems are considered under separate headings depending on the stage of production at which they occurred. Headings used are Roller Flaws, Plate Errors, Check Letters, Re-touches, and Pressing. For each of these, pictures of the complete stamps are shown followed by a description of the flaw and, finally, a separate close-up of the areas concerned is given.

A light-hearted section has been included that lists Errors, Freaks and Oddities that have been recorded on GB stamps. These are fully illustrated and contain brief written descriptions about the items on view. They cover mistakes showing misplaced perforations, flaws in plate numbers and watermark errors, for example. Clicking on any stamp pictured here produces an enlarged copy for closer study.

A feature on this site that will interest collectors of early GB is the on-line index to H W Fisher's book *Plating the Penny 1840-1864*. The five volumes of this classic work are now available as a publication (with joint authorship of Roland Brown) produced by the Great Britain Philatelic Society. The index on Mr McCulloch's site contains the relevant positional data for use with these books, and is derived from a copyright database he compiled with the original author's permission before Harold Fisher died. The site concludes with details of websites from societies, dealers and auction houses offering GB information or items for sale, reached by clicking the button entitled 'AtoZee's GB Links' ●

A career in design Barry Robinson's A to Z

THE FOURTH AND FINAL Postal Heritage Trust lecture of 2004 was held on 7 December at the Phoenix Centre in London, where Barry Robinson, well known to many collectors, talked about his time at Royal Mail as its Director of Design.

Barry's career started at *The Observer* newspaper in 1965, from where he moved on to the ailing British Oxygen and implemented a unified corporate identity change across 23 countries. Next came ICL, the Bovis Group and P&O before he finally moved to Royal Mail in the Queen's Silver Jubilee year of 1977. He stayed until the Golden Jubilee, 25 years later. During this period, Barry reckons that he must have been responsible for 200 special stamp issues and, if ancillary products and the definitive range is included, probably over 1000 stamp designs in total.

The culture that Barry entered had remained unchanged for many years; promotion was generally from within, with few specialists employed. Senior management tended to have huge, sumptuous offices with drinks cabinets and a Civil Service approach to the work ethic. A new corporate



Accuracy was the bedrock of Barry's department. Flora and fauna were the subjects that caused the biggest headaches over the years. When a Natural History Museum specialist queried the accuracy of a trout illustration (shown above), the artist was questioned. It transpired that the very fish was still in the freezer and was brought to Barry. It had been correctly painted, so there the matter rested!

Brief There is a misconception that a designer is given a full written brief before commencing design work. This is rarely the case, unless specifics must be incorporated, such as a design from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. A free hand is generally given, with discussion, and then pencil thumbnails are initially produced. It tends to be an evolution, rather than a revolution, and as many as four development meetings may be held before Royal Mail receives design proposals.

Criteria and Convention There is a definitive set of criteria for special stamps which includes portraying the British way of life, patronage of the arts, depiction of world events, etc. A recent addition is that the programme must meet financial targets. Certain conventions must also be complied with, such as avoiding controversy, no depiction of living people unless they are Royalty or are a minor part of the overall image, maintaining balance and variety, etc.

Design Everyone has a view, and all want to get involved with design, from Her Majesty down. As a result, many people get to see most stages of the process at every step of development.



Essay At the time of the Coronation in 1953, around 70 essays were produced for that stamp issue. Nowadays, around two or three sets are more the norm.

Future Who can tell what the future will bring? When the telephone was introduced, it was believed that stamps would die. Clearly, the internet, emails and text messaging are considered a threat, but Barry believes that stamps have a bright future.



Gravure This is probably the best process for the printing of stamps as it applies a thick layer of ink and offers bright colour rendition, although it is not as cheap as lithography. The 16p Sissinghurst Gardens design was trial printed by lithography and gravure to provide comparisons between the two processes. The text was better in litho, but the colours appeared washed out, while the opposite was true with the gravure version.

of stamps and production, by Glenn Morgan

identity scheme started in 1970 by Banks and Miles but only really initiated on a large scale in 1977 had introduced different colours for the telephones, Giro and Postal businesses, red and yellow being the postal colours, with a unique lettering font for Post Offices and Royal Mail.

Design extended well beyond just stamps, as Barry was also responsible for vehicle liveries, signage, uniforms, pillar-boxes, sorting machinery and Mail Rail. He also established a test-bed for a new look Post Office, within the Crayford vehicle maintenance depot. There were 73 new components in this mock public office including carpets, single queue barriers, security screens, disabled counters, electronic scales, stamp dispensers and the like.

Barry proceeded to reminisce about his work in stamps. The first issue he handled was the Charles and Diana issue of 1981, which was an unforeseen addition to that year's programme, followed by the Darwin set of 1982, which was in-plan. Explaining how his lecture has been given to many audiences in many different formats, he had concluded that an A-Z of topics was most appropriate for such a varied audience •

This is the first of two articles on Barry Robinson's lecture. The second will be published next month.



Hidden images Royal Mail has been playful with designs down the years. A Christmas umbrella (above) included a snow map, the Mitchell Spitfire stamp had Mitchell's face disguised as clouds, and the Cuneo trains set included his trademark mouse. There are others.



Intaglio An expensive, slow process in which ink is drawn from recesses on a plate or cylinder and onto the stamp paper. Czeslaw Slania, acknowledged as the world's leading stamp engraver, has been used when possible, as above.



