BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 49 Number 1 | SEPTEMBER 2011 £1.20

Aerial post • Hanoverians • Amelia Earhart's philately



King George II in this month's House of Hanover issue

HORIZON LABELS • UK A-Z PREVIEW • BULLETIN SURVEY • WIN NEW ISSUES

Issues and withdrawals



Cover A detail of a figure from the sofas in the Drawing Room of Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, by Robert Adam (1728-92). The gilt wood was executed by John Linnell

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9 September	**Issue** Aerial Post: Miniature Sheet, Press Sheet, Prestige Stamp Book, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
14 September	**Issue** Arnold Machin Centenary Souvenir Sheet
14 September	**Withdrawal** Battle of Britain Generic Sheet **Withdrawal** British Design Classics Stamp Books Nos 1 - 5
15 September	**Issue** House of Hanover: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Press Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamps Cards, Cachet Cover **Issue** Olympic and Paralympic Games: Stamp Book No 6 **Issue** The Penny Red Facsimile Pack **Issue** 350 Years of the Postmark: Generic Sheet
15 September	**Withdrawal** Medical Breakthrough: Stamps, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards
16 September	**Issue** Post & Go Stamps: Birds of Britain (4)
22 September	**Issue** London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Sports Cover Collection: Basketball and Modern Pentathlon
6 October	**Issue** Mary Rose Coin Cover
11 October	**Withdrawal** Winnie-the-Pooh Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards
13 October	**Issue** UK A-Z Part 1: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
25 October	**Issue** Retail Books with FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) logo

Cover photograph © National Trust Photographic Library/Nadia Mackenzie/The Bridgeman Art Library

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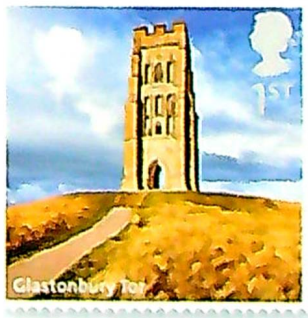
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The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ ● Editor: Melanie Williams ● Price £1.20 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail, Tallents House ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world ● © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editor ● **Printed** in Great Britain by St Ives Westerham ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England & Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ

Postbox and inbox



Fruit-picking days of philately

Regarding the item published in the July issue of the *Bulletin* from Brian Sole FRPSL, about his dilemma and shortage of cash which prevented his purchase of the Silver Wedding stamp in 1948 – this evoked memories of my own experience when the purchase of the same stamp became a possibility for me. At that time I was a very new RAF recruit, serving at an airfield in Kent. When I enquired at the Camp Post Office, I was challenged by the Postmaster in no uncertain terms, 'Look laddie if you want that stamp, show me the colour of your money.' Being in receipt of 28 shillings per week (£1.40), out of which I sent my parents 7 shillings (35p), I was not regarded as rich.

However, in the weeks running up to the issue date, various opportunities arose for me to earn extra cash by picking fruit and potatoes. I even managed to fit in some part-time gardening. So I was able to present myself to the aforementioned Postmaster, hand over the £1 and become the proud owner of a £1 Silver Wedding stamp.

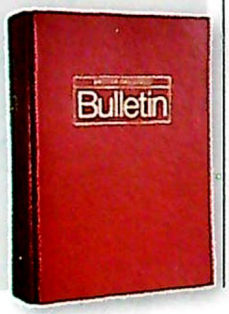
All of my mates in the billet thought I was mad to spend so much money on a stamp (which, by the way, I promptly sent home to my parents for safe-keeping). Whether or not I made a good financial investment I do not know, but to me the joy and thrill of stamp collecting is not solely confined to monetary value or gain. It lies in the memories that are made with each new acquisition.

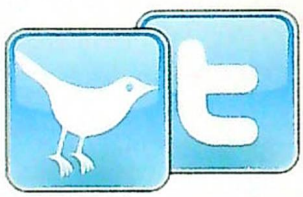
I enjoyed recalling my efforts some 63 years ago to obtain this stamp, and I am grateful to Mr Sole for evoking the past in this way.
William A Tait, Edinburgh

Thank you for those wise words, William Tait. Your letter perfectly sums up the essence of the enjoyment of philately. We would welcome similar contributions from other readers about their personal 'Stamps of Significance' – just write or email to the addresses below left.

Keep the mail coming...

The Editor of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive philatelic delights as a thank-you. The sender of the 'First Class letter' award will also receive the *Bulletin* binder. Please note that Royal Mail cannot reply to all correspondence and reserves the right to edit for length. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. Remember you can drop us an email too, to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com



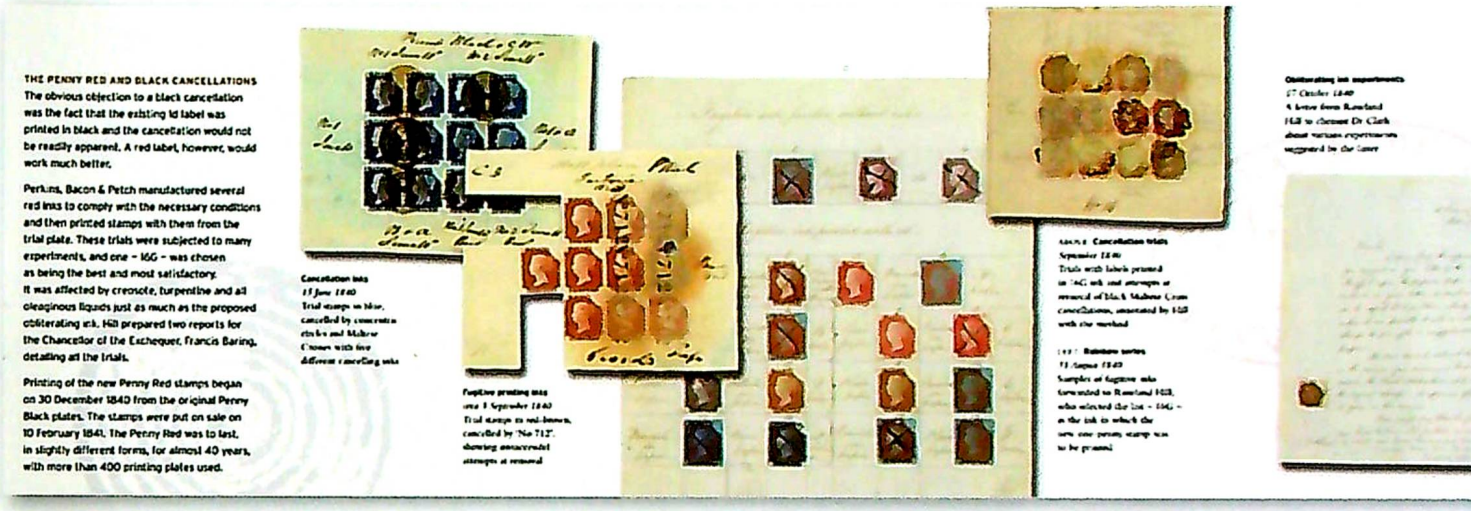


Modern memories of W V Awdry

Last month Theo at myphilately.com (@Theotoo) nicely illustrated the meeting of worlds old and new online. He tweeted about his blog posting on the Thomas the Tank Engine issue:

'It had been in the early 1970s that I met the writer of the Thomas stories, W V Awdry. He came to open a church bazaar... My two children stood in awe of him. His books by then had touched millions, young and old. Now [the] TV series and development of the story-lines of Sodor have made a multi-visual feast for today's enthusiasts and growing generations... They celebrate a great part of children's literary heritage as well as pressing the wonder-button of the age of steam. I've bought the postcards to send one by one to my grandson, for him to use as reminders of the "good old days" in decades yet to come.'

What's new? Penny reds and postmarks



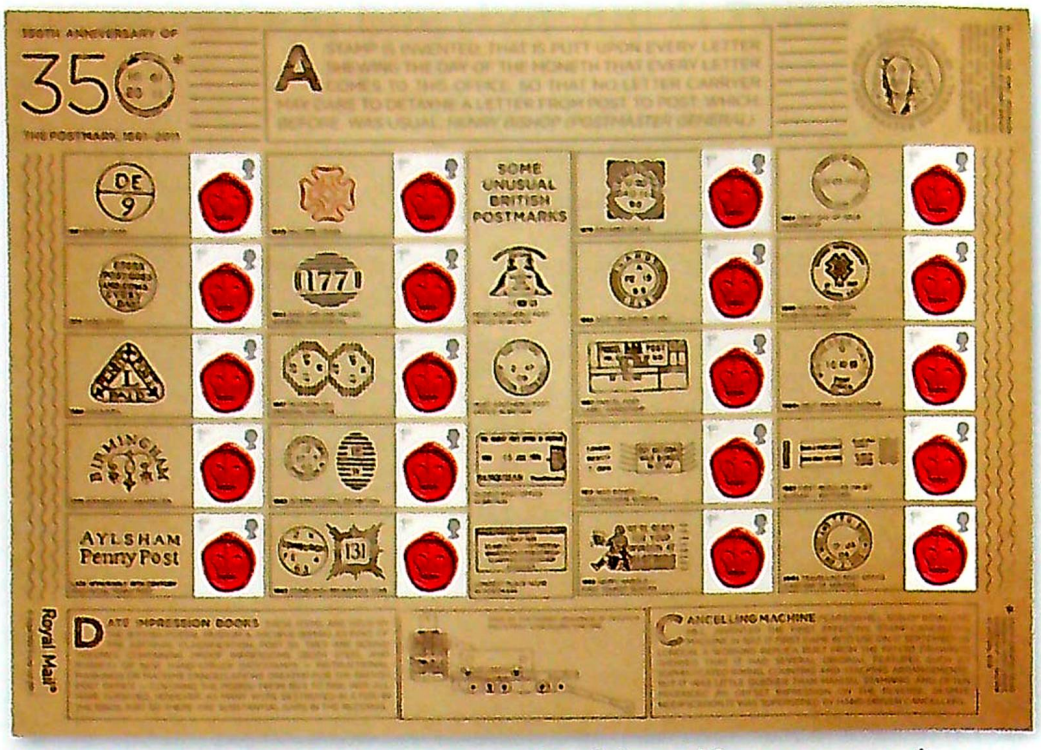
Penny Red Facsimile Pack In 1841 the first Penny Red stamp was issued, the colour red being chosen to replace the Penny Black because of the difficulty in seeing the black cancellation mark over a black stamp. Some 20 billion Penny Red stamps were printed over the years, with occasional modifications of dies and perforations, and subtle variations in design and watermarks. It is the longest-running stamp in our postal history and remained the main 'workhorse' postage stamp in the UK for over three decades, during which time over 400 different printing plates were created to replace worn out plates.

