

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

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Scenery of Scotland • De La
Rue at Byfleet • Pub Signs

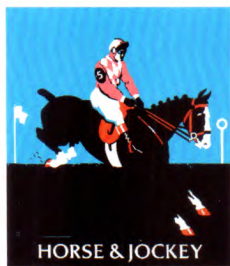


A very British landmark:
Pub Signs stamps go on
sale from 12 August.



B _____
HORSE & JOCKEY

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The Horse & Jockey, one of a series of enamel pub signs illustrated by Andrew Davidson and manufactured by Wood & Wood International Signs for John Smith's Brewery. Mr Davidson, designer of the 1st class Pub Signs stamp, has kindly granted permission for this reproduction.

Issues Note some items are available only from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh 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 Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool London (Trafalgar Square and Eastcheap), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth Portsmouth, Southampton Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud Truro, Windsor and York

1 July	Issue £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 definitives printed in gravure, also presentation pack.
3 July	Withdrawal 40p, 45p and 65p definitives; 65p country stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.
4 July	Withdrawal Stamp books: 12 × 2nd Questa, 6 × 1st and 6 × 2nd Walsall, all issued 1 August 2001.
8 July	Issue A British Journey: Scotland stamp cards.
15 July	Issue A British Journey: Scotland stamps, presentation pack, and stamp book containing 4 × 1st class definitives in gold and 2 × 1st class Scotland stamps (all six stamps self-adhesive).
15 July	Withdrawal Commonwealth Games stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
29 July	Issue Pillar to Post ingot cover no3.
29 July	Issue Smilers sheet: 20 × 1st class Cartoons stamps and labels.
5 August	Issue Pub Signs stamp cards.
12 August	Issue Pub Signs stamps and presentation pack.
12 August	Issue Victorian stamp ingot collection no3.
19 August	Withdrawal Peter Pan stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

Contents



Former post office at Inchmadamph, Loch Assynt's only village

Scotland's scenery James Mackay visits the locations featured in the first set of 'A British Journey' stamps, and their post offices past and present **332**

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Issues and withdrawals **322**

Stamp scene People in the news; Literature; Exhibitions; Philatelic scholarship; Auctions; the Stamps in Schools Project **324**

Royal Mail news New stamps; New Cartoons Smilers; 2004 stamps; Wildings Collection II; Ingot covers; Victorian Ingot Collection; New Coronation phone cards **328**



Pub Signs A new issue celebrates a traditional British landmark **336**



Philately on-line Ron Negus on a Cinderellas website **339**

Century of association The North of England Philatelic Association, by Cliff Garside **340**

Moving house D G A Myall on De La Rue's move to Byfleet **342**

In safe hands Richard West talks to Keith Fitton **345**

Cover corner **346**

Ludlow posting boxes by Ron Negus **347**

Postbag Letters to the Editor **348**

Special draw Win *The Post in the Hills* **349**

Competitions £200 to be won **350**

Events **350**

Late news **351**

Stamp scene Literature • People in news • Exhibitions • Scholarship • Auctions

GBCC For details, contact Parker A Bailey, 17 Greenwood Road, Merrimack NH 03054, USA, or visit their website at www.gbstamps.com/gbcc

Literature The April issue of the *Chronicle*, journal of the Great Britain Collectors Club, includes an interview by Larry Rosenblum with Douglas N Muir, Curator Philately at Royal Mail Heritage, and a former Editor of this *Bulletin*. Asked how he got interested in stamps and who were his mentors, Muir replied: 'Stamps always interested me. When I was a boy [in Scotland] they were a window to the world, more so than now. In a neighboring village to mine lived Sir John Wilson, then Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, and although I never met him (I knew his brother, Sir George, also a stamp collector), he was highly regarded in the local area. So stamps were not thought of simply as a small boy's passion.' Douglas's first philatelic job was as Assistant Editor on *Stamp Collecting* in 1975. After *Stamp Collecting* ceased publication in 1984 he joined the National Postal Museum as a consultant, and then became *Bulletin* Editor for two years before taking up his present post. Although there is a post of Assistant Curator, Philately, this is currently unfilled. Douglas works closely with Heritage's Conservator, Krystyna Koscia, and with three volunteers who help on the collections – Mike Bament and Tom Norgate work on postal history and Don Staddon on the Machin material. Asked for a philatelic wish for 2003, Douglas asked for some of the scarce Swiss return to sender labels missing from his personal collection, and 'that collectors would enjoy their stamps and collections more'. (An interview with Douglas was published here in April 1998.) Edgar Smith provides a useful account of the counter computer printed labels introduced from February 2002, Larry Rosenblum writes on the new Europe and Worldwide stamps in his 'Mostly Machins' column, and Paul Phillips examines Second World War Mail from Exile Forces and Governments. As usual the *Chronicle* is a good read •

ABPS 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT.

The colourful April issue of *ABPS News* (Association of British Philatelic Societies), reports on Spring Stampex, Rowland Hill Awards, new Royal Mail, Jersey and Guernsey stamps, and events organised by philatelic societies throughout the country. The Editor, Richard West, makes poignant comments about the need to improve the image of the hobby: 'Many of the youngsters who collect, such as those who come to Stampex, are perfectly happy to see stamp collecting as "cool" and to be open about their interest with their friends. Perhaps us oldies also need to be more "cool" and demonstrative about our hobby, making it plain that it is not just for children, but one that can be tailored to meet the needs of all. It is truly a hobby for everyone: we need to kill off the anorak tag so often attached to stamp collectors.' •

ATA handbook orders ATA, PO Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87181-0820, USA. Price US\$12.