Joint issues The 1988 Australia issue, above, was the first instance of Royal Mail partaking in a joint stamp issue. The next was for the Channel Tunnel, which Barry believes suffered from its overly large format. More such issues are planned, as they bring fresh design concepts to the annual special stamps programme.



K (thousand) The Millennium set of 100 designs (below left), each one by a different artist, was perhaps the most ambitious and controversial issue. It was either loved or loathed, but Barry believes that in 50 years time, people will finally understand what it was all about. Producing 48 stamps about the past, 48 about the present and four for the future was no small undertaking.



Lead times In general, it takes three years from concept to launch although this has obviously been beaten in the recent past with the untimely death of Diana, Princess of Wales. This was the quickest production turnaround so far, although discussions with the Spencer family resulted in a long delay before they actually appeared in Post Offices.

World Heritage Sites Four pairs of stamps



Above, left to right: 2nd class Hadrian's Wall and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park; 1st class Stonehenge and Wet Tropics, Queensland; 47p Blenheim Palace and the Greater Blue Mountains Area; 68p Neolithic Orkney (Ring of Brodgar) and Purnululu National Park.

A JOINT ISSUE with Australia Post featuring World Heritage Sites in the UK and Australia goes on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 21 April to coincide with the opening of the Pacific Explorer international stamp exhibition in Sydney. The eight stamps will be printed in four horizontal se-tenant pairs showing a British and Australian site. The stamps are also being issued by Australia Post in 50c (two pairs), \$1 and \$1.80 denominations.

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

Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé

Security Print

Process Lithography

Stamp size 35mm square

Sheet size 30 and 60

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 21 April, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Blenheim must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £4.32 UK or £3.68 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 (Blenheim postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0511' (Tallents House), or 'FD0512' (Blenheim). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Blenheim postmark. A non-pictorial Blenheim postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FD0512 NP'.

Sponsored handstamps for 21 April 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.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A pack (price £3.85) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House. A World Heritage coin cover will be available, price £15.95. This will bear two se-tenant pairs of British and two se-tenant pairs of Australian stamps cancelled by special Stonehenge and Sydney postmarks, and has the Royal Mint 2005 50p coin encapsulated. There will be joint first day covers and a joint pack with Australia Post – details next month.

for Royal Mail's joint issue with Australia Post



Heritage sites The four British sites are all well-known. Hadrian's Wall was built by the Emperor Hadrian (shown on a 1992 stamp) to safeguard the northern frontier of his Empire. It is a popular attraction for walkers and all interested in Roman history. Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites are major Neolithic monuments, Stonehenge being associated with Druids and the Summer Solstice. Blenheim Palace was built for John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, to celebrate his victory over the French in 1704. It was the birthplace in 1874 of Sir Winston Churchill and the Palace featured on the first day cover for the 1974 Churchill stamps. The Ring of Brodgar (or Brogar) represents the Heart of Neolithic Orkney – Stone Age ceremonial, burial and dwelling sites; Skara Brae featured on a Prehistoric Scotland acrogramme in 1995 (see *Bulletin* July 1995) •

The presentation pack, above, written by Maeve Kennedy and designed by Godfrey Design, features Blenheim Palace, the Giant's Causeway, Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, Stonehenge, Neolithic Orkney, the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and Hadrian's Wall.

This is Royal Mail's first World Heritage Sites issue, but some sites have featured on earlier stamps

1 Canterbury Cathedral Cathedrals 1969, Christmas 1971

2 Durham Cathedral Cathedrals 1969

3 Harlech Castle Landscapes 1966

4 Westminster Abbey Anniversary 1966, London International Exhibition 1980

5 Palace of Westminster Parliamentary Conferences 1961, 1973 & 1975, 700th Anniversary of Parliament 1965, London International Stamp Exhibition 1980, Australian Bicentenary 1988, Gilbert and Sullivan 1992, London Bridges 2002

6 St Kilda National Trusts 1981

7 Maritime Greenwich *Gypsy Moth*/Sir Francis Chichester 1967, British Ships *Cutty Sark* 1969, European Architectural Heritage Year 1975, Astronomy 1990

8 City of Bath Body & Bone 2000

9 Saltaire Workers' Tale 1999

10 New Lanark Industrial Archaeology 1989

11 Tower of London Historic Buildings 1978, London International Stamp Exhibition 1980, Gilbert and Sullivan 1992

12 Dorset & East Devon Coast British Journey: South-west England 2004

13 Giant's Causeway National Trusts 1981, Northern Ireland country 2001, British Journey: Northern Ireland 2004

14 Edinburgh Old and New Towns Cathedrals 1969, European Architectural Heritage Year 1975

15 Caernarfon Castle High Values 1953 & 1988, Prince of Wales Investiture 1966, Historic Buildings 1978

16 Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Kew Gardens 1990

17 Ironbridge, Shropshire Industrial Archaeology 1989







Charlotte Brontë: Jane Eyre



Emily Brontë: Wuthering Heights

Above: Charlotte Brontë, by George Richmond, and Charlotte and Emily on two of the Famous Authoresses stamps of 1980. This article was originally published in the *Bulletin*, June 1980.

The Brontës Victorian ladies, or gentlemen?