To mark the 170th anniversary of this popular stamp, Royal Mail has produced the Penny Red Facsimile Pack, available from 15 September. The facsimile Penny Red stamps are in a block of four, without perforations, reproduced to the original size and carefully matched to original 1841 intaglio printing. The elegant pack opens to reveal a fold-out illustrated history of the Penny Red, including details of the 'rainbow trials' conducted by printers Perkins, Bacon & Petch. Images of the preliminary 1840 printing trials in cancellation and fugitive printing inks show the stages that preceded the final choice of the much-loved Penny Red •



Above and below: Penny Red Facsimile pack. Please note, this is an item of postal-history interest and the stamps are not valid for use

Right: the stamp sheet marking the 350th Anniversary of the Postmark is released on 15 September



The 350th anniversary of the postmark is celebrated in a new generic stamp sheet released this month, designed as a fascinating visual record for postmark and postage heritage enthusiasts. The sheet comprises four strips of five 1st class Royal Seal stamps. Beside the stamps are different postmarks that demonstrate, in date order, the development of the postmark from its beginnings in the 17th century.

Henry Bishop was Postmaster General when the first British Postmark was introduced in 1661, to record the date that letters were handed to mail carriers. Bishop announced the new postmarking system with these words: 'A stamp is invented, that is putt upon every letter shewing the day of the moneth that every letter comes to this office, so that no letter Carryer may dare to detayne a letter from post to post...'

The original 'Bishop Mark', as it became known, consisted of a small circle (13mm in diameter), bisected by a horizontal line, with the month in serifed lettering abbreviated to two letters in the upper half of the circle and the day of the month in the lower half •

Below: handstamps available when you use the special posting boxes at Autumn Stampex, held at the Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London







Stampex, 14-17 September The Royal Mail stand at this month's Stampex has something new to write home about, whichever day you choose to visit. On the opening day, Wednesday 14th, the Arnold Machin Centenary Souvenir Sheet is issued. And Thursday 15th sees new releases – the House of Hanover issue in the Kings and Queens series, the Olympic and Paralympic Games Stamp Book No 6, the Penny Red Facsimile Pack and 350 years of the Postmark Generic Sheet, as described above. Post & Go Birds of Britain 4 fly out in style with Seabirds on Friday 16th •

***Mary Rose* Coin Cover** To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the launch of the *Mary Rose* in 1511, on 6 October Royal Mail will issue a special coin cover, in a strictly limited edition of 10,000. The cover carries two stamps

from the popular House of Tudor issue in the Kings and Queens series – showing Henry VIII and the *Mary Rose*. The coin cover includes a brilliant uncirculated commemorative £2 *Mary Rose* coin, issued by the Royal Mint.

A card insert carries an intriguing description of life on board the great Tudor warship, an explanation of how the ship may have sunk, how she was raised from the seabed, and details of artefacts reclaimed from the wreckage when it was rescued from the deep in 1982. The *Mary Rose* now rests at her home in Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard •



Left: the life and times and rediscovery of the *Mary Rose* are celebrated in this commemorative coin cover

Postbox model and pin Two welcome new additions to the pillar box model and pin badge ranges will be released next month, on 6 October –both of the EIIR Type A Pillar Box, first introduced in 1952 •





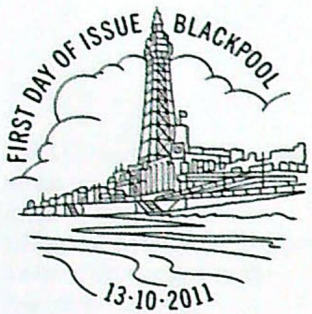
Bye bye Mini Skirts and Medical Breakthroughs A popular series of stamp books go off sale on the 14 September – the British Design Classic Stamp Books 1-5 are printed by Walsall and feature respectively the K2 Telephone Kiosk and Routemaster Bus, the Mini, Concorde, Mini Skirt and Spitfire.

The last chance to buy the Medical Breakthroughs issue is on 15 September. To create this series Royal Mail asked medical historian Professor Dorothy Porter for the most significant medical discoveries of the last 120 years. Six subjects were chosen and the images on the stamps represent beta-blockers, penicillin, hip-replacement, optical lens-implant, malaria treatment and the CT scanner – all stories of medical breakthroughs that have changed millions of lives all over the world •

Above: last chance to buy the Medical Breakthrough issue and British Design Classic Series Stamp Books, including Book 2 showing the Mini, designed by Sir Alec Issigonis, and Book 4 with Concorde by Aérospatiale-BAC

UK A-Z Part 1 Next month sees the start of a alphabetical journey around UK landmarks





Top: one of the two First Day Covers for the issue – this one carries the A to F stamps. Above: the special Blackpool pictorial postmark

An A to Z of the UK landscape is the subject of a new series of 26 special-issue stamps launched next month, showing a different UK locations for each letter of the alphabet. UK A-Z Part 1 covers the letters A to L. The 26 different images featured in the series will celebrate a wide variety of landmarks that might be described as distinctively British – some scenes of exceptional natural beauty, some iconic architecture, some marvels of engineering, some ancient sites, some modern views and a few lesser known gems.

Stamp by stamp All 12 stamps in the Part 1 of this series are 1st Class. Alphabetically, and taking into consideration a desire to represent each of the four countries of the UK, the first set of the UK A-Z stamps show the following favourite views with names beginning with the letters A to L: the Angel of the North, Blackpool, Carrick-a-Rede, Downing Street, Edinburgh Castle, the Forth Bridge, Glastonbury Tor, Harlech Castle, Ironbridge, Jodrell Bank, Kursaal and Lindisfarne Priory.

Some of these sites are, of course, well known. But there are some surprising choices too. Carrick-a-Rede, for instance, may not be familiar to everyone – it is a town near Ballintoy, County Antrim and was chosen for its unusual rope suspension bridge. Now owned and maintained by the National Trust, the bridge was originally

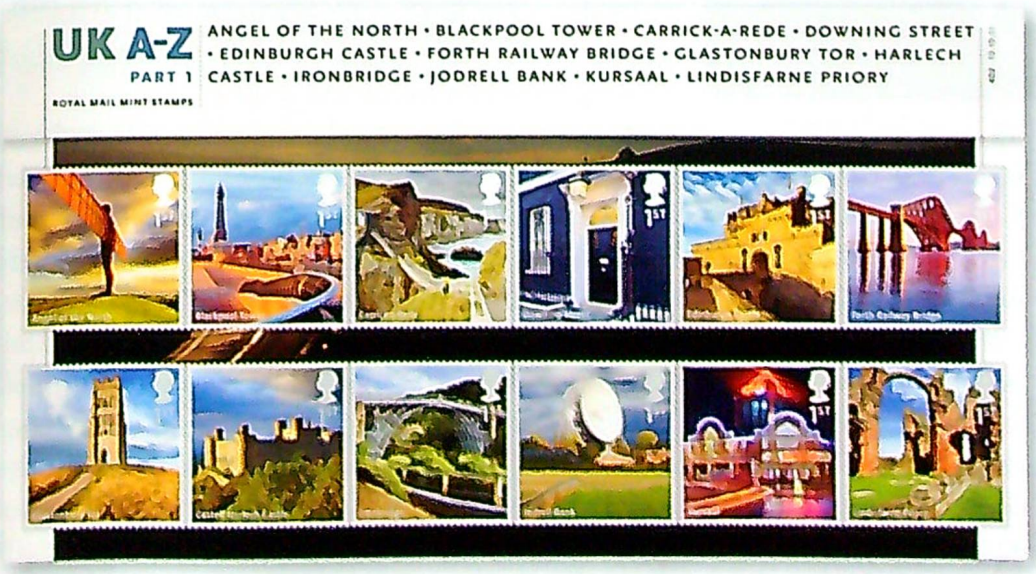
UK A-Z Specifications	
Issue date	13 October
Number of stamps	Twelve
Size of sheet	146mm x 74mm
Design	Robert Maude and Sarah Davies
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	Cartor Security Print
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	30/60
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

UK A-Z Part 1 Prices	
Set of Stamps	£5.52
Presentation Pack	£6.05
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Covers, A to F and G to L	£3.79 each
Stamp Cards (12 in set)	£5.40



constructed by local people to link the mainland to the tiny Carrick Island. Harlech Castle, built by Edward I during his conquest of Wales, is notable for its massive gatehouse and imposing construction of concentric circles, sited high upon a rocky outcrop close to the Irish Sea. And the Kursaal in Southend, Essex, was designed by Campbell Sherrin, who also designed the Brompton Oratory. The building saw its heyday in the 1920s and 1930s as a favourite seaside fairground for Londoners, with a reptuation for being first with all the latest attractions •





Top: the new UK A-Z stamps
Above: the Tallents House postmark
Left: Presentation Pack, A to L

Stamp Scene from John Holman

Thematic competitions This year's competitions arranged by The Friends of Thematica were held as part of Midpex at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre on 2 July. As usual three competitions were staged. The British Thematic Association Thematic Trophy was won by M. Humfrey with his exhibit telling the story of vanilla, 'From Mexican Flower to Worldwide Flavour', which also won a Large Vermeil medal. The Inter-Federation Friends of Thematica Healey & Wise Salver went to the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies which submitted entries by Grace Davis ('Symbols of Peace – The Dove and Olive Branch'), J. Etherington ('A Failed Expedition: The BEF in France') and Angela Reilly ('Olympic Champions'). The Barclays Cup Competition is for young collectors. The winners in the three age groups were: up to 8 years old – Emma Hodge with 'A Scottish Time Line'; 9 to 12 – Ffion Harries with 'Mister Magnolia by Quentin Blake'; and 13 to 18 – Claire Mitchell with 'Let There Be Light'.