The American Topical Association has published, as handbook 139, *The Philatelic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Larry Dodson. This is arranged in six chapters covering the Principals (Holmes, Watson, and Doyle), the books, the movie actors and directors, animated Sherlock Holmes, Sherlock Holmes music, and others. Each describes and illustrates stamps,

miniature sheets, and stamp book covers related to the great fictional detective. British material features quite prominently – the 1993 strip of five stamps showing scenes from the books and the £1 stamp book covers featuring *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Final Problem*. The book concludes with a listing of Sherlock Holmes works, references, and an index of Holmes-related stamps from over 70 countries. A useful compilation •

The Spring issue of *Cross Post* (Friends of Postal Heritage), contains interesting features on Henry Fawcett and Postal Reform; The Penny Black Centenary Issue; The Facile Time-Stamp; Unpaid and Underpaid International Mail; and The English Provincial Penny Post. Royal Mail's Heritage Collections contain some 1850 covers and letters showing provincial penny post and receiving house handstamps. The journal is a handsome, well-illustrated production •

The May issue of the Newsletter of the Letter Box Study Group includes reports of the Group's activities, news from its photograph archives (20,000 photographs!), snippets of letter box information from local newspapers, a feature on post boxes of Cyprus, and part 1 of a history of the type 'K' pillar box. Attached is a list/order form of data sheets, books, postcards and other items available to members •

Enquiries Mrs A Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX.

Enquiries For details of the LBSG contact Val Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES. e-mail: membership@lmsg.org

People in the news Five philatelists receive the hobby's highest honour this month when they sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the Philatelic Congress of GB at Gateshead. Over 325 philatelists from 45 countries have signed the Roll since its inception in 1921. The two new British signatories are Dr Alan Drysdall and Christopher Harman. Dr Drysdall, interested in east and southern Africa, is the author of 17 books and over 200 articles published in, amongst many, *The Transvaal Philatelist*, *Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, *South Africa Philatelist*, *Natal and Zululand Post*, and *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. His collecting interests are now confined to Transvaal. He received a Large Gold Award at Hafnia 2000 and exhibited in the Rare Stamps exhibitions in London, Monaco, and South Africa. He received the Royal Philatelic Society's Tilleard Medal in 1995.

Christopher Harman has a wide range of philatelic interests and has built up reference collections of Perkins Bacon, Forgers and Forgeries of the World, and revenue and local stamps. He has an extensive philatelic library, has made a study of the printing of early stamps, and serves on the Expert Committee of the Royal. A former President of the GB Philatelic Society, he is Vice President of the Royal. He promotes the hobby through judging and displaying, and in contributions to publications, including the SG *GB Specialised Catalogues*. An interview with Mr Harman was published here in May 1996.

The overseas signatories are Dr Pichal Buransombati of Thailand, Gustaf Johansson of Sweden, and Joseph Wolff of Luxembourg. Dr Buransombati has formed important collections of Straits Settlements, Early Line Engraved GB, and Revenue Stamps of Siam. In 2000 he co-authored a major work on the revenue system and stamps of Siam. He has improved standards of collecting in Thailand with training packages for lecturers

and guidelines on competitive collecting. He is currently working on a specialised catalogue of Siam and Thailand. Mr Johnnansson has studied the early issues of Norway and Sweden, especially the Swedish 'Skilling Banco Period'. His collections have been awarded Golds, Large Golds, and a Grand Prix. A member of the Swedish Philatelic Federation since 1939, it awarded him its highest honour, the Strandell Medal, in 1998. Mr Wolff's collections include Luxembourg during German Occupation and Telecommunications – both have earned him international golds. A tireless worker for philately, especially in encouraging young collectors, he contributes to newspapers and television. His book on stamp collecting and its educational and instructive values has been reprinted several times and is available in three languages. He has been an international judge since 1974 and is Vice President of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie •

John R Boker, a world-renowned philatelist, died in April, aged 90. He specialised in German States and US Locals and Pre-cancels. His philatelic awards included the Smithsonian Institution's Lifetime Achievement Award, Robson Lowe Memorial Medal, Luff Award, and the Lindenburg, Lichtenstein, and Tilleard Medals. He was Chairman of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation, signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1964, and served on international juries from 1956. Boker started collecting precancels aged 10 when he came into possession of a box of stamps, primarily New York and New Jersey Precancels. This began what was ultimately to become the finest aggregation of precancels assembled •

The Association of British Philatelic Societies has awarded the Congress Medal for 2003 to Peter Chantry in recognition of his services to philately over many years. Well known as a stalwart of philately in the South West, he has also held office at national level. A member of the Council of the British Philatelic Federation in 1992, he served on the committee that led to the formation of the ABPS in November 1993. He has played a prominent part as Editor of the ABPS Newsletter, managing the distribution of over 2000 copies per quarter – a time-consuming task. His collecting interests led to membership of the East African Study Circle to which he has given outstanding service as Editor/Librarian since 1992. Peter has played an important part in Midpex, Stamp Show 2000 and as Chairman of the 84th Philatelic Congress of GB last year.