FAR AWAY from the scandals of London literary circles an extraordinary family on the windswept Yorkshire Moors dreamed of literary fame and, from one small stone house in a remote village, produced for their own and future generations the extraordinary combination of one good and often-read novelist, one great writer of an enduring classic and a strange and wilful genius who left one of the world's greatest and most haunting novels and a handful of immortal poems. In the remote Haworth parsonage the motherless Brontë children had all written avidly from childhood to entertain each other with poems and stories. After the death of their two eldest sisters, Charlotte, Emily, and Anne were left alone with their eccentric father and brother and would probably have remained unknown, merely writing their remarkable novels for their own entertainment if Charlotte had not discovered a manuscript of Emily's poems. After a stormy attempt to overcome Emily's natural diffidence, Charlotte finally persuaded her to allow the poems to be published in a small volume to which all three sisters contributed. *The Poems* by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell, as they styled themselves, was published at their own expense in 1846 and sold the grand total of two copies! Nevertheless the joy of seeing themselves in print gave them all the confidence to offer their novels to London publishers. Charlotte's first novel, *The Professor*, was refused by a succession of publishers and was not finally published until 1857 after her death. Undaunted, she sent off her second novel, *Jane Eyre*, which was published to immediate critical acclaim by Smith Elder in October 1847. G H Lewes in the *Westminster Review* called it 'Decidedly the best novel of the season', and opened the way to the final revelation of their secret when he declared: '...that these volumes are from the pen of a lady, and a clever one too, we have not the shadow of a doubt'.

December of the same year saw the publication of Emily's *Wuthering Heights*, described by Charlotte herself as 'moorish and wild, and knotty as a root of health' and Anne's *Agnes Grey*, which had been accepted immediately in 1847. So many people believed that the works were all from the pen of one person that Charlotte and Anne were compelled to reveal themselves to their publishers in the summer of 1848. Tragically, fame and success were short lived, for by the summer of 1849 Charlotte was left alone following an agonising year which had seen the death of her brother Branwell followed by that of Emily in December 1848 and Anne in May 1849. Charlotte continued to write and to correspond and meet with the leading literary figures of the day, but after a brief period of happiness following her marriage to her father's curate, the Reverend Arthur Bell Nicholls, she died in pregnancy in 1855 at the age of 38.

The tragedy of the Brontës is that their brief spell of literary fame lasted for such a short span of their own lives, and that they undoubtedly had so much more to offer before they died, leaving behind such a great contribution to Victorian literature and to the creation of the English heroine.

Even in their own generation, the life of the Brontë sisters had taken on the quality of a literary myth, an impression fostered by Mrs Gaskell's biography of the eldest sister Charlotte, which was published two years after the latter's death in 1855.





One of the Jane Eyre stamps to be issued on 24 February, and Branwell Brontë and his sisters on Keighley and Worth Valley Railway letter stamps.



A rare, triple-volume first edition of *Jane Eyre* was sold for £22,859 at a Sotheby's auction in New York in June 2004. The finely bound copies, in a 'remarkable condition', were published in 1847. In December the *Daily Telegraph* reported discovery of a secret staircase, believed to have featured in *Jane Eyre*. Charlotte Brontë is thought to have based the character Mrs Rochester, who was locked up at Thornfield Hall, on a story she heard during a visit to Norton Conyers House near Ripon. The house now attracts 2000 visitors a year, many of them Brontë aficionados. The recently discovered staircase links the first floor directly to the attic, as described by Brontë. The owners of Norton Conyers, Sir James and Lady Graham, hope one day to open the room and stairs to visitors.

Their lives, artistic and personal, and their novels are so very different and yet an underlying similarity of purpose and talent links the great ladies of Victorian literature; the first stirrings of a profound belief that women have their own individual literary voice, perhaps best expressed by George Eliot in the penultimate review before she wrote her own first work of fiction:

'Women can produce novels not only fine, but among the very finest; nov- els too, that have a precious speciality, lying quite apart from masculine aptitudes and experience. No educational restrictions can shut women out from the materials of fiction, and there is no species of art which is so free from rigid requirements. Like crystalline masses, it may take any form, and yet be beautiful, we have only to pour in the right elements – genuine observation, humour and passion...' three qualities with which our Victorian ladies have enriched English literature in inestimable measure ●

Signature print © The Brontë Society

Mainly Machins Specialist collectors report by D G A Myall

A British Journey This started with a set of stamps for Scotland in 2003. It was followed by a set for Wales and another for Northern Ireland in 2004. For each of these, a book of six first class stamps was issued containing two first class stamps from the set and four first class Machins. By the time this article is published, the first set for England will soon be issued. It covers the area where I live and from the previews I have seen the stamps do more than justice to this scenic part of Britain. There will, however, be no book for this part of the Journey or, indeed, for any other part of England. This series of books has come to an end.

The first news of this came in the July *Bulletin* (p337) when the previously announced book containing two of the Woodland Animals stamps and four Machins was cancelled. The disappearance of the very popular mixed books means that Eng-

land, alone among the countries of the UK, will not be featured in them.

The last to be issued was the one for the journey in Wales. Like the first one, containing two of the Submarine specials, it is becoming difficult to obtain if you did not get one when they were first issued. The reason is that the first class stamp in the set, and the one in the book, was chosen to mark Britain's participation in the annual Europa omnibus issue. Europa stamps have a strong following and many collectors will want to include the book in their collection. In case you missed it, the word Europa appears at the top right of the stamp concerned.