The final competition, the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy, is judged by the visitors. The vote went to James Dickinson with 'Jesuit Powder: Its Discovery, Use and Development – The Story of Quinine'. Second was Helen Eastgate for 'Sewing Machines'.

The Friends of Thematica competitions for 2012 will be staged as part of the Scottish Congress in Perth on 13-14 April. For more details, contact Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG, e-mail brian.sole@btinternet.com •



Above, left to right: Alan Moorcroft, Brian Trotter, Chris King and Frank Walton, now RSPL Hon. Treasurer, President and Vice Presidents respectively

New President of RPSL Brian Trotter was elected the new President of the Royal Philatelic Society London on 23 June, succeeding Alan Moorcroft, president for the past two years. Alan has now been elected Hon. Treasurer of the Society. The Vice Presidents are Chris King and Frank Walton. Brian Trotter is particularly known for his work in organising the London 2010 international stamp exhibition. He has been Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust since 2005 and signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2010 •

First Day Cover fair The Association of Great Britain First Day Cover Collectors is holding a GB First Day Cover Fair at the Collingwood Centre, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF on 2 October. It is open to both members and non-members from 10am to 4pm, admission free. Ten FDC dealers are currently booked to attend. For further information about the fair and the Association contact Terry Barnett, 7 Mackets Lane, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0QA, telephone 0151 486 2610, or see the Association's website www.gbfdc.co.uk Sadly the founder of the Association, Derek Williams, recently died. As 'GBCovers', Derek produced an interesting series of FDCs and wrote about FDC collecting in the *Bulletin* in February and June 2000 •

Channel Island issues Guernsey Post issued six stamps for Alderney to mark the 85th and 90th birthdays of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on 2 June. The stamps cost £3.04 for the set, £3.94 in presentation pack, or £12.16 in prestige book. Orders/enquiries: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost, Envoy House, La Vrangue, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 5SS or order online at www.guernseystamps.com

Jersey Post issued five stamps on 3 August to mark the 75th anniversary of the National Trust for Jersey. The stamps feature birds, animals and a butterfly against backgrounds of areas with which each is associated. A sixth, 75p stamp shows the White House, La Caumine a Marie Best, painted green for 2011 to highlight various green issues. The five NT stamps cost £2.94 or £3.99 in pack or on FDC. The 'Green' stamp is 75p or £1.80 on FDC. Orders/enquiries Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Postal Headquarters, Jersey JE1 1AB, www.jerseystamps.com •

Thomas the Tank engine stamps The Nene Valley Railway near Peterborough runs Thomas the Tank engine trains for its many young visitors and Thomas has featured on more than ten colourful Nene Valley railway letter stamps since the first in November 1989 (shown on page 364 of August Bulletin). The latest Thomas stamp was issued on 14 June to coincide with Royal Mail's Thomas issue. First day covers bearing the new NVR stamp and full set of Royal Mail stamps cost £8.25 or £5.50 with Royal Mail miniature sheet, postage 70p extra. For full details of NVR stamps and covers contact Nene Valley Railway (Stamps), Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR or see the railway's website •

Forthcoming exhibitions Autumn Stampex is held this month at the Business Design Centre, London N1 on 14-17 September. It will include the National Competitions. Royal Mail will have its usual stand selling the full range of stamps and related products. On the first day, Wednesday (14 September), a new Arnold Machin Centenary Souvenir sheet goes on sale. The House of Hanover stamps go on sale on the second day of the exhibition (15th) followed by a new set of Post & Go Bird stamps the next day (16th). As usual posting boxes will be provided for special Stampex handstamps.

Scotex, the popular stamp fair in Scotland, takes place at the Dewar Centre, Perth on 14-15 October, and Stampa, the Irish national stamp exhibition, will be held at the RDS in Dublin, 21-23 October – e-mail stampa@ireland.com for further details.

A major philatelic event, organised by the new North of Ireland Philatelic Federation, under the auspices of the ABPS, takes place at Bangor Museum, Bangor, Co Down from 25 October to 4 November. During the first week the displays will be on the subject 'Aspects of Philately' covering different ways of collecting, such as thematics, postcards and social philately, providing an introduction to the hobby. From 1 November the displays will be of 'Philately of Northern Ireland' – more specialised studies of postal history with studies of local post offices and their postmarks, also commemorating the 75th anniversary of the present Bangor Post Office ▸



Above: Jersey Post stamps mark the 75th anniversary of the National Trust for Jersey

building which has one of two surviving Edward VIII wall boxes. The displays will be provided by members of the local societies in the new North of Ireland Federation.

Further events during the fortnight will include a Stamp Active event (29-30 October), a regional meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society London (at Mount Stewart), and talks by An Post (Irish Post Office) about its archives, and by Christine Earle and David Beech on the British Library Philatelic Collections. It promises to be a comprehensive and enjoyable fortnight – the first major philatelic event in Northern Ireland for some years •





Above: the 'Post Office Mauritius' two-penny blue fetched the highest stamp price ever recorded in the UK at the recent auction of part of the Chartwell Collection of Sir Humphrey Cripps (1915-2000), pictured top

Chartwell Collection auction The impressive Chartwell Collection compiled by Sir Cyril Humphrey Cripps, English businessman and philanthropist (1915-2000), is being auctioned in stages by Spink. On 29 June the first part of the GB Line-engraved collection went under the hammer with some notable results: a used example of the 1841-53 1d red-brown with famous 'B-blank' error made £7,500 (estimate £5,000-6,000) and a stamp with the error corrected achieved £2,500 (£400-500). A fine corner block of 30 of the same stamp, showing plate number 92, went for £5,500 (£6,000-8,000), and a similar block of 40 from plate 147 realised £7,000 (£8,000-10,000). An impressive collection of imperf imprimaturs of the 1870 1/2d stamp showing plate numbers from all 15 plates made £24,000 (£20,000-25,000), and a pane of 20 of the 6d embossed stamp overprinted SPECIMEN made £21,000 (£30,000-35,000).

The highlight of the sale was without doubt the phenomenal price paid by an anonymous telephone bidder – £1,053,090 for the coveted 'Post Office Mauritius' two-penny blue stamp, making it the most valuable stamp ever sold in the UK. Spink auction house chairman Olivier Stocker said, 'The Chartwell Collection is, without a shadow of a doubt, one of the biggest "wow" moments we have ever experienced.'

Sir Humphrey's impressive GB and British Empire collection is expected to realize about £20 million in nine sales over the next 18 months. Sir Humphrey seems to have been a rather secret collector, not at all well known in the philatelic world during his lifetime (although he did list philately among his interests in his *Who's Who* entry), reminiscent of Sir Gawaine Baillie (1934-2003) whose collection was sold by Sothebys in 2004 for almost £16 million.

For further information on future auctions contact Spink on 020 7563 4000 or visit www.spink.com •

Kiddle's Kuwait at auction this month Grosvenor's auction on 28-29 September will feature Kuwait (collection of Francis Kiddle); and also Ceylon King George V Key Types (John Sussex); fine New Zealand (Peter Lay); 'Steamship Lines to the Caribbean' (Michael Rego); a virtually complete collection of The Peoples Republic of China 1949-99; and the 'Joyce' find of Bahrain. The next specialised GB auction will be on 16 November. For further information contact Grosvenor on 020 7379 8789 or visit www.grosvenorauctions.com •

Photo courtesy Spink

New Ships stamp catalogue A new 2011 edition of the famous 'Michel Catalogue Ships of the World' includes over 16,000 illustrations and about 60,000 updated price quotations. Postage stamps are listed showing ship motifs from ancient days to the present, covering merchant ships, warships, and pleasure craft with definition by type and, where possible, the actual ship name. The catalogue costs €49.80, ISBN 978-3-87858-580-0.

For more details contact Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH, Ohmstrasse 1, 85716 Unterschliessheim, Germany, or see website www.michel.de•

Special Centennial Air Mail On 9 September a helicopter will fly from RAF Hendon to Windsor Great Park carrying special centenary covers and cards. On arrival the helicopter will be met by an Edwardian postman and a 1910 Bleriot which will fly in Windsor Great Park – weather permitting. The Bleriot will also carry some covers.

This is a rare opportunity to watch the take-off and flight of a Bleriot and see the original Grahame White Watch Tower fully restored at the RAF Museum. (The Grahame White supplied the original Bleriots for the 1911 event.) Henk Van Horn will pilot the Bleriot – he is one of only three pilots in Europe qualified to fly this unique 'string and wood and paper machine'. One of his passengers will be Air Marshall Sir Ian Macfadyan, the Constable of Windsor Castle. There is also an original Bleriot on show in the Grahame White hangar at the RAF Museum.

Four special 1911 reproduction cards and £1 air carriage labels have been produced, as well as a commemorative centennial medal. Flown cards bearing the special issue Royal Mail stamps will be available with either Windsor or Hendon postmark at £9.95 or a as a set of four. The stamp sheet costs £5.95 and the medallion £9.95. Full details of all centennial products marking this historic event can be found at buckinghamcovers.com/aerialpost •

This month in history First three-colour stamps

Fifty years ago this month Britain's first three-coloured stamps went on sale – 2d, 4d and 10d values for the European Postal & Telecommunications (CEPT) Conference at Torquay. The stamps featured the CEPT emblem on all three values and the 4d and 10d also showed a dove made up of 19 smaller doves representing the 19 postal administrations attending.

The stamps were designed by Michael Goaman using the dove motif by Theo Kurpeschoek.

The 2d is known with the orange colour omitted, and the 10d with missing pale green and turquoise. All are major errors with high catalogue prices.

The missing colours on the 10d stamp caused quite a sensation when displayed at Stampex in March 1962. The basic stamps were purchased in large quantities and, 50 years on, remain one of the cheapest of all commemorative sets.



Diary dates

September

5 Tour of the Archive at the British Postal Museum, 3-4pm, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1.

5 and 6 Tours of the Museum Store,Debden, Essex, 6-8pm.