ABPS Awards of Merit for service at local level are being presented to Ian Amy, Brian Fielding, Reg Harrison, Paul Horton, Elizabeth Lewis, Eric Lewis, Gwyneth Lewis, Peter Lister, Godfrey Mellor, M Phelan, William Ross, Ronald Sax, Anthea Stout, Douglas Ward, and David Williams •



Peter Chantry, awarded the ABPS Congress Medal 2003.

Bangkok enquiries Bangkok 2003, PO Box 2003, CAT Headquarters Post Office, Bangkok 10002, Thailand.

Exhibitions Two international exhibitions will be staged this year – Bangkok 2003 (4-13 October) and St Petersburg 2003 (7-14 November). The Bangkok exhibition, organised by the Thailand Post Office and the Philatelists Association of Thailand, will be held at the IMPACT Convention Centre Muang Thong Thani, Nonthaburi Province. Each day will have a theme, such as International Letter Writing Day (5 October), World Post Day (9th) or Stamp Museum Day (10th). A philatelic passport will be available •

Philatelic scholarship The Royal Philatelic Society London invites applications for a travelling scholarship in memory of Julian Chapman (1952-94). This is for philatelists wishing to study Commonwealth stamps or postal history. A sum of up to £2500 will contribute towards travelling costs, accommodation and subsistence for a trip, particularly overseas. Applications, to be submitted by 30 September, should include an outline of the subject to be studied and how it relates to the applicant's previous philatelic research, intentions as to publication of the results of the study, an accurate costing of the trip, including places and organisations to be visited, and a short philatelic cv. The application should be limited to two sides of an A4 sheet of paper ●

Enquiries Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY.

Auction news Spink announces their selection as the auctioneer for the sale of the magnificent Marcus Samuel Collection of Specimen Stamps of Great Britain. Formed over a period of some 60 years, the collection grew to become one of the most outstanding specialised collections ever built. It provided the basis for the definitive reference work on the subject, *Specimen Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain*, written jointly by Marcus Samuel and Alan Huggins, published by the GB Philatelic Society in 1980. Covering all periods of GB, including official overprints, the collection comprises postal notices, essays, colour trials, colour standards and a wonderful range of multiples in addition to individual issued stamps. Many are unique and have never previously appeared in auction. The auction will take place on 3 December 2003; a catalogue will be available early November. Spink's current 2003 auction programme of 33 sales includes 16 stamp auctions. GB sales will take place on 4 July and 25 September ●

Spink 69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET. Telephone 020 7563 4000.

Stamps in Schools This month the Stamps in Schools Project will visit its 100th school. The project was set up in 1997 by retired teacher Erere Grieve, originally with other members of Haverfordwest Philatelic Society, visiting schools in the town and helping teachers and parents set up stamp clubs. Two years later, with funding from the British Philatelic Trust, Erere started visiting schools in many parts of Britain. The visits (for which there is no charge) comprise an exhibition of items chosen to appeal to children, a presentation on 'How to become a Stamp Collector', and activities and competitions for the children. The visits have been greeted with great enthusiasm by both the pupils and staff, rekindling an interest in stamps in many teachers. Many schools have set up a stamp club following a visit ●

Enquiries Erere Grieve, The Dees, Neyland Vale, Neyland, Milford Haven SA73 1QP. Telephone 01646 601490 or e-mail erere.grieve@lineone.net

A profile of Erere Grieve was published here in July 2002.

The National Youth Stamp Committee has recently published the first issue of *Kidstamps* magazine – aimed at youngsters who do not belong to a junior stamp club but who want to become involved and enjoy the hobby of stamp collecting. The magazine gives details of the Fun Fruit & Veg stamps, the planetstamp website, stamps showing the Royal Family, a feature by young collector Prashanthini Shanthakumar, a competition, and introduces Squidge, the stamp-collecting squirrel. If you are aged between six and 18 and would like to join Kidstamps which is free, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address at right ●

Kidstamps Anne Dummer, 2A Bryant Road, Kettering NN15 6JE.

For information on resources for running a junior stamp club, contact the NYSC, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT.

Royal Mail news New issues and Smilers • Ingot covers • Coronation phone cards

New stamps The four high value definitive stamps (£1.50, £2, £3 and £5) have now been printed in gravure rather than recess (intaglio). The new gravure stamps go on sale at Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 1 July; they will be available at Post Office branches as stocks of the recess stamps are used up.

Six stamps featuring Scottish landscapes go on sale on 15 July, the first in the 'A British Journey' series. The stamps were previewed here last month. The special issue for August – Pub Signs – is previewed in this *Bulletin*. The special stamp programme continues with Transports of Delight (toys) on 18 September, British Museum on 7 October and Christmas on 4 November. The Transports of Delight stamps feature: 1st class Meccano Constructor Biplane (1931), E rate Wells-Brimtoy Clockwork Double-decker Omnibus (1938), 42p Hornby M1 Clockwork locomotive and tender (1948), 47p Dinky Toys Ford Zephyr (1956), and 68p Mettoy Friction Drive Space Ship *Eagle* (c1960). The five stamps will also be issued in a miniature sheet and the 1st class stamp as a self-adhesive in a book with four 1st class Machins. The sheet stamps and miniature sheet are printed by Enschedé, the self-adhesive book by De La Rue.