Machin stationery Postal stationery is a very extensive and, in my opinion, neglected aspect of Machin collecting. It is much too big a subject to

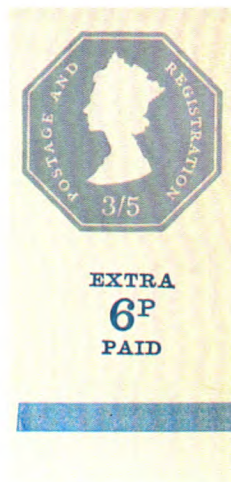
POST CARD.—REPLY.
GREAT



CARTE POSTALE.—RÉPONSE.
BRITAIN



THIS HALF IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR TRANSMISSION
TO GREAT BRITAIN.
CETTE PARTIE N'EST VALABLE QUE POUR EXPÉDITION
À LA GRANDE BRETAGNE.



A 4d reply paid postcard used from Gibraltar to the UK, postmarked 30 June 1971

3s5d+6p registered envelope



4d stamped envelope



23p registered envelope



3p lettercard



4d lettercard

deal with adequately here, but perhaps I can give some indication of the interest this material can offer. It includes postcards, reply-paid postcards, letter cards, envelopes, registered envelopes, air letters (or aerogrammes), and stamped-to-order (STO) stationery. These have been printed by various methods, including gravure, letterpress and embossing. The Machin diadem head appears on much of this material, both decimal and pre-decimal, and in forms that have never appeared on the usual definitive stamps.

The first cards with a Machin head were issued on 16 September 1968 when the two-tier post was established. The rates became 4d second class and 5d first class. Only cards for the second class service were issued. The head was printed in sepia by letterpress. In keeping with the decision to leave the iconic profile uncluttered, the word

POSTAGE appeared left and right of it and even the value was separate. The reply-paid cards consisted of two joined cards, each with the paid impression. The second card was intended for use by the addressee in answer. Remarkably, these cards were valid for posting from abroad to any address in Great Britain, and a very interesting collection of these 'used abroad' cards can be formed. They ceased to be issued on 2 October 1970, so there is not a lengthy period to cover.

Letter cards were about the size of a postcard but were on thinner material and folded in half. Three sides were gummed so that the cards could be sealed. These edges were perforated to enable them to be torn away to open the letter. The first such card with the Machin head was the 5d issued on 16 September 1968. The 4d sepia followed on 5 March 1969.

The first Machin envelope was issued for the first class service on 7 October 1969. The second class one was issued on 5 January 1970. By this time the colour of all 4d stamps had been changed to vermilion. Both envelopes had a new version of the head. This was printed by embossing within an octagonal frame which also contained the word POSTAGE (twice) and the value. The head and text were in white and only the background was coloured. The 4d impression had a single phosphor bar to the right, while the 5d had two bars, one at each side.

This octagonal design was also used for inland registered envelopes. A single impression paid the combined postage and registration fees and this was indicated by changed wording. The first of these envelopes bore a 3s 5d impression (shown simply as 3/5) on a grey background. It was issued on 13 April 1970.

In the early decimal period there were frequent changes in rates, caused mainly by inflation. Usually, existing stocks of stationery were uprated by adding ordinary stamps to the card or envelope to meet the underpayment. Occasionally, stocks were sufficient to justify the cost of printing an uprating symbol next to the existing impression. There are several forms of this with different values. One has the symbol printed at the left of the 3p octagon on an envelope issued on 2 October 1973. It consists of a double ring with the words POSTAGE PAID / EXTRA within them and 1/2p in the centre. This may have been a special printing as the envelope has two phosphor bars to indicate the new first class rate, whereas the 3p envelopes without the symbol have only one. But my favourite occurred when decimal currency was introduced. The 3s 5d envelope was uprated with a 6p symbol to make the new rate of 23½p. As far as I know, this is the only dual currency item that exists.

Another form of stationery was introduced on 21 April 1982, when Postnotes replaced letter cards. These were printed by letterpress and had the Machin head above a large figure 1 on a scroll design, the words Royal Mail above it and First Class/Post Paid below it. There are two forms of the head. As first issued it has a curved base with

a shadow, similar to what is known in gummed issues as Head B. In 1986 this became a straight base without a shadow and similar to Head A. It is believed that this latter version was derived from a drawing by Rory Matthews. The same design, and a similar one for the second class service, were used on envelopes issued later the same year.

I do not have the space to cover other aspects of this subject, such as changes of design and value on the decimal issues including the use of NVIS, the unusual colours used on business envelopes, air letters, or STO stationery, but I hope that I have said enough to convince you that collecting Machin postal stationery offers an interesting field of collecting and study. Surprisingly only two specialised catalogues published in this country deal with this material. *The Connoisseur Catalogue*, edited by James Skinner and published by B Alan Ltd is one. The other is my own *The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook*. If you are interested in the subject, either will give you a good grounding in it. Better still, get both!