14-17 Autumn Stampex at the Business Design Centre, London

24 Portadown Stampex and Collectors Fair, Portadown Town Hall. Admission free. Contact D Quail, tel 028 406 22022.

October

14-15 Scotex, Dewar Centre, Perth

21-23 Stampa, Royal Dublin Society, Dublin, E-mail Stampa@ireland.com for details

25-4 November – Northern Ireland Philatelic Societies Exhibition, Bangor Museum, Castle Park, BT20 4BT. Admission free. Contact J Proctor 028 38 334964

New Horizons John Newcomb of the British Postmark Society reflects on postage labels









Above: examples of Horizon postmarks which all show a service indicator, date line, price paid, first half of the office postcode, its numerical code and session number of the transaction. From top (all reduced in size): Original 2002 software, Updated software, 2003, Camden trial of 2009, Online Horizon 2010

On 14 February 2002 Royal Mail launched an experiment with labels instead of stamps to be affixed to most mail handed in at post office counters. The twofold aim was to reduce handstamping of unmachineable items and to improve streaming of first and second class mail. Labels started life as blank white self-adhesive pairs on a sheetlet and were printed by the Horizon equipment in operation at post office counters. The '02 Valentine's Trial – so termed by Horizon devotees – was carried out in just a few areas of the UK and, following its success, the new labels were rolled out nationally from August to October 2002.

Enter the golden Horizon Seven years later, Horizon labels appeared in iridescent 'gold' and bearing the Machin Queen's head, with simulated perforation. Between 8 June and 11 September 2009 this trial was limited to one office (Camden High Street, BO London NW1) and to special delivery letters only. Considerable interest was aroused in philatelic circles; the new large gold Machins were appealing to the eye – but could they be regarded as stamps? Good question. Royal Mail says not and calls them Horizon labels.

New look, new edge Updated software was first installed on 14 January 2010 and 'Online Horizon' was rolled out nationally, to become today's standard Horizon format, with a slimmer typeface and with other minor variations from the originals. At the same time all the new white labels were superseded by 'golden' ones very similar to those trialled in the Camden Experiment. The new labels started appearing on 21 April 2010, initially in Wales. The background words 'ROYAL MAIL' were now clearly discernible on the Queen's head and the new-look label was soon in general use. Since then only one significant change has taken place – in August 2010 the serrated edges were replaced by straight ones to make peeling from the backing paper easier.

Changing keys Service indicators evolving over the years include:

1st (**1AF** in Wales) 1st class mail over 60g
2nd (**2IL** in Wales) 2nd class mail over 60g
A international airmail over 20g
S (replaced by **SU**) international surface mail over 20g
SD Special Delivery
PF (replaced by P, then SP) parcels, initially by Parcelforce, then Royal Mail
FP underpayment on outward international letters made up
AX (replaced by **AAX**) Airsure
BF Forces parcels
PE and **PS** international parcels – economy and standard, by Parcelforce
FF free service to some BFPOs
1L, 1LL, 1PK, 2L, 2LL, 2PK conforming to PIP categories (**1st** retained for inland articles fo the blind)
BL, BLL, BPK revised indicators for Forces mail;
MOR, RPR (both replaced by **RSF**) returned mail order packets and parcels;
1LG, 2LG, BLG have replaced **1LL, 2LL, BLL** for large letters (at time of writing) •

Your quick-tick survey

Help us to give you an even better *Bulletin* and you could win one of five 2011 Yearbooks in a prize draw



The *Bulletin* editorial team values your opinions and we want to keep up to date with your thematic interests and ideas for improving the content of your *British Philatelic Bulletin*.

Our objective in producing this journal is to reflect the varied collecting interests of subscribers, while promoting philately. In order to provide the service our readers want, we need to know your likes and dislikes, and find out a little more about you at home and abroad.

Please take a few minutes to answer the questions on the following pages. Completing ▸

this questionnaire should take about ten minutes.

Thank-you prizes of five Royal Mail 2011 Yearbook and ten 12-month gift subscription to *Bulletin* are waiting for the senders of the first ten questionnaires drawn from the postbag on the closing date, Monday 31 October. However, if you want to remain anonymous, we are still interested in receiving your survey answers.

Photocopies of this questionnaire and completed questionnaires from readers who are not subscribers will be accepted – many subscribers have more than one reader of *Bulletin* in their household.

On page 18 you will find the Freepost address.

SECTION ONE Your broad opinions

1 What is your overall opinion about the *British Philatelic Bulletin?*

☐ Very good ☐ Good
☐ Sometimes good ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor

If your overall opinion is poor, or very poor, go to question 4

2 Which one of the following best sums up why you subscribe to *Bulletin?*

☐ To give me details about Royal Mail issues
☐ To keep my finger on the pulse of philately

Other reason _____

_____

3 Which issue of Volume 48 stands out in your memory?

☐ September 2010 ☐ April 2011
☐ October 2010 ☐ May 2010
☐ November 2010 ☐ June 2011
☐ December 2010 ☐ July 2011
☐ January 2011 ☐ August 2011
☐ February 2011 ☐ None
☐ March 2011

Please give a reason/s _____

_____

_____

_____

4 If your answer to question 1 expressed a poor or very poor opinion, please specify your reason/s for not having a positive opinion of *Bulletin.*

☐ Cost
☐ Delivery
☐ Content

Please describe any other aspects of concern

_____

_____

_____

SECTION TWO Your favourite *Bulletin* reading

5 How regularly do you read the following Royal Mail pages?

• Issues and withdrawals
☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

• Royal Mail News
☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

• Previews of Special Issues
☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

Additional comment on Royal Mail pages

_____

_____

_____

_____

6 How often do you read the regular editorial pages?

• Stamp Scene
☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

• Online review
☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

• Puzzles – Identify, Knowledge, Crossword
☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

• Covers and Sheets
☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

Additional comment on regular editorial pages

_____

_____

_____

_____

7 How regularly do you read the longer features?

• Collectors of Note

☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

• Postal history articles

☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

8 How do you rate occasional features?

• Readers' Letters

☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

• Postmarks

☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

• Post boxes

☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

• Stamps of Significance

☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

Additional comment on *Bulletin's* features

9 How regularly do you read background features about the Royal Mail special Issue?

☐ Always read ☐ Usually read
☐ Sometimes read ☐ Rarely read ☐ Never read

Additional comment on longer features

10 Please tick your favourite *Bulletin* contributor of volume 48 and underline two other favourites:

☐ John Baron ☐ Kathryn Saville
☐ James Cooper ☐ Adrian Keppel
☐ Dane Garrod ☐ Cyril Parsons
☐ Chris Hill ☐ Michael Pitt-Payne
☐ John Holman ☐ Richard Sirot
☐ Peter Lister ☐ Richard West
☐ John Newcomb ☐ Keith Downing
☐ Martin Robinson ☐ Martyn Philpott

Other/suggestions

11 How interested are you in the information in *Bulletin* about the people involved in philately – at exhibitions and in associations?

☐ Very interested
☐ Interested
☐ Neutral
☐ Not very interested
☐ Not at all interested

12 Which of the following would you like to read more about? *(Tick all that apply)*

☐ Collectors in the UK
☐ Collectors from other countries
☐ Specialist collectors of UK stamps
☐ Prizewinners at exhibitions
☐ Signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists
☐ UK stamp designers past and present
☐ Stamp designers from other countries
☐ Philatelists who inspire young collectors
☐ Junior collectors
☐ None of the above

Other/suggestions

SECTION THREE Value for money

13 The current price per issue of Bulletin is £1.20. An annual UK or Europe subscription costs £12.95; rest of world subscription £17.95. How do you rate *Bulletin*'s value for money?

☐ Very good ☐ Good
☐ Reasonable ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor

14 Please suggest an increased subscription rate that you would consider reasonable for a 12-issue volume (bearing in mind that the price of *Bulletin* has not risen for several years)

SECTION FOUR Tell us about your collecting

15 Which of the following areas of collecting do you enjoy reading about? *(Tick all that apply)*

☐ UK definitives ☐ Commonwealth definitives
☐ Thematics ☐ Machins
☐ Postmarks Other _____

16 Which areas of thematic collecting do you enjoy reading about? *(Tick all that apply)*

☐ Animals and birds ☐ Plants and trees
☐ History ☐ Landscape ☐ Literature
☐ Medicine ☐ Science ☐ Transport
☐ Royalty ☐ Art Other _____

17 What aspects of philately do you most enjoy reading about? _____

18 How likely are you to recommend *Bulletin* to a friend or colleague? Please ring a number on the following scale of very likely to unlikely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very likely Neutral Unlikely

19 How likely are you to discuss stamps or stamp collecting with friends or colleagues?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very likely Neutral Unlikely

20 Would you like to see *Bulletin* available online?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Definitely Neutral No

SECTION FIVE Tell us about you

All questions in this section are optional*

21

• Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female

• Place of residence
☐ UK ☐ Europe ☐ USA ☐ Other

• Marital status
☐ Married ☐ Single ☐ Widowed

• Education
☐ Secondary School ☐ Further Education ☐ Degree
☐ Higher Degree ☐ University of life

• Age group
☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-49
☐ 50-64 ☐ 65-80 ☐ 80+

• Occupation _____

22 Number of years as a *Bulletin* subscriber
☐ Fewer than 3 ☐ 3 to 5 years ☐ 6 to 10 years
☐ 11 to 20 years ☐ 21-40 years ☐ 40 years+

23 Number of months remaining of your current subscription
☐ 0-3 months ☐ 4 to 6 months
☐ 7 to 9 months ☐ 10 to 12 months

24 What newspaper/s do you read? _____

25 What other philatelic magazines and websites do you read? _____

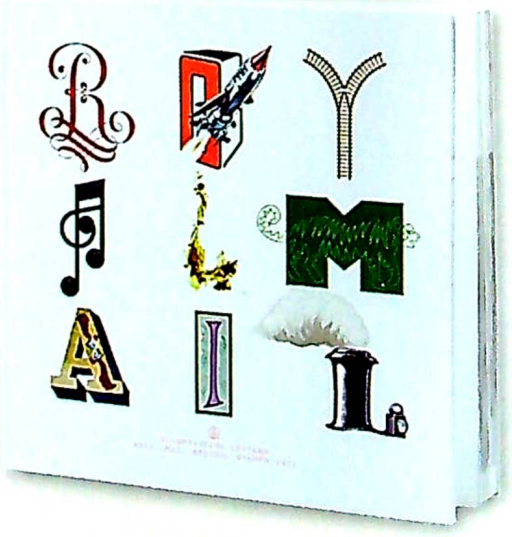
Five 2011 Yearbooks and ten *Bulletin* subscriptions to be won