The British Museum stamps feature heads: the coffin of Denytenamun c900BC (Egyptian); Alexander the Great, c200BC (Greek); Sutton Hoo Helmet c600AD (Anglo-Saxon), sculpture of Parvati, c1550AD (South Indian); mask of Xiuhtecuhtli, c1500AD (Mixtec-Aztec); and Hoa Hakananai'A, c1000AD (Easter Island). The stamps are being printed by Walsall. The Christmas stamps, to be printed by De La Rue, will feature ice sculptures. There will also be Christmas airletters in standard and bilingual Welsh/English versions •



MECCANO
Constructor Biplane 1931



WELLS-BRIMTOY
Clockwork Double-decker Omnibus c1938

Transports of Delight 1st class and E stamps, shown at proof stage.

Wildings Collection Shown at right is the second Wilding miniature sheet issued on 20 May. The image shown in the April *Bulletin* was a proof: the values of stamps in the lower row were changed, and modifications were made to the designs of the issued 8p, 68p and E stamps •



The Wilding definitives collection II ~ 1953 - 1959

CARTOON SMILERS™

20 STAMPS

WWW.ROYALMAIL.COM

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2nd

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Smilers sheets A new Smilers generic sheet containing 20 1st class Cartoons stamps (of 1996) will be available from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets from 29 July, price £6.15. Also available will be sheets of 20 with your personalised image printed on the labels, price £14.95. The sheets include a crossword puzzle in the bottom margin – the answers will be published in this magazine later in the year. For an order form or further information, see right ●

2004 stamp programme A change has been made to the 2004 programme since it was published in the April *Bulletin* (page 232). The Trains issue, provisionally entitled Classic Locomotives, will be in January and the Lord of the Rings stamps in February. The Locomotives issue will feature some of Britain's popular preserved railways. The associated prestige stamp book – to be issued in February or March (the exact date to be announced later this year) – will be a tribute to the TPO service. There will also be a miniature sheet to mark the opening of the new Scottish Parliament building; the date for this depends on the opening of the building, currently expected in February ●

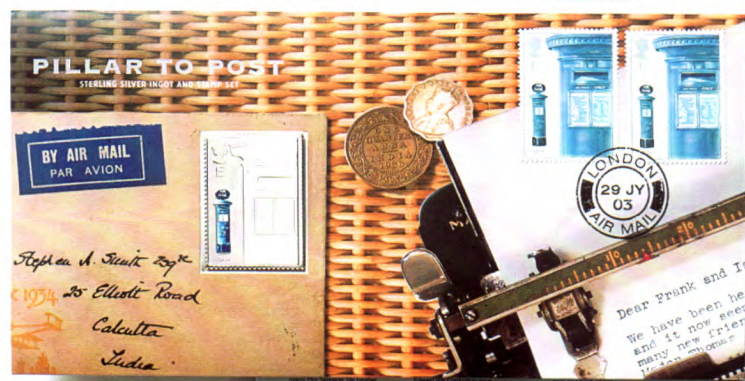
Correction In the January *Bulletin* (page 146) it is stated that the 1st class gold stamp in the *Microcosmos* PSB (issued 25 February) is the first 1st class gold gummed definitive printed by Enschedé. This is incorrect, this stamp was first issued in coils on 21 January. We regret any confusion caused ●

Cartoons Smilers For order form and further details phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas).



A storage box for the Pillar to Post ingot covers (above) is free with regular orders.

Ingot covers Below is the third Pillar to Post ingot cover, available from 29 July. These covers feature the postal and social history of the time of the postbox shown on the ingot. This third ingot reproduces the E stamp from the Pillar to Post set (October 2002). A pair of the stamps is cancelled by a special London postmark in the style of the Airmail handstamp in use in 1934. The cover is available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £29.95. The fourth and fifth ingot covers are scheduled for 21 October and 27 January. ●



E stamp ingot at actual size.



Victorian Ingot Collection The second in the 'Victorian Stamp Ingot Collection' series of attractive folders containing silver ingots of Victorian stamps is now available. This features the 1847 embossed 1s stamp, shown right at actual size. The third in the series – the 1870 ½d stamp – will be available from 12 August. Price £26.95 each. The Victorian Stamp Ingot Collection, and a collection device in which to house them (free with regular orders), is available from Tallents House, Edinburgh only •



Coming off sale Soon to be withdrawn from sale at Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets: 40p, 45p and 65p Machin definitives and 65p country stamps for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales (3 July); Commonwealth Games stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards (15 July); and Peter Pan stamps, pack and cards (10 August) ●

Royal Mail phone cards Shown below are new £5 and £10 phone cards reproducing two of the Coronation Anniversary stamps. Available from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ●



April Wildings draw Winners were: W Richards, Mid-Glamorgan; G Edwards, Devon; D Cabble, Coventry; Mrs A Picard, Hants; E Harris, New Zealand; Mrs G Ward, Leicestershire; L Blom, Sweden; Mrs A Williams, North Yorkshire; A Godfrey, Warwickshire; and J O'Hare, Ireland ●

Scenic Scotland Locations in the first set of 'A British Journey' stamps, by James Mackay

In a country boasting a wide variety of scenery, the task facing Royal Mail in selecting just six images which would typify the beauty of Scotland must have been a difficult one. The results, however, are excellent. The six stamps go on sale on 15 July.

IN THE SUBJECTS CHOSEN and in each particular view, the design of 'A British Journey: Scotland' has been carefully ordered to show different types of scenery: lakeland, mountain, forest, upland valley, man-made landmark and island.