Printing methods Following my note on this subject last time, it has been announced that the set to be issued on 15 March to mark the centenary of the Magic Circle will include some unusual techniques to illustrate some best-known Magic tricks. We are promised optical illusions, making objects appear and disappear, a first class stamp printed with a special ink which, when rubbed with a coin, reveals either a head or a tail, the first time that Royal Mail has applied this technique to stamps. Half of the printing will have a head, the other half a tail. Will you be able to collect both of them in mint condition?

Another unusual stamp that I have become aware of was issued by The Netherlands in 2001. It was made of a thin piece of genuine silver, minted (not printed) by the Royal Dutch Mint in Utrecht and is self-adhesive. Because silver can oxidise in air, collectors have a problem in keeping it in pristine condition. The issuer also has a problem as any postmark can be cleaned off fairly easily. Is this the world's first re-usable stamp I wonder? ●

Stampex display The Postal Stationery Society and Great Britain Philatelic Society, by Allan Jones and Colin Baker

K.G.V. Postal Rates.

AIRMAIL SERVICES.

Foreign Mail

The first regular airmail service to an overseas destination commenced on the 10th November 1919, and was between London and Paris. The fee per ounce was 2/6d. in addition to ordinary postage. This fee included express delivery in France only. The rate lasted for 6 months.



19th January 1920. Charing Cross to Paris. Postage 2½d. Airmail + Express
fee 2½d. Reaslow to Le Bourget, Paris backstamp dated 20th January 15-25.
FIRST DAY REGISTERED AIRMAIL.

FIRST DAY REGISTERED AIRMAIL



10th November 1919. The first day of the first regular international airmail service, London to Paris. Due to the weather, the flight was impossible, and the mail was held for 24 hours.

At the forthcoming Spring Stampex to be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London 23-27 February, the major display on the 'Village Green' will be a joint one provided by the Great Britain Philatelic Society and the Postal Stationery Society.

GBPS The Great Britain Philatelic Society is the national society for all who collect the stamps or postal history of Great Britain. It was founded at a meeting held in December 1955 when 29 persons resolved to form the Society, the objects of which were 'a) to promote, encourage and contribute to the advancement of the Philately of Great Britain, (b) to publish as often as decided by the Council, a bulletin or journal, (c) to publish or sponsor the publication of papers, books etc, dealing with any phase of the Philately of Great Britain and (d) to co-operate with other

Line Engraved - 1841-53 One Penny and Two Pence

Used
Plate 3



Edinburgh Maltese Crosses



Welshpool solid centre
Maltese Cross, believed to be
uniform on this adhesion.

Plate 4



The block at right shows previously unrecorded reversed part "POSTAGE" marginal watermark.

the Society's Golden Jubilee. It is intended to be very much a member display and one which illustrates the full range of subjects that GB collecting embraces. The membership ranges from the advanced specialists to straightforward 'one of each' collectors. So what is offered is a mixture of sheets, ranging from those that would grace any international exhibition to those that take a comparatively humble subject and demonstrate how it can provide both interest and pleasure.

What is shown is arranged broadly in chronological order, commencing with early pre-stamp postal history covering both local and cross-channel mail. Postal reform and the introduction of the penny post follows, together with examples of Mulready envelopes.

Postage stamps were first introduced in 1840, and the 1d black and 2d blue are well represented. Then comes the change of colour of the 1d to red in 1841. Many members are interested in the various types of cancellations applied to the early line engraved stamps, and a comprehensive range of these will be seen. The first officially perforated stamps were issued in 1854, but experimental forms of separation were carried out six years before this. The story of perforation is told through to 1880. There is a study of the perforated 2d blue used on cover. The embossed issues of 1847-54 were required to pre-pay heavy, registered and overseas mail, and their use on cover is shown. The Victorian surface printed issues, including the 'high' values, are not forgotten and there is a short study of the Jubilee 4½d. The tender essays for the 1879 consolidated contract provide a colourful showing. The coded time system of 1894 provides interest, as do registered envelopes from 1886 with compensation labels.

The beautiful stamps of Edward VII make a fine showing, and include essays, colour trials and booklets, together with a study of 'used errors'. George V's reign is comprehensively covered from the much criticised at the time 'Downey Head' issue to the 1924 photogravure series. The 'Seahorse' issues are represented, together with booklets, and the 1924-25 Wembley commemorative stamps. The civilian postal services available at the time and postal rates which applied to them

are illustrated. George VI material has gained in popularity, and the display includes the reasons and influences on the design of the issues. There is a study of the 10s value, and booklets and coil stamps are well represented. Examples of 'Service suspended' mail are featured.

There is a strong representation of Queen Elizabeth II issues, with 'Wildings', 'regionals', 'castles' and both pre- and post-decimal Machins. Commemorative issues are not forgotten, with constant varieties and a study of the 1972 Village Churches issue being shown.

Social philately has now become recognised, and examples of how this can be approached are illustrated. Airmail collecting is represented by the 1911 Coronation service and Second World War covers. Revenue and college stamps are included, and postal stationery is represented by the 1878 registered envelope.