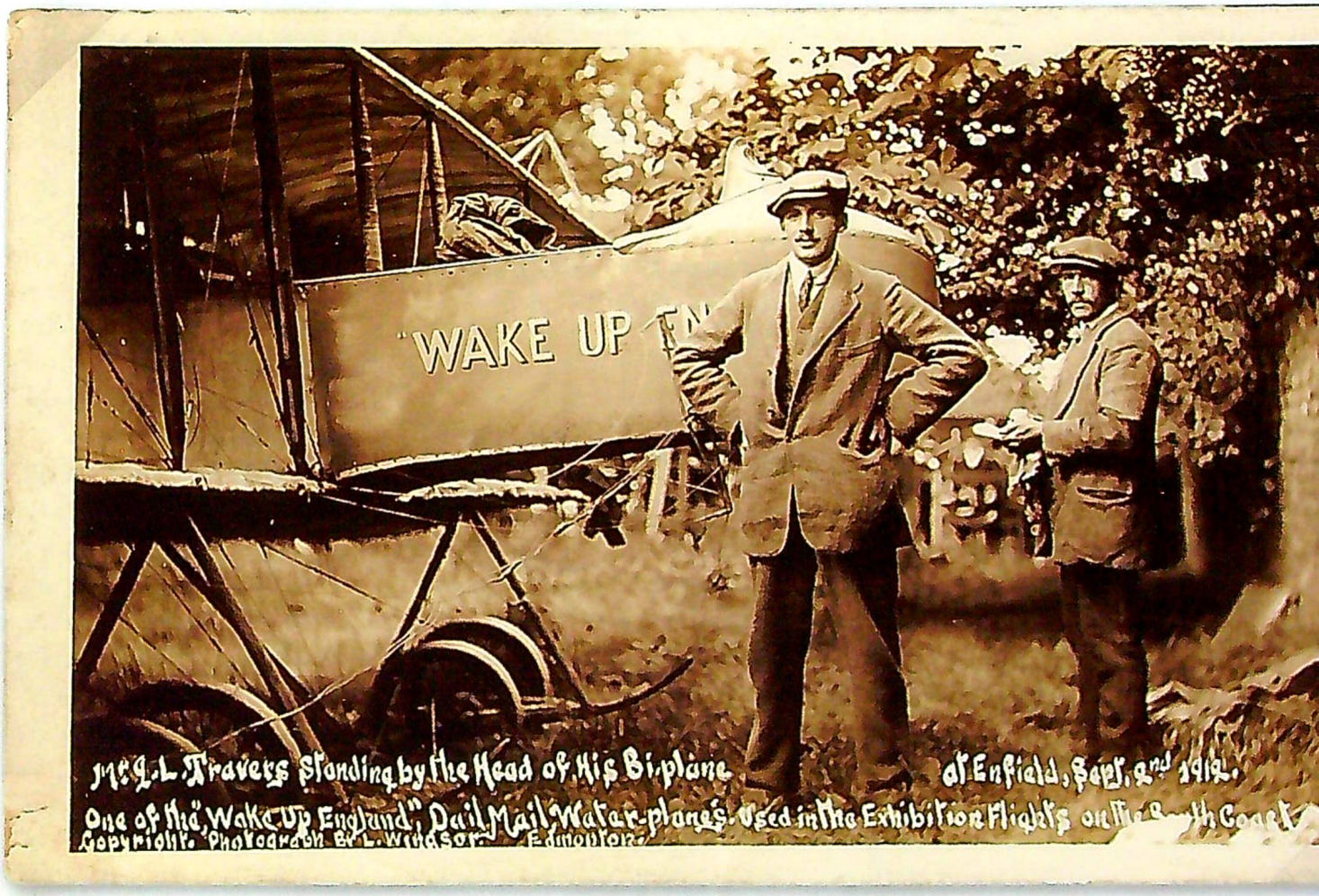
Thank you for participating in our Reader Survey. Please send your completed questionnaire to:

BULLETIN SURVEY, Freepost EH3647,
21 South Gyle Crescent, EDINBURGH EH12 9PE

If you want to enter the prize draw please enclose contact details. Senders of the first ten completed surveys drawn from the postbag after 31 October win a year's subscription to the *Bulletin,* and the first five also receive the 2011 Yearbook.

*In accordance with the Data Protection law, your personal details will be passed to no other organisation other than Royal Mail. Please note, however, that a name and contact number or address is necessary if your questionnaire is to be eligible for the prize draw described above.





Flying high

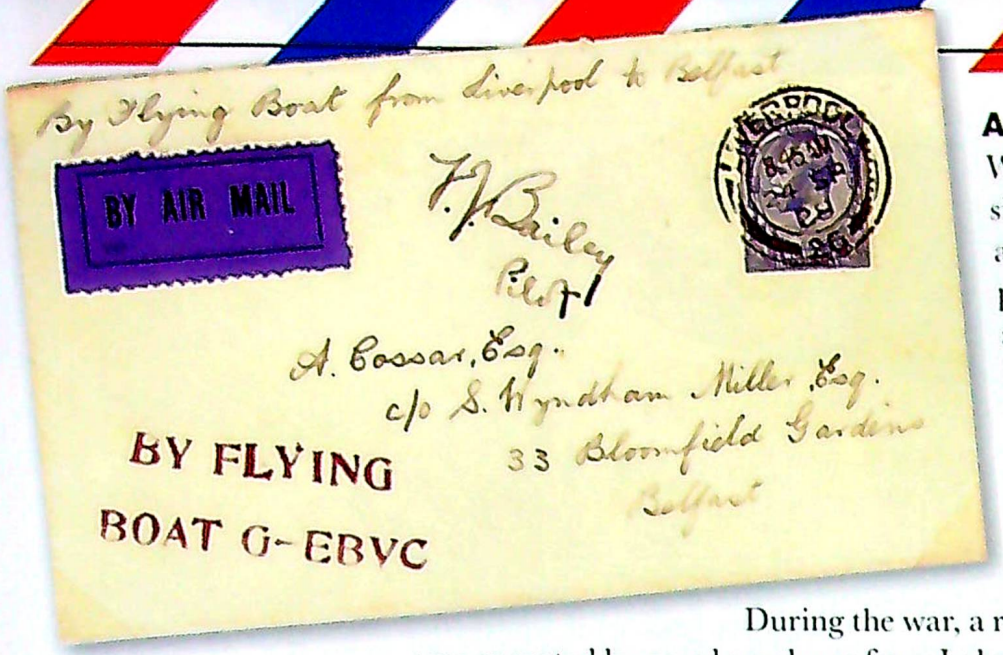
Peter Lister, President of the British Air Mail Society, recounts the development of Britain's internal aerial post

THIS MONTH marks the centenary of the first official airmail in the United Kingdom. Prior to this just a handful of letters was carried by air. The Coronation Aerial Post, as it was known, was organised by Captain Walter Windham with the full co-operation of the GPO.

The development of aircraft and airmail are, of course, closely linked. Graham White, who supplied the aircraft and pilots for the 1911 Coronation flights, was one of the first to spot the commercial potential of the use of aircraft. He went on to organise the Circuit of Britain tour and the East and West coast Waterplane tours of 1912. These tours were conducted in collaboration with the *Daily Mail*, and featured aircraft sporting the legend 'Wake Up England' on the fuselage.

During these flights, a number of souvenir postcards were sold for the rather expensive price of 6d each, to be carried to the next point on the tour where they were posted to the addressee at the local post office. ▸

Above: one of the Daily Mail's waterplanes on the 1912 East and West coast tour



A time of emergency

World War I resulted in significant developments in aircraft design and a surplus of planes when the war ended. And so commercial aviation was born and flying circuses started – one of which was owned by Sir Alan Cobham, who had done most of the initial survey work for Imperial Airways for their overseas routes.

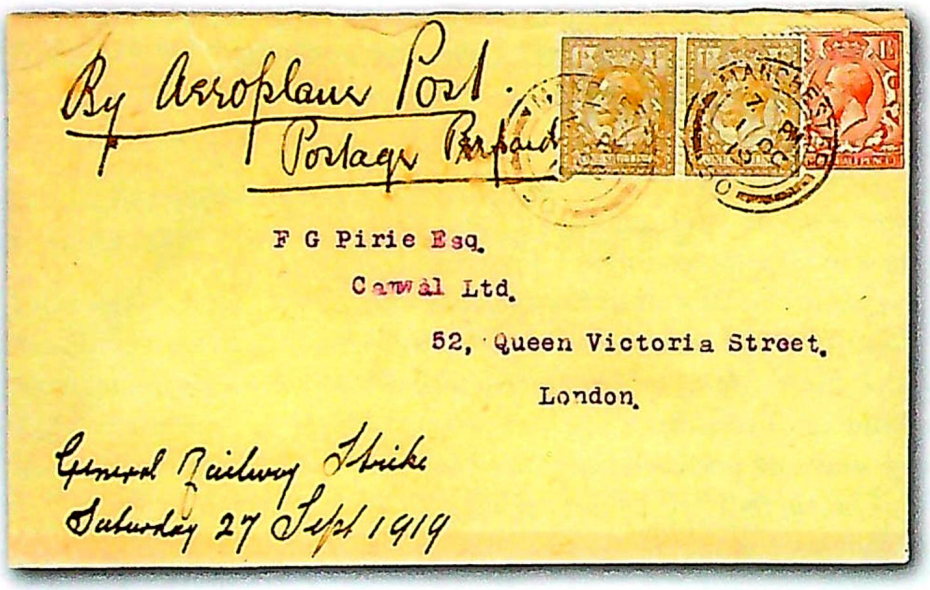
During the war, a regular mail service for the GPO was operated by naval seaplanes from Lake Windermere to the Isle of Man to overcome the U-boat menace in the Irish Sea. But no special markings were applied to the mail. At the end of September 1919 railway workers went on strike, forcing the GPO to find other means of moving long-distance mail. The result was a chartered aircraft flying in both directions between London and Bristol, Birmingham, Newcastle, Manchester and Glasgow.