Scotland has hundreds of lochs (but only one lake – the Lake of Menteith, near Callander). Loch, of course, is merely the Gaelic word for a lake (*cf* the Irish form lough). Many lochs are actually inlets of the sea, but others are entirely landlocked. Scotland has the largest body of fresh water, in surface area, in the United Kingdom (Loch Lomond) and also the deepest (Loch Ness, up to 230 metres or 750 feet).

Loch Assynt, the subject of the 2nd class stamp, is superlative only in the scenic sense. A mere six miles (10km) long and attaining a maximum depth of 282 feet (86 metres), it ranks as one of the smaller lochs, but it is set in one of the most dramatic landscapes anywhere in the British Isles. It is located not far from the west coast of Sutherland, the most northwesterly county of mainland Britain, in the country of the Clan Mackay. Ardvreck Castle, whose ruins stand on a promontory at the south-eastern end of the loch, was one of the clan strongholds. The loch is set between Glenanisp Forest and Inchnadamph Forest, not forests in the normal sense of the word but vast stretches of moorland inhabited mainly by deer and thus a mecca for the hunter. Lochassynt Lodge at the north-western end of the loch has been a shooting lodge for almost 150 years. The only village, Inchnadamph, is situated at the southern end. A receiving house was established at the inn in 1830 and known originally as Inchnadamph but it appears that from the outset its postmarks bore the parish name of Assynt instead. The sub post office, under Lairg 33 miles away, was of minor importance, although in 1891 it was empowered to sell and encash postal orders. In March 1937 it became a telegraph office (call sign AYU) but it was closed at the end of March 1952. Today, the nearest post offices to Loch Assynt are at Lochinver, on the west coast 12 miles distant, and Kylesku, 9 miles north.

The highest mountain in the parish is Ben More Assynt (3273 feet), but the subject of the 1st class stamp is the mountain of the same name in the island of Mull. This Ben More (Gaelic *Beinn Mór*, 'big mountain') is, in fact, only one of eight mountains by this rather unimaginative name, and though smaller than its counterpart in Assynt it stands at 3169 feet (966 metres), the highest mountain on the island. In an island noted for the rugged splendour of its scenery, Ben More dominates the landscape in the central part of Mull known as the Burg, lying between the fiords of Loch na Keal and Loch Scriadain. The slopes of the mountain form an extensive deer forest. Mull was particularly hard hit by the Highland Clearances, and the glens that produced no fewer than seven generals and over





Above, clockwise from top: post offices at Glenmore (E stamp), Lochdon (1st class) and Lochinver (2nd class).

100 officers in the Napoleonic Wars, have been sadly depopulated since the 1840s. Something of the loneliness of this area is captured in the stamp, showing a solitary house in stark contrast with the mountain in the background. It seems probable that the house is at Kilfinichen near the head of Loch Scriadain. This is the wildest part of Mull; even the main A849 road that skirts the southern slopes of the mountain has only a single track with passing places, while the road that runs northwest from Kilfinichen and provides the main access to the Ben is a minor road which has grass growing up the centre in places. The only sub post office in this entire district was opened at Gruline in June 1886. Originally subordinate to Aros, it became a telegraph office in 1898 (call-sign GUE), was transferred to Oban in 1907 and became an independent sub office in 1952, but closed on 31 May 1965. Today, the nearest post offices to Ben More are at Lochdonhead (15 miles east) or Aros (20 miles northeast).

Rothiemurchus (E stamp) is a clachan (township) in Badenoch and Strathspey district, two miles (3km) south of Aviemore which has the nearest post office, providing a full range of services. To the south of the village lies the vast Rothiemurchus Forest, whose mixture of heather and scrub, punctuated by stands of the natural Scots pine, offers some of the finest examples of the ancient Caledonian Forest that covered the whole of the Highlands centuries ago. For hundreds of years the forest provided valuable timber whose logs were floated down the River Spey to Garmouth in the far north. Today, the land to the east forms the Glen More National Forest Park. A seasonal post office was established at Glen More Lodge in 1960.

Dalveen (42p) is a wild mountain pass through the Lowther Hills on the borders of Dumfriesshire and Lanarkshire, extending from the hamlet of Durisdeer to the village of Crawford. The Romans made use of the Wall or Wald Path to get from Nithsdale to Clydesdale and it was used for centuries by packhorses. The old Toll House, now a shepherd's cottage, is one of the loneliest places in the British Isles and so dominated by lofty hills on all sides that it barely sees the sun for an hour or two in high summer. It was here that a guerrilla band rescued their fellow Covenanters, being transported to stand trial in Edinburgh during the Killing Times of the 17th century. The post office at Durisdeer, opened in 1851, closed on 31 August 1974, but the office at Crawford, established in 1892, is still in operation.

The 47p stamp shows the viaduct which carries the railway line in a loop across Glenfinnan near the headwaters of Loch Shiel. From the train one can get a magnificent view of the loch with the monument to the Jacobite uprising of 1745-6 in the foreground, a scene which was captured on the



14p of the set of 1981 celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Trust for Scotland, and on a Scottish aerogramme of 1974. The railway and the A830 road running alongside constitute the famous Road to the Isles, taking tourists westward from Fort William to Mallaig and beyond. An independent sub office was opened at Glenfinnan in 1853 and became a telegraph office in 1896 (call-sign GNV), with money order and savings bank facilities a year later. It was reduced in status to a railway sub office in 1901 and nowadays is subordinate to Fort William.