The Society welcomes membership applications from all who collect GB and believes that it has much to offer to both the beginner and the advanced specialist. Members will be on hand at the Stampex display to provide information. The Membership Secretary is Debbie Harman, who will be pleased to help at other times. Telephone 01294 285226 or e-mail gbpsmemsec@aol.com

The Postal Stationery Society Unlike the GBPS, the Postal Stationery Society has no milestone to celebrate this year, as it is just 12 years old. However, despite its 'youth' it is already respected in the philatelic world. It was formed in 1992 for all collectors of postal stationery around the world, and membership has steadily increased to nearly 250. Its aim is to cater for the growing number of collectors of postal stationery, to further the study of this material and to develop its collecting into a more readily accepted branch of philately. As a result, many displays have been given to local societies with postal stationery as the theme and more postal stationery entries are appearing in local, national and international competitions. Stamp dealers are also taking postal stationery more seriously, segregating and sorting this from other types of postal history. It is now easier to study and collect all types of postal stationery.



The PSS issues a well-edited magazine four times a year that covers all aspects of postal stationery. It holds meetings where members can meet, chat and exchange ideas, its auctions are exclusively for members, in which only postal stationery is accepted and sold, and it has a comprehensive library of philatelic books with a postal stationery theme. The society also has a well-managed website.

Postal stationery, once a cinderella branch of philately, is now taken much more seriously. It is defined by the FIP (the international governing body) as postal matter which either bears an officially authorised pre-printed stamp or device or inscription indicating that a specific face value of postage or related service has been prepaid. So anything from a postcard to a certificate of posting with a pre-printed stamp can be included in a collection, and many collectors do just that. One type of stationery not included in this description is the mass of advertising and 'junk' mail that lands on our doorsteps on a daily basis. Important as this is to the Post Office and advertis-

ers alike, it does not carry a stamp with a specific face value and therefore is not defined as postal stationery. But don't throw those envelopes away, they are tomorrow's postal history!

One drawback felt by many collectors of modern postal stationery is the lack of a suitable catalogue. The American-produced Higgins and Gage world stationery catalogue was last revised in the early 1970s, as was the catalogue of British Postal Stationery published by the GBPS. There have been other attempts since then to list certain sections of British postal stationery, but many of these are now well out of date. This will shortly change with a new and up-to-date simplified listing of all British postal stationery about to appear on the philatelic scene, compiled by Dr Alan Huggins (who wrote the detailed catalogue in 1970) and Colin Baker. It is hoped this will help collectors and dealers to identify and price postal stationery, especially the more modern material.

The Village Green will have 100 frames filled with displays provided by the PSS. These cover all aspects of this branch of philately, ranging

from the very first items of postal stationery, to modern material that is only just beginning to be appreciated. Frames deal with stamped to order material, air letters, envelopes, postcards and all manner of items issued or approved by the Post Office over the past 165 years.

Although the UK was the first country in the world to introduce postal stationery on a national basis, in 1840, many other countries copied our ideas, and towards the end of the 19th century it was a requirement of the UPU that many items of postal stationery be made available by all member countries for general use by their citizens. Therefore, as well as the displays of British postal stationery, there are also exhibits of postal stationery from other countries.

Some frames will make your mouth water, while others will be more down to earth to encourage more collectors to make this a serious part of our collections. A full description of what is on show on the Village Green will appear in the Stampex catalogue. The displays include British material not often gathered together in one place. If you get the chance, do spend a while browsing the display frames. You are likely to be inspired to start a new collecting field and to spread your wings into a new area of philately, once thought of as unworthy of a place in the stamp album.

For more information on the Postal Stationery Society, write to Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 7AY, or see www.postalstationery.org.uk •

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Saving for a rainy day Richard West talks to Brian Trotter

BRIAN TROTTER is a collector who has come to prominence in the past five years, noted for his collections of Southern Africa, as the Assistant Secretary of The Royal Philatelic Society London, and as the Deputy Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust. But why had we not heard of Brian, or of his collection, prior to 2000?



Southern Africa, and even further refinement. While South Africa may not have become 'home' again, his collections maintain the link with his roots.

However, as he worked around the world, not always in a climate conducive to keeping stamps, Brian's collection has had wait for his retirement. He would accumulate mater-

It all started in a conventional way. Following the lead from his school friends, Brian began collecting when he was about 9, swapping and accumulating a general mixture of material, until his teens; then other factors took hold. Brian was born and brought up in South Africa and, after military service and university, at the age of 23 he decided the time was right to take a year's leave and see the world. He has yet to return – at least as far as making South Africa home once more.

It was his mother who returned Brian to collecting – or more accurately, accumulating. She found his old albums, and the interest was rekindled. He decided to focus on what he believed was a fairly narrow field, the British Commonwealth, but that soon proved to be too ambitious and had to be 'contained', first to British Africa, then to

material, learning from the many specialist societies of which he is a member, but not able to enjoy or research his collection, which was stored in England. He bought from dealers and auctions, both in the UK and South Africa. He knew that he was preparing for his retirement, which he was able to take in 2000 at the age of 55. He has spent the past five years dedicated to the hobby, catching up with material gathered over 25 years.

In the past five years he has achieved a great deal. His aim is to have all his collections properly written up, ready for display and exhibiting. Those collections involve the Edwardian stamps and postal history of Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange River Colony, Transvaal and the Union of South Africa, revenues of Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa and

Southern Rhodesia, and the postal stationery of Natal and South Africa. His material is mounted on sheets, housed in protectors, and kept in boxes.

Among his better acquisitions was a box of fixed deposit receipts from the late 19th and early 20th centuries from a bank in the Transvaal. Although acquired for the revenue stamps, the receipts proved to be of great historical interest.