On 1 May 1924 a GPO-approved experimental seaplane service between Belfast and Liverpool began. It wasn't a great success as the pilot, the aforementioned Sir Alan Cobham, was beset by bad weather that delayed the flight by a day. The trial was repeated in 1928 in conjunction with Liverpool Civic week, and was extended for a further week – but again the service was disrupted by the weather. In 1932 the GPO chartered Imperial Airways HP42 'Helena' to carry 50,000 War Loan Conversion Notices to Baldonnel airport in Dublin, as it was imperative that recipients all received them quickly.

A new market

Above: a letter that travelled by flying boat in 1928
Below: planes became crucial for keeping the post going during the general railway strike of 1919

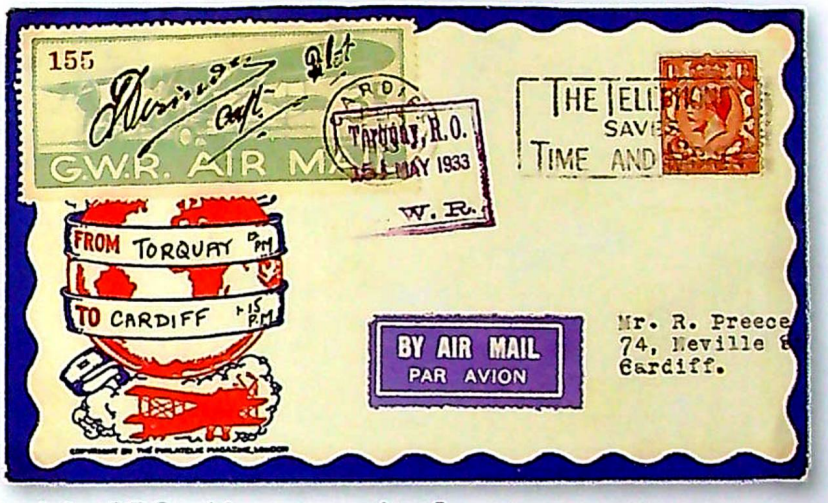
In 1933 and 1934, inland airmail began in earnest with an unofficial town-to-town service offering competitive delivery times compared to railway delivery. The initial Airways Letters service started on 12 April 1933, running between Cardiff and Plymouth with a stop at Haldon Aerodrome for delivery to Torquay and Teignmouth. The service was extended to start from Birmingham on 22 May. The service issued its own stamps depicting the Westland Wessex aircraft they had hired from Imperial Airways along with the pilots. The last of these flights took place on 30 September, but the only stage that was flown that day was from Birmingham to Cardiff due to fog, which forced the plane to turn back.



In August 1933, International

Airlines Ltd set up a service between Croydon, Portsmouth and Plymouth, but the venture soon failed due to poor advertising. Provincial Airways Ltd was the next to try its hand, using the same route and, early in 1934, Portsmouth, Southsea & Isle of Wight Aviation Ltd entered the game.

At this point the GPO stepped in and issued notice that these unofficial private ventures were forbidden to carry mail, however small the amount.



Above: from Torquay to Cardiff in just over an hour by GWR air mail in 1933
Below, left: a cover from the first mail flight to Orkney, signed by Captain Fresson
Below, right: a 1934 cover that flew by Railway Air Services

In 1933 Captain Ernest Fresson approached the GPO with a proposal to fly mail to Orkney, as he'd noticed that the mail was frequently held up due to bad weather and rough seas. But the Post Office did not think it viable and he wasn't given a contract. He didn't give up. Fresson set out to prove its viability of his plan by successfully flying Air Ambulance flights to Kirkwall every day for a year. He presented his case to the GPO and was given the type of contract he desired. His service began on 29 May 1934 and his company, Highland Airways, merged with Scottish Airways in 1937. Upon nationalisation in 1947 the company became BEA Scottish Division with Fresson still at the helm.

Collaborative approach

On 20 August 1934 an alliance between Imperial Airways and the Great Western Railway, London Midland Scottish, London North Eastern and Southern Railway companies saw the formation of Railway Air Services. Although passengers were carried on their services, mail was the main purpose of the flights. Three primary routes were in operation with Birmingham as the hub – London to Glasgow, Liverpool to Plymouth, Birmingham to Cowes – plus two shuttle services, all with intermediary stops. No air fee was levied and letters were cancelled by the GPO at the point of dispatch, the air service being used if it was deemed quicker than ▸







Above: a Concorde cover from 1981
Below: the commemorative stamps issued to celebrate 100 years of airmail

sending by rail. The decision was taken at the sorting office and the sender was asked to affix a blue airmail label in the top left corner of the envelope. This contract lasted just six months. It was taken over by Hillman Airways but they only operated the London to Glasgow route. On renewal of the contract, it reverted to Railway Air Services.

From 1935 to 1940, various airlines were chartered by the GPO to carry mail, mainly as emergency flights to the islands when backlogs occurred. In 1937 airmail to Jersey was introduced. Because the plane landed on the beach, the schedule was dependent upon the tides. When World War II broke out, all air services were initially suspended and the companies taken over by the AAJC (Associated Airways' Joint Committee). Later, special services were set up to get mail to the troops, mainly in the Western Isles of Scotland and the Isles of Scilly, but services were irregular due to enemy activities. At the end of the war the airlines were nationalised by the new Labour government, and BEA (British European Airways) was formed. Mail was again carried on most major routes, initially with an air fee that was quickly removed. In 1948 experimental flights were also being made by helicopter allowing services to access more remote areas.

And so internal airmail flights carried on as a matter of course. One notable service was Concorde's involvement, carrying Air Letters when it flew a promotional flight between London and Glasgow in 1981. During the 1980s Royal Mail set up a night-time network to sort mail at Liverpool's Speke airport, which became known as the 'Speke Spokes'. With Speke as the hub, mail was sent out on five provincial routes. Speke also became a place where mail was exchanged between air and road. In October 1982, a second air hub was created at the East Midlands Airport, near Derby, linking air, rail and road.









Today, a century after the initial mail flights to Windsor, we are often unaware that our post may well have been on an aircraft during its journey. Royal Mail's national air network, Skynet, ensures millions of letters reach their destination the day after posting. The pioneering spirit of those early postal flights has not been forgotten – but nowadays mail speeding the length and breadth of this small country is just an everyday occurrence •

Queen of the skies

Amelia Earhart (1897-1937), the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, combined her passion for adventure with a love of stamps and covers



Above: the daring aviatrix photographed in the 1930s

KANSAS-BORN AMELIA saw her first plane at the age of 10, when the family moved to Iowa, and throughout her childhood kept a scrapbook of stories documenting women who had succeeded in male-dominated careers. In 1920 she took her first flight and was instantly hooked. She cropped her hair, found a beaten-up leather jacket and started aviation training. By 1922 she had her own plane and had set a world record for the highest altitude reached by a female pilot. It was probably her spirit of adventure and love of travel that inspired Earhart's appreciation of postal items.

First crossing of the pond

In 1928 she flew across the Atlantic as a passenger on Wilmer Stultz's flight – it took over 20 hours but she vowed to do it alone next time. And so, in 1932, Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, making the journey between Newfoundland and Ireland on 21-22 May. The feat ensured her worldwide acclaim and a place in the annals of aviation history – Earhart was the first woman to receive the US Distinguished Flying Cross.

On her historic flight Earhart carried 50 pieces of 'unofficial' mail (the flight was not authorised by the US post office), each postmarked before and after landing, cacheted, numbered and autographed to document the event. When Earhart toured Europe, crowds thronged to see her. Dignitaries and heads of state honoured her with receptions and dinners and showered her with medals of honour. After visiting London and Paris, she and her husband, George Putnam, flew from Milan to Rome in a plane supplied to her by the Italian Ministry of Aeronautics. Premier Benito Mussolini, interested in promoting Italian air power as a symbol of his regime, fêted Earhart with a reception and a bouquet of roses on her arrival. During their two-day visit, General Italo Balbo – Italy's Marshal of the Air Force – hosted a dinner in their honour, they lunched with the Crown Prince and Princess, visited the American ambassador at the embassy and had a ▸

Below: 1963 US airmail stamp honouring Earhart with her Lockheed Electra plane



private audience with Mussolini in his office. Mussolini expressed appreciation of her special-event covers, signing them in green with his distinctive autograph. The couple then visited Belgium before returning to accolades in New York City.

Support from stamps

Philately supported Earhart's career in a variety of ways. The sales of her flown souvenirs helped to offset the cost of her aeronautic adventures and ensured her legacy in aerophilately. She collected examples of her mail and exhibited them at TIPEX, the 1936 New York exhibition, where she also spoke and gave out awards.







Above from top: Earhart carried 50 pieces of mail on her solo flight across the Atlantic; following her transatlantic flight, Rome celebrated Earhart and Mussolini autographed this souvenir for her; 1928 souvenir of the first woman to fly eastbound as a passenger over the Atlantic Ocean, one of three carried by Earhart

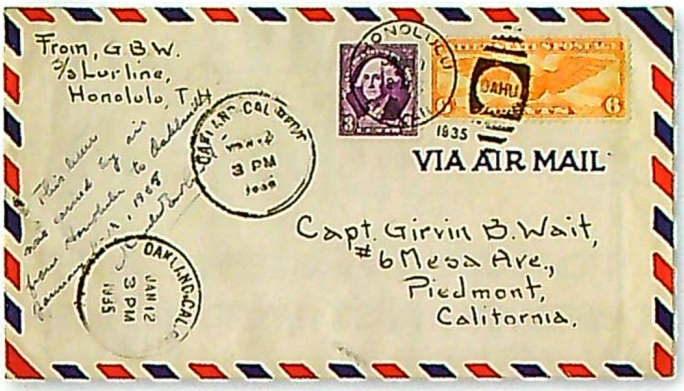
Amelia Earhart enjoyed celebrity status all over the world. She captured the public's imagination as an exceptional woman who broke barriers not only in the air but also as a role model for American women. She reached an astonishing number of milestones during her brief career. After the publication of her book about that first flight across the Atlantic, *20 Hours 40 Minutes*, she worked as the associate editor of *Cosmopolitan*. While she continued breaking speed records, she helped launch a new airline called New York, Philadelphia and Washington Airways. After her 1932 solo transatlantic flight, she wrote *For the Fun of It*, became the first woman to fly coast-to-coast nonstop and was elected president of the 'Ninety Nines', a new women pilots' organisation.