The odd man out in this series is Papa Little (68p) in Shetland. Papa is Norse for 'priest island' and is the name of three islands in Shetland and two in Orkney, not to mention various islands called Pabay off Skye and in the Outer Hebrides. Papa Little lies at the entrance to Aith Voe and is uninhabited, although in the Middle Ages it was home to a holy hermit, hence its name. The island is dominated by the hill known as the North Ward, shown in the background. The nearest post offices on the mainland of Shetland are at Aith, two miles due south at the head of the voe (inlet), and at Voe, three miles east at the head of Olna Firth. Both existed as private penny posts prior to 1840 but were then incorporated into the national mail system.

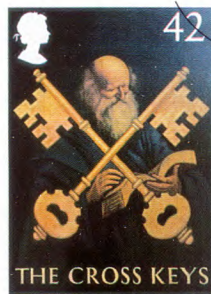
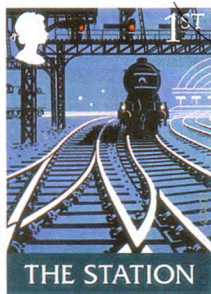
One of the best ways of seeing Scottish scenery is to travel on the many postbuses that serve the country. Postbuses, like the one shown at right, operate near four of the locations shown on the stamps, but there is no service near Rothiemurchus or, of course, on uninhabited Papa Little ●



Above, left to right: Scottish aerogramme with Glenfinnan PO postmark, and post offices at Crawford (42p), Glenfinnan (47p) and Aith (68p).



Pub Signs Five new stamps from Royal Mail



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 30 × 41 mm

Sheet size 50

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Cylinder numbers & colours

All values D1 black ● D1 magenta ● D1 yellow ● D1 cyan (blue) ● D1 phosphor ● The 1st and E also have D1 silver (used for the Europa symbol).

FIVE STAMPS featuring pub signs will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 12 August. They feature: 1st class The Station; E (European) rate Black Swan; 42p The Cross Keys; 47p The Mayflower; and 68p The Barley Sheaf. The Queen's silhouette and value/service indicator are positioned at top left and top right respectively. The pub names appear as captions at the foot of each stamp. The 1st and E (European rate) stamps include the EUROPA symbol in the lower right part of the design – Royal Mail's contribution to the Europa series, the theme of which this year is Poster Art. Royal Mail has issued Europa stamps annually since 1980 (except 2000). The stamps were designed by Elmwood using signs illustrated by Andrew Davidson (1st class), Stanley Chew (E), George Mackenney (42p), Ralph Ellis (47p), and Joy Cooper (68p).

Andrew Davidson studied graphic art and design at Norwich and the Royal College of Art. He is a well-known commercial artist and book illustrator. As one of the illustrators behind a ground-breaking project for John Smith's Yorkshire Brewery, Davidson used vitreous enamel in pub sign art for the first time.

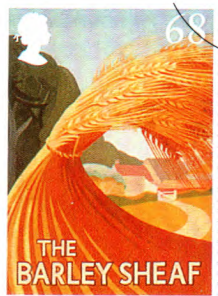
Stanley Chew studied at the Royal College of Art. After war service, he moved to Devon where he spent the rest of his life. Starting in 1960, he painted more than 600 signs, mostly in the West Country and mostly for Bass. He is especially noted for his use of colour.

George Mackenney, one of the most prolific signpainters of the post-war period, studied at art school in the 1930s. He painted more than 6000 signs, many of them for Bedford brewer Charles Wells, in a career that lasted over 30 years.

Ralph Gordon Ellis became an artist after service in World War 1 and was a noted painter of portraits and landscapes as well as inn signs. In a 30-year career, he painted over 250 signs for long-gone breweries such as Atkinson's, Brickwood's, Fremlin's, Watney and Whitbread.

Joy Cooper worked under her maiden name, Linton, and painted many signs in a bold contemporary style for the St Austell Brewery in Cornwall in the 1940s. The brewer's chairman, Egbert Barnes, was a noted connoisseur of modern art and architecture.

celebrate a most traditional British landmark



An illustrated pack containing the five stamps (below, price £2.60) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from Tallents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack is designed by Morgan Radcliffe with text by Ted Bruning.



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 12 August, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the five stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Cross Keys, Hereford must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.04 UK or £2.59 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA (Cross Keys postmark), marking the outer envelope 'F00317' (Tallents House), or 'F00318' (Cross Keys). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Offices for the Cross Keys postmark.

Other handstamps for 12 August 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.



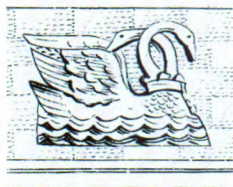
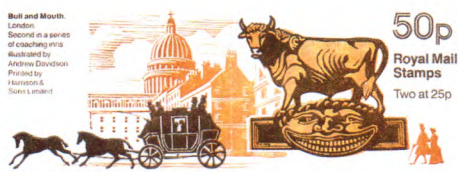
Sign at The Canopus pub in Cookham Hill, Kent. *Canopus* was one of the flying boats which carried mail throughout the British Empire in the 1930s.

Pub signs What could be more British than the traditional public house? Like red pillar boxes and double-decker buses, we often take the pub for granted. But there is a thousand years of history behind your local, and a fine way to investigate its past is to take a look at the sign hanging outside.