Already he has received two international large gold medals, and recently has published his book *The Edwardian Stamps of the South African Colonies*. He has previously produced a catalogue of the revenues of Basutoland and Bechuanaland, and has written several articles for The Royal Philatelic Society magazine *The London Philatelist*, and for the journals of the many Southern Africa collectors' societies of which he is a member.

He firmly believes that the hobby should be fun, and therefore thoroughly enjoys the social aspects, such as found at society week-ends (he organises an annual gathering of the Southern African specialist societies). For Brian, it is a total involvement, whether with his own collecting, or the organised side of the hobby. He sees his life as a 'full-time' philatelist, both in his aim of completing the writing-up and mounting of his own material, and in his commitments to organised philately. He feels it is essential an international stamp exhibition is held in London in 2010, and is one of a group of four investigating options. He will maintain his interest with the various specialist societies, and his work for the 'Royal'. He feels that the time is now right for the British Philatelic Trust to review its priorities.

Five years ago few had heard of Brian Trotter: there is no doubt that he will play an increasingly important role in the hobby in years ahead ●

TEN QUESTIONS FOR BRIAN TROTTER

What was the very first stamp you bought? It was when I was a schoolboy collector, and I saw a Sudan 'Camel' in a dealer's window. I remember I paid one shilling for that stamp, quite a lot of money in those days. I have always admired the stamps of the early 1900s because of their visual appeal.

Is there a philatelic book to which you frequently turn? It has to be *Fundamentals of Philately* by the late Williams brothers. I find that a philatelic problem is often solved by referring to that book.

You were born in South Africa. Where else have you lived?

I travelled extensively with my work, spending time in Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Jakarta. But on my retirement my wife and I moved to London.

Where did you meet your wife? I met Christina at university, although it transpired we had been at school together. We've been married now for 37 years, and have one son and one daughter, and two grandchildren.

Do either of your children collect? My son has dabbled from time to time, but my daughter has no interest whatsoever in stamps.

You travelled in your career. For whom did you work? After working in South Africa for a few months, I got a job with Shell Chemical, based in Holland. But the major part of my working life, some 30 years, was with Dow Chemical.

Having travelled so much, do you still holiday overseas? My wife and I love travelling. We go back to South Africa, but have also returned to the Far East, such as to Vietnam, and to South America. If feasible I will arrange for holidays to have a 'philatelic' touch, such as taking in an international stamp exhibition.

Having visited so many parts, do you have favourite foods?

I will eat almost anything, but have a particular liking for Indian and Italian.

Do you have other hobbies? Chris and I both enjoy golf and bridge. I like watching cricket, rugby and football, supporting South Africa and England, although opting for South Africa if the two play each other. As for football, I'm a Chelsea fan.

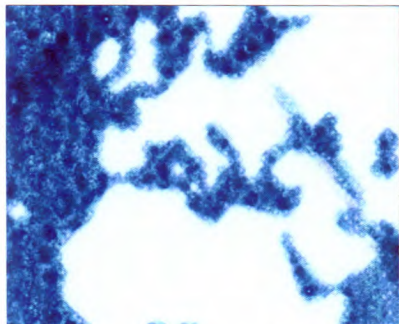
How do you see the future of stamp collecting? I am a bit worried, because of the distractions and opportunities people of all ages have these days, with much that seems more glamorous. There is so much on offer, for example for the retired. I believe there will be a change in emphasis, and although fewer will collect, those who do will treat the hobby seriously, as we are already seeing with the growth of the specialist societies.

Prize draw

ONCE AGAIN we offer our popular Mystery Prize draw, this time with even better prizes! To win one of 10 prizes, send your name and address on a postcard to: Mystery Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ, to arrive by 28 February ●

Draw winners Winners of the book *Philatelic Terms Illustrated* in our November draw were: G Franklin of Germany; L Westcott, Devon; Mrs C Thomas, South Wales; S Bettinello of Italy; and D Lamming, Suffolk.

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



November identify The detail is from the 1983 31p British Fairs stamp. The winner was D Cabbie of Warwickshire.

November knowledge The answers: 1) orange and black; 2) Basildon; 3) M Dempsey. The winner was C Reich of Australia.

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

- 1 What colour is the current 10p definitive?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps features frog's legs?
- 3 Who designed the 1995 National Trust stamps?

Send your answer (addressed to either February *Identify* competition or February *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 18 March 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

12 February Streetly PS Stamp Fair at Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF (off A4041 Queslett Road), 10.00-16.30. 16 stamp dealers – stamps, postal history, postcards, etc. Display by Guild of St Gabriel. Admission 20p, children 10p. Light refreshments available. **Enquiries** M Chapling, 0121 329 2487.

12 February Rotherham Stamp and Postcard Club Open Day. Dealer present, displays by club members. Refreshments available, free car parking adjacent to the venue. **Enquiries** J Bradley, 01709 837073.

19 February Scout and Guide Stamps Club Annual exhibition at Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, London SW7, 10.30-16.30. Admission free. A wide range of Scout and Guide stamps, covers, postcards and other philatelic material available. **Enquiries** G Osborne, 01256 328831.

23-27 February Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. See page 165.

24-26 February Philatex at Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, London SW1. See page 165.

12 March - 17 April 9th annual STAMP Lincs exhibition at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln. Organised by Lincoln PS. **Enquiries** P Wain, 01522 525984.