In 1935 Mexico honored Earhart by overprinting one of its airmail stamps with 'Amelia Earhart Vuelo de Buena Voluntad' (Amelia Earhart Flight of Good Will) to commemorate her visit to Mexico City. Straight after printing, the plates were destroyed. 480 of the 780 stamps were sent with the additional overprint 'Muestra' (Specimen) to the Universal Postal Union to distribute to postal administrations worldwide. This action defined the Earhart overprint as a legitimate stamp, despite some philatelists claiming that it was not created for postal purposes. About 100 of the remaining stamps were used on the mail carried by Earhart to New York City. Ten unused stamps were distributed to diplomats and the remaining examples were sold to local collectors and the public. This stamp remains a rare and desirable item.

The last flight

In 1937 Earhart attempted to fly around the world, carrying around 5,000 souvenir covers in the nose compartment of her Lockheed Electra airplane. With her customary business acumen, she had sold collectors autographed,

All pictures courtesy of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum





cacheted covers in advance of the flight – for $5 a piece. Earhart intended to add stamps and postmarks along the route, and it's believed that she did get postmarks before take-off in Oakland and again in Karachi. Rescuers found no trace of Earhart after her plane ran out of fuel over the Pacific Ocean and went down during her desperate search for Howland Island on 2 July. Enthusiasts still debate whether she and Noonan might have made it to Gardner Island, and some still search for evidence of their survival.

Above, left: in 1935 Earhart was the first person to fly solo from Honolulu to Oakland. 49 pieces of mail were carried on the flight

Above, right: Earhart was the first person to fly solo from Los Angeles via Mexico City to Newark (destination New York City), 1935

Below: Amelia and her husband at the 1936 TIPEX international exhibition

Her own collection

There are two Amelia Earhart Stamp Collections. One was given to the History of Aviation Collection in Austin, Texas in 1965 by the pilot Clara Studer. Ms Studer launched a campaign for a commemorative stamp in honour of Amelia Earhart and solicited the help of other pioneer women pilots such as Fay Gillis Wells and Louise McPhedridge Thaden to contact congressmen and senators. They gradually gained the support of newspapers throughout the country and the stamp was officially issued on24 July 1963 in Atchison, Kansas. The collection, in one archival box, contains 315 items.

In 1968 Elsie M Williamson, assisted by stamp dealer Jacques Minkus of Gimbel Galleries (who were involved in Amelia's covers business), donated the second collection – Amelia Earhart's personal archive of flown mail with photographs and one of her leather flight suits – to the Philatelic and Postal History Division of the US National Museum. Williamson had acquired the collection directly from Earhart's husband, George Putnam.

In her philatelic endeavours, Amelia dived into another male-dominated world. Female collectors were few and far between in those days but, as with her determination to succeed in aviation, Amelia wasn't going to be deterred by stereotyping. She was ahead of her time in many ways, not least in her canny understanding of the financial benefit of selling exclusive covers to collectors •

With thanks to Cheryl R Ganz, PhD, Chief Curator of Philately at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.



Hanoverian travels on stamps

As the Hanoverian monarchs make their well-powdered appearance in this month's Kings and Queens issue, Cyril Parsons looks at portraits of the same sovereigns on other stamps



Above and below: George III's likeness is taken from a portrait held at the National Portrait Gallery, London, from the studio of Allan Ramsay, painted around 1761–62

AN IMAGE OF THE REIGNING SOVEREIGN has been included on all British stamps since May 1840, when the Penny Black appeared with its portrait of the young Queen Victoria. Until 2008, when the Kings and Queens series began, very few of the earlier English sovereigns had featured on British stamps. Meanwhile, images of every single English sovereign since Edward the Confessor (1043-66) and even including that briefest of Queens, Lady Jane Grey – who reigned for only eight days in July 1553 – have featured on stamps somewhere in the wider philatelic world.

To coincide with this month's special Kings and Queen's issue from Royal Mail, we trace some of the most popular images of Hanoverian monarchs on stamps of other countries. We also look at the 17th-century portrait artists whose work has been chosen by various philatelic bureaux 300 years on. Oil paintings and coinage heads of the time are often the first point of reference for stamp designers looking for images of kings and queens who preceded Victoria. (We omit the many stamps featuring Queen Victoria – apart from her being the first monarch to be photographed, her position in philately is unique.)



A first for Barbuda

In 1970 and 1971 Barbuda was the first of a number of Commonwealth countries to issue a series of stamps featuring virtually all English sovereigns since the Norman conquest of 1066. Other Commonwealth countries to issue sets of sovereigns with Hanoverians include St Vincent (1977) and Grenada (1984).

Perhaps more surprisingly, several postal administrations outside of the Commonwealth – including Angola, Togo, Liberia and North Korea – have also issued series of stamps depicting British sovereigns. And in connection with the London 2000 Stamp Exhibition, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands and St Helena together issued stamps featuring the

© National Portrait Gallery, London

last 25 English sovereigns. In most of these series, each stamp features the image of one sovereign, except in the St Vincent series, in which three or four sovereigns are grouped together (see page 28).

Chosen artists

As there are relatively few portraits of the Hanoverian kings, stamps depicting them tend to be based on the same portraits time and again. For instance, Sir Godfrey Kneller's portraits have been a consistently popular choice for designers of George I stamps. In the 1984 Grenada series, the George I stamp is taken from the 1719 portrait by Kneller, while the image of George I in the aforementioned Barbuda series was based on his profile portrait for the coinage head. Appearing on other George I stamps are a 1714 portrait by Kneller (St Vincent), a portrait by Geoeg Wilhelm Lafontaine (Falkland Islands) and two portraits by as yet unidentified artists (Turks & Caicos and Liberia).

The studio of Charles Jervas produced the portrait of George II most favoured in philatelic circles, following its appearance in the Barbuda series. In the Stamp World 2000 series from St Helena the George II image departed from the Jervas tradition, as a portrait by an unidentified artist was chosen. The George II, George III and George IV stamps in the St Vincent series issued in 1977 adapt portraits by Thomas Hudson, Allan Ramsay and Sir Thomas Lawrence, respectively. Thomas Lawrence's work has appeared again on many subsequent stamps featuring George III probably because, although he reigned for almost 60 years, relatively few portraits of this monarch were commissioned. Fortunately, the Lawrence portrait of George III has an openness in the features of the face which works well in the small area available on a stamp, and appears on the 1961 issue from the British Post Office in Mauritius (where it faces the Pietro Annigoni image of Elizabeth II).

One other George III portrait, from the studio of Allan Ramsay, appears on a number of stamps, including the Ascension Island issue of 2008. And Guernsey's very first issue as an independent postal administration was a stamp based on a contemporary coinage head with a profile portrait of George III, again the work of Allan Ramsay. The artist Johann Zoffany's portrait of George III has also appeared on stamps, as well as two portraits by unidentified artists.

In his days as Prince Regent, George IV was the subject of many dashing portraits but during his kingship his increasing corpulence became a favourite subject for the lampooning of satirical cartoonists. Three portraits by Sir Thomas Lawrence have been chosen to represent George IV on stamps, as well as portraits by John Russell and Sir David Wilkie.

For stamps showing William IV, the choice of portraits is broader, even though he reigned for only seven years. There has been more variety in ▸





Above and below: this powerful portrait of George I was painted in 1719 at the studio of Sir Godfrey Kneller and is now in the National Portrait Gallery, London





Above and below: George II's likeness is taken from a portrait held at the National Portrait Gallery, London, painted in 1744 by Thomas Hudson

William IV stamps than with the other Hanoverians – works of Sir Martin Archer Shee, Samuel Diez, Reginald Easton, Sir Thomas Lawrence, Sir David Wilkie and William Wyon have all been employed •

Cyril Parsons is the editor of the British Royal Portraits Stamp Group. To find out more about the Group, contact its Treasurer, Mr Allan Rendle, at 23 More Close, St Paul's Court, London W14 9BN or on allanrendle@hotmail.com

Stamp by stamp of this months House of Hanover special issue...

✣ **1st Class – George I (1714-1727)** His poor command of English and his fondness for spending time in his homeland of Germany contributed to the development of Cabinet government and the office of Prime Minister during the reign of George I. He faced the 1715 Jacobite rising and the collapse of the South Sea Company in 1720, and rumours that some of his German favourites had been involved in fraud. But the King was saved by Robert Walpole, Britain's first and longest-serving Prime Minister.

✣ **1st Class – George II (1727-1760)** In a reign marked by the second Jacobite rising and two major wars, George II was the last British sovereign to lead his soldiers into battle – against the French at Dettingen in June 1743. He was relatively inactive politically and relied heavily on his ministers, particularly during the events of the Seven Years' War (1756–63). After a poor start, there was great military success: 1759 was the Year of Victories – the most successful in the history of British arms.

✣ **76p – George III (1760-1820)** Still a young man when he became King, George III clung to the principle that he should choose his prime ministers. He was King during the American Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. His later years were marked by poor health and his son was appointed Regent in 1811.



✣ **76p – George IV (1820-1830)** A lavish spender and patron of the arts, George IV was responsible for the Brighton Pavilion, the rebuilding of Windsor Castle and the founding of many of today's great royal collections. He was Regent at the time of the Battle of Waterloo. His reign was overshadowed by the scandal of his divorce from Queen Caroline.

✣ **£1.10 – William IV (1830-1837)** Having spent most of his life in the Navy before becoming King, WIliam IV enjoyed a short reign, marked by political crisis, notably around the Reform Bill of 1832, which he handled with skillfully. He was the last British monarch to dismiss a government with a majority in Parliament.