In medieval times, many brewed ale for their own use; if they had a surplus to sell they would display an alestake (a sprig of greenery attached to a pole) outside their home. This primitive sign survives today in pub names such as *The Bush*. In towns, inn signs had more elaborate designs to distinguish one inn from another, and in 1393 Richard II made it compulsory for alehouses to exhibit a sign.

The Red Lion became the most popular pub name because lions were the most common heraldic beasts. Such signs multiplied after 1603 when James I, in whose arms a lion gules appears, succeeded Elizabeth I. During the Reformation hundreds of Pope's Heads were hurriedly replaced by the King's Head. Queen Victoria banned the use of portraits of living members of the royal family in advertising, including inn signs.

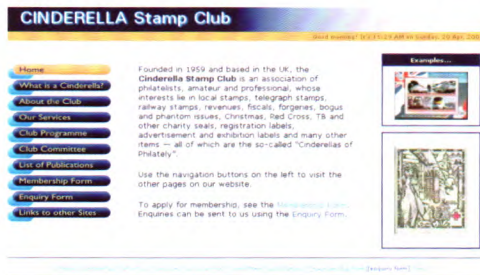
Religion inspired many names, such as the Angel, Anchor, Salutation, Lamb, Mitre, and Cross Keys. In Victorian times pub names become more commercial, with names drawn from trades being common: *Gardener's Arms*, *Cooper's Arms*, *Plumber's Arms*, etc. Publicans hoped that both employers and workers would be drawn to aptly-titled pubs. Farming is recalled in names such as the *Barley Mow*, *Barley Sheaf* and *Plough*.



The Swan with Two Necks, London (detail from the 1984 Mail Coaches issue).

Pub signs on stamps The forthcoming set is the first devoted to the subject but the sign of the Swan with Two necks can be seen on the first of the five Mail Coaches issued in 1984 (left). The signs of the Bull and Mouth and Swan were depicted on the first day of issue postmarks for the Philatelic Bureau and Bristol. A number of coaching inns featured on Post Office Regional postcards issued at the time. Inn signs also appeared on the covers of four 50p stamp books issued in 1994 (shown above) – the Swan with Two Necks, Bull and Mouth, and Golden Cross (all in London), and the Pheasant Inn (Wiltshire). In recent years a number of special handstamps, sponsored by M Brazier, have featured pub signs •

Philately on-line Ron Negus looks at a Cinderellas website



www.cinderellastampclub.org.uk Applications for membership of the Cinderella Stamp Club should be sent to R Hudson, PO Box 172, Coventry CV6 6NF. The site contains a full listing of the current officers.

THERE ARE MANY REASONS why collectors are attracted to Cinderella items. Some find them appealing in their own right, others like the variety available and many find them a relief from the postage stamps that seem to flood, in ever increasing numbers, from every post office in the world today. The scope of Cinderella material is very wide and includes local, telegraph and railway stamps, revenues and other fiscals, forgeries, bogus and phantom issues, all kinds of charity seals, registration, advertisement and exhibition labels and many other 'stamp like' categories.

The Cinderella Stamp Club, formed in the UK in 1959, is the major society catering for those interested in collecting any of these subjects. The latest figures show that it now has over 600 members, of whom more than one-third live outside the UK. It has its own interesting website, at www.cinderellastampclub.org.uk

The Club has identified three major groups of Cinderella collectors amongst its membership. The first collect one specific type of material, for example, revenues or charity seals. The second look for any Cinderellas from a single country or other geographical area. The third group comprise thematic enthusiasts who can find many different kinds of items which add a new dimension to their particular subject collections. Although the Club website is mainly text based, it contains a section entitled 'Links to Other Sites' which provides direct one-click access to other illustrated pages on the web that cater for specific Cinderella categories. This list of links is very useful, and it also includes details of the websites of some dealers in Cinderella material.

Only a few general stamp catalogues list Cinderella items at all, and those that do normally relegate them to a 'back of the book' classification. It is important, therefore, that the booklets and specialist catalogues/checklists that have been written about them are publicized. The Cinderella Stamp Club has produced a number of these, and its website gives a comprehensive listing of the titles and prices for those still in print.

Another prime source of information is the Club's quarterly journal, the *Cinderella Philatelist*, that was first published in 1961. The website contains an index of the titles of the articles that have appeared in the magazine from 1983 to 1999 – all of which are available as back numbers. The Club has also published a periodical called *The Private Post*. This caters for collectors of all private posts of the British Isles from Dockwra's post of 1681 to those of the postal dispute in 1971 and beyond.

The site gives outline information about other services offered by the Club. These include four separate study groups: 'British Private Posts', 'World War I', 'World War II', and 'Telegraph and Telephone'. There is an Exchange Packet, a Library and two Auctions per year, plus regular meetings. Details of the current programme are listed.

The inclusion of an enquiry form allows visitors to the site to ask about any aspect of the Club's activities. Whilst new members cannot be processed on-line, the site does have a membership application form that can be printed out, completed and submitted by post. Details of the current membership rates are given ●

A century of philatelic association The story of the North East of England Philatelic Association, by Cliff Garside

THE STORY BEGAN in 1903, when a circular was distributed in the North East by Mr Mark Easton inviting stamp collectors interested in forming a philatelic society and stamp exchange club in the Newcastle district to attend a meeting at 7.30pm in the committee rooms of the YMCA, Newcastle on 10 December. The well-known philatelists G B Bainbridge, T D Hume and others of repute would attend. The notice ended: 'I will esteem it a favour if you will kindly endeavour to attend.'