15-16 April Scottish Philatelic Congress at Dewar's Centre, Perth. **Enquiries** A Watson, 01324 415558.

21-24 April Pacific Explorer 2005 international exhibition at Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia. Website www.sydney2005.com.au •

Late news

Royal Mail update New postal rates will start on 7 April and new definitive and country stamps will go on sale on 5 April. The new basic UK 1st class rate will be 30p, with the next stage (60-100g) 46p. The 2nd class rate remains 21p, the basic European rate will be 42p. New 9p and 46p values will be printed in orange and old gold and new 42p country stamps for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales will also be issued on 5 April. At the same time the 35p value will be reissued in lime green with one phosphor band. In future most low value definitives will have one band and dates of availability will be given here as the new printings are made. The usual definitive and country FDCs will be available for 5 April, also a presentation pack containing one of each of the new 42p country stamps. Further details next month.

A new Miniature Sheet Album will shortly be available from Tallents House, price £12.50 until 31 March, £15.50 thereafter. Additional pages will be available, price £3.45 for 10.

The cylinders and colours for the Magic stamps are: 1st w1 grey w1 blue w1 orange w1 dark blue; 40p w1 grey w1 green w1 purple w1 orange w1 dark blue; 47p w1 grey w1 pink w1 purple w1 green w1 orange w1 dark blue; 68p w1 grey w1 green w1 red w1 dark blue; and £1.12 w1 grey w1 pink w1 blue w1 pale purple w1 pale blue w1 purple w1 pale pink w1 dark blue. These colours supersede those published in the January *Bulletin*. Phosphor w1 on all values. On sheets of the 1st class stamp the letters H (Heads) and T (Tails) are printed in both left and right margins.

Now available from Tallents House is a new printing of the 6 × 1st class book with an advertisement for the Smilers sheets on the inside front cover. The book will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets from 22 March.

Please note that the stamps in the Castles miniature sheet are perf 11 × 11.5, not 14.5 × 14 as stated in January. The size is 44 × 28mm ●

2007 Stamp Nominations In November we asked you to nominate five subjects you would most like to see on stamps in 2007. Russell Hawkins, our

Stamp Programme Manager, thanks the 1200 readers who responded. All were entered in a draw for a 2004 Yearbook; the winner was Bill Wittering of Herts ●

Picture Postcard Annual The 2005 edition of this popular reference work includes a postcard dealer directory, feature articles, review of 2004, lists of fair dates and auction houses etc. The profusely illustrated, 96 page annual is an enjoyable read. Price £4.50 (postage UK £1.25, Europe £2, elsewhere £4) from: Reflections of a Bygone Age, 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT. Telephone 0115 937 4079 ●

Auctions Spink's World auction on 14 December included an extensive used GB collection (1840-1993) which made £4370 (est £3000-4000), and a block of 40 13p Machins with 10 stamps imperf made £1495 (£400-500). A block of six Victoria 3d on 3d made £598 (£400-500), and an accumulation of Victorian covers, mostly Penny reds, including printed envelopes, registered and forwarded mail made £747 (£250-300). GB auctions will be held on 2-3 and 9-10 March. Enquiries: 020 7563 4000 or see www.spink.com ●

People news Dr Alan Huggins has stood down as Deputy Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust, being replaced by Brian Trotter (see p188). Dr Huggins remains on the Trust. Michael Pitt-Payne joins the Trust in place of Brian Asquith. Charles Reid, a leading collector of GB Victorian stamps, died suddenly in December. Mr Reid exhibited at Stamp Show 2000, where he received a gold medal. An obituary will be published here next month. In the New Year Honours List Nigel Fordham, the former head of the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, received the LVO, and Vincent Duggleby, financial journalist and a former Vice President of the Royal Philatelic Society, was made a MBE. Quentin Blake, designer of the 1993 Christmas stamps, was made CBE, and Sir Bryan Nicholson, Post Office Chairman 1987-92, was made GBE ●

New Country Definitive Coin Covers



In 2004 the Royal Mint launched a third series of its £1 coins, which unusually takes famous bridges as its theme. There are four coins depicting bridges from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England.

Royal Mail has joined with the Royal Mint to produce a beautiful set of limited edition Coin Covers. Each cover will comprise the £1 coin and a set of 2nd, 1st, E and 68p definitives. The price of each Coin Cover is just £13.50.

The first in the collection, the Scottish Definitive Coin Cover, was launched on St Andrew's Day, 30 November 2004. It includes an illustration of the Forth Bridge and the most recent Scottish Country Definitive stamps cancelled with an Edinburgh postmark. Inside is a brief guide to the Firth of Forth area and a short history of the bridge and its construction. Code AN036.

The dual-language Wales Definitive Coin Cover will be issued on 1 March, St David's Day. The four stamps will be cancelled with a Welsh postmark and the brilliant uncirculated coin showcases the Menai Straits Bridge. The Wales Definitive Coin Cover, which includes a colourful four-page insert, can be ordered now by quoting code AN037 on 08457 641 641.

The Northern Ireland and England Country Definitive Coin Covers will be issued on 17 March 2006 and 23 April 2007 respectively.

Royal Mail

Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
Telephone orders: UK 08457 641 641; overseas +44 131 316 7483



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