✣ **£1.10 – Victoria (1837-1901)** Victoria's reign, the longest in British history, saw a dramatic transformation of all aspects of life in the Industrial Revolution. Her Golden and Diamond Jubilees were celebrated with great enthusiasm and her popularity was associated with pride in the British Empire, at its height during her reign.

✣ **Other Royal Mail stamps to feature Royalty** (aside from the current Kings and Queens series and the Royal Family):1966 Battle of Hastings (Harold II and William I), 1968 British Paintings (Elizabeth I), 1974 Medieval Warriors (Henry V, Robert I of Scotland), 1982 Maritime Heritage (Henry VIII), 1987 150th Anniversary of Queen Victoria's Accession, 1997 450th Anniversary of the Death of Henry VIII, 1997 Religious Anniversaries (King Ethelbert 43p), 1999 Millennium Series. The Soldiers' Tale (Robert I of Scotland 19p), 1999 Millennium Series, The Pilgrims' Tale (James I/VI of Scotland 26p), 2006 Year of the Three Kings Miniature Sheet, London 2010 Festival of Stamps – Accession of George V Miniature Sheet, The King's Stamps Miniature Sheet.



Portrait images © National Portrait Gallery, London

On top at Stampex We talks to the new man at the helm of Britain's national stamp exhibition

Many visitors to Autumn Stampex may not realise the fact, but there is now a new person at the top – Graham Childs, whose life has been steeped in stamps since childhood. In case you bump into him, here's everything you woulld like to know but might not have time to ask...



Above: Graham Childs is now responsible for the administration of Stampex

How did you discover stamp collecting? 'I grew up in a stamp collecting family. My father collected South Africa, while my mother chose Great Britain errors. When I was nine years old my father bought me a collection of Sarawak, and that became the focus of my collecting. Later I added Cook Islands to my interests. My sister was also a stamp collector.'

How did your collecting develop? 'In 1956 I became a member of the Brighton & Hove Philatelic Society, serving in many roles including President. The following year I entered for the first time what was then the Melville Memorial Competition, now the British Youth Stamp Championships, and over the years was twice overall winner in each of the age groups.'

When did you decide that it would be your career? 'It began at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in 1963. I approached Cyril Harmer of the London auctioneers H R Harmer (now Harmers of London) and asked him if he had any jobs available. I had to write in, and have an interview. Fortunately I was accepted and joined the following year as a trainee in the Describing Room – for £5 a week plus luncheon vouchers.'

How did your career with Harmers progress? I was pleased to join Harmers, a company epitomising the best of stamp auctioneers. They have always been able to depend on a knowledgeable team, and that remained so following a change of ownership and, later, the move from Bond Street to Chiswick. I spent three enjoyable years with the company's auction house in New York, and progressed to taking auctions for myself.'

During your career as an auctioneer, what were your most exciting moments? 'There were many, such as the sale of the Bermuda collection formed by Sir Henry Tucker, the used One Penny 'Post Office' Mauritius that sold for £170,000, and the mint block of 36 of the Great Britain Queen Victoria One Penny 'VR' which went for £250,000. We were quite conservative with our estimates, so the prices were achieved – often well above estimate.'

You were involved with the Philatelic Traders' Society for several years – what do you recall most from that period? 'It was the late Ronald Shelley who invited me to join the Council of the Philatelic Traders' Society in 1995, and later I became Chairman. It was not an easy phase in the life of the Society, being the time that Stampex moved from its venue for many years at the Royal Horticultural Halls to its present home at the Business Design ▸



Right: the Business Design Centre in Islington, London, is the venue for the annual Spring and Autumn Stampex – the key British National Stamp Exhibition for dealers and collectors

Centre. I was delighted to be awarded the Rowland Hill Award for Personal Contribution in 2001 in recognition of my work with the PTS.'

A few years ago you decided to leave the philatelic world – what prompted that decision? 'In 2005 I decided that the time had come to move from Harmers, and joined Bonhams as Head of the Stamp Department. I was fortunate in having a fine team working with me; however, my wife Penny has family in Greece, and they needed her support, so we moved there for a few years.'

You have now taken over the reigns of organising Stampex twice a year. What made you decide to accept this challenge? 'In fact, I am now responsible for the administration of both the Philatelic Traders' Society and its subsidiary company, Stampex. The PTS has over 420 members and is the world's leading trade society. I read in the PTS magazine that my predecessor, Mike Czuczman, was planning to retire, and I applied for his job. As a result I am back with the PTS. I feel sure that my ability to get on with people, knowing many collectors and dealers, and being able to deal with day-to-day matters all helped. One of the key aspects of the work of the PTS is the 'Red Call' – alerting the trade immediately to stolen or missing philatelic items, or any other suspicious circumstances.'

What plans do you have for Stampex, and in particular how do you see the future of this exhibition? 'Having attended Stampex for nearly 50 years, I feel it is still the true national exhibition in the UK, built on the strength of the dealers and auctioneers – and of course Royal Mail, who attend each time, – and the fine displays. At the moment everything is continuing as before, with our Smilers® sheet and free postcard, plus several new items being launched by Royal Mail. But I am always open to new ideas, especially if we are able to reach out to a new public as a result.' •

Interview by Richard West. For more details of Autumn Stampex, 14 to 17 September, phone 01252 628006 or visit www.Stampex.ltd.uk

Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 3 October 2011. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent service after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to Melanie Williams, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Prize draws Philatelic brainteasers and a cryptic crossword

Identify and **Knowledge**

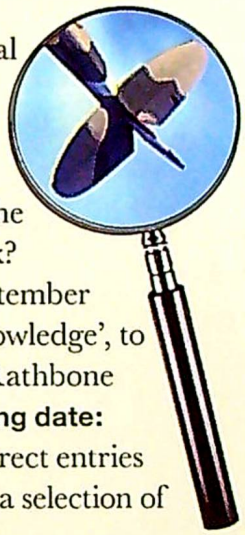
1 *Identify* the stamp from the detail below, by its name and year of issue.

2 Test your *Knowledge*:

a) In what year was the first official airmail carried in the UK?

b) How many mail bags did the Blériot XI carry?

c) What is the current name of the Post Office's national air network?



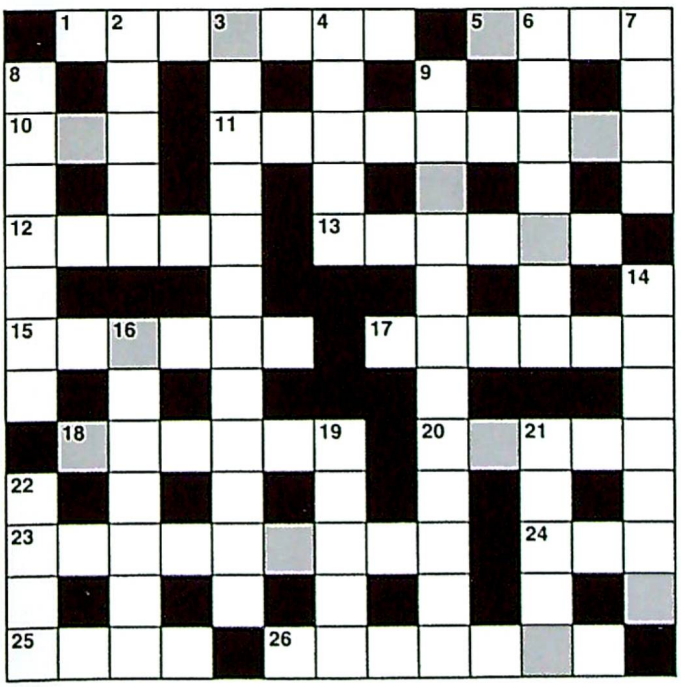
Send your answers, marked 'September Identify' and/or 'September Knowledge', to Bulletin Draw, 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. **Closing date:** 3 October 2011. The first ten correct entries drawn after the closing date win a selection of September special issue stamps •

July solutions and winners



Identify: the National Stadium, Beijing, from the Olympic Games (The Handover) stamp set of 2008.
Winner R J Witt, Gloucester.
Knowledge: a) The London 2012 Olympic Games will feature 29 sports, which break down into 39 disciplines. b) All 30 of the series of Royal Mail London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic stamps available by the end of July. c) The Dominican Republic was the first country to show Olympic medallists on stamps, in 1956.
Winner A Laxon, Swindon
Crossword: Across – 1 Tethers. 5 Scam. 10 Ant. 11 Insistent. 12 Llama. 13 Rarity. 15 Scrape. 17 Brides. 18 In a rut. 20 Evade. 23 Roman road. 24 Ire. 25 Yoke. 26 Stay put.
Down – 2 Extra. 3 Heir apparent. 4 Riser. 6 Cheated. 7 Mete. 8 Tallest. 9 User-friendly. 14 Ushered. 16 Ran amok. 19 Trout. 21 Adieu. 22 Pray. *Solution:* booklet.
Winner T J Bowater, Stourport on Severn.

Crossword Complete the puzzle below, then rearrange the letters in the grey squares to form a stamp-related word. Send that word, with your name and address and marked 'September Crossword', to the address above. The first correct entry drawn after 3 October wins a selection of special issues.



CLUES ACROSS

1 Result not in, has to arrive (7)
5 Cards' winning serves (4)
10 Animal found in alarming numbers (3)
11 Professional soldier meets heartless Lily habitually (9)
12 Trendy Post Office animal (5)
13 Charles going around in fetters (6)
15 Cared madly about a shopping gallery (6)
17 Loves so dear should be developed (6)
18 Synchronised part of foot (6)
20 Complete to say (5)
23 Harbour man soaked in liquid (9)
24 Arrest given reversal of prohibition (3)
25 Quickly swallow connector on return (4)
26 Ancient city young child left, and no returns! (7)

CLUES DOWN

2 American heads of unions require power to take over (5)
3 Finding age not bad, racing away (6,6)
4 Wise men, many conjuring (5)
6 Nothing in the angle of a room for court official (7)
7 An island heaven, it's said (4)
8 Intellectual's urge to lead (7)
9 Landlady runs around for everybody (3,3,6)
14 Attribute to a writer (7)
16 Check rule (7)
19 Greek bread is mine, thanks! (5)
21 Dance beat – beat it! (5)
22 With satisfied smile, part of mouth shown up (4)



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