The pioneers The minutes of this first meeting record that there were 16 gentlemen present, and Mr Bainbridge was unanimously elected Chairman. The North of England Philatelic Society was so created, and this was to become the birth of NEPA as we know it today. The first meeting proper was held on 7 January 1904 when a fine display by Mr Hume was given of Ceylon, New South Wales and Great Britain, including reconstructed plates of the Penny Black. The result of the first month's packet showed sales of £43 2s5d. The minutes of the first AGM, held on 6 October 1904, record that the Hon Secretary was awarded an honorarium of two guineas (£2.10) for his hard work. By February 1910 the society elected its 100th member, and at a meeting that month the first unsuccessful attempt was made to raise subscription from 2s6d (12.5p) to 3s6d (17.5p); the balance sheet did not suggest the need for this.

The Society was to host the Congress of Great Britain in 1915 but, due to the outbreak of war, this first hosting was delayed until the 7th Congress in 1920. A number of other philatelic societies were formed in the 1920s – Sunderland and Darlington in 1924 and Shields in 1926.

Association At a special meeting in March 1944 it was decided that the original North of England Philatelic Society, created in 1903, should be re-organised as the North East of England Philatelic Association, and its rules, funds and its exchange packet should be retained within this new Asso-



Cliff Garside

Above: Dr Jean Alexander (right), speaker at Durham in 1998, and cover for the Hexham Convention in 2001.

ciation, for the benefit of its member societies which would all be associated to it. For the city of its origin, a new society, the Newcastle upon Tyne Philatelic Society, was to be formed.

During the 1940s there was a rapid growth in the number of associated societies including those established at Berwick, Blyth, Reyrolle, Gateshead, Middlesbrough and Stockton. In 1950, the first NEPA Convention was held, hosted by Gateshead Philatelic Society. This proved very successful, and was to remain an annual feature for the North East, right up to the present day. There was further expansion in memberships during the 1960s, with the formation of Durham, Hexham, and Redcar societies. Some of the many smaller societies which evolved have now ceased, but new specialist societies have come onto the scene, in the shape of the Postal History Group (1971), Germany & Colonies Tyne Tees Regional



Above: cover for Gateshead 2002. Top: special cover signed by Francis Kiddle and Alistair Sharp of Royal Mail.

Group (1976) and the North East Thematic Group (1990).

The current associated societies of NEPA are: Berwick & District; Blyth; Consett; Darlington; Durham City; Gateshead; Germany & Colonies; Hexham & District; Middlesbrough & District; Newcastle upon Tyne; North East Thematic Group; Postal History & Aerophilatelic Group; Redcar; Reyrolle; Shields; Stockton on Tees; Sunderland; and Tynemouth. As for its programme of events, the NEPA has been involved and still is involved in many varied and interesting activities, all in the pursuit of the hobby. It has published a Newsletter for many years, and holds annual Federation auctions for the benefit of its members. It holds strong feelings on the progression of the competitive element, having eight senior classes and two junior classes, and regularly contributes at Inter Federation level.

This year, 2003, will be third occasion that NEPA has hosted Congress, and other notable organised, major events involving NEPA are Germania in 1990, and Newcastle '96, the first ever ABPS national biennial exhibition.

After 100 years, NEPA still has strength in its philatelic interests, and continues to serve its members well. Long may it continue to do so. I finish with an interesting little 'memory' from the accounts in the minute books from 1906. The annual cost of paraffin for the lamps for the year was four shillings (20p)! This is the stuff that societies are made of •

The 2003 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead, 4-6 July. Cliff Garside is Archivist of the NEPA, Hon Treasurer of the ABPS, and Secretary of the City of Durham Philatelic Society.

Moving house D G A Myall on De La Rue's move to Byfleet

WHEN the famous printing firm De La Rue took over Harrison & Sons' High Wycombe factory in 1997 they acquired one of the world's major stamp printing houses. Harrison had printed stamps in gravure since 1934. Over the years they had been continuously involved in technical development, much of it in association with the Post Office. By the time of the take-over, all the equipment and know-how required for modern stamp printing was on site. They were one of only two firms who converted (coated and gummed) the base paper (and supplied it to other printers); they made their own phosphor inks; they had their own Klischograph machine for cylinder-making; above all they had the giant Jumelle press which they had built from scratch and later enlarged to a 10-unit gravure press complete with on-line APS perforators. Small wonder that they were a major contractor to Royal Mail despite stiff competition. De La Rue had become again a leading supplier of stamps to Royal Mail.

Their acquisition of The House of Questa in 2002 greatly increased their share of the market and led to a major re-organisation. Questa themselves had created a modern gravure capability at Byfleet with the installation of the ATN press there in 1998. (See the author's account of this press in the *Bulletin*, February and March 2000.) Clearly, there was no room, literally, for both the ATN and Jumelle presses, and the decision was made to concentrate the gravure stamp printing capability at Byfleet and to cease production at High Wycombe. What was to happen to the Jumelle and ancillary equipment at High Wycombe? What did the decision mean for staff at both locations? Planning for the move was complicated by the fact that it would take place while the results of bids for the award of Royal Mail printing contracts were unknown.

High Wycombe is now an almost silent place with the mighty Jumelle quietened for ever. (Its final task was to print the Coronation special issue on 20 December.) A few non-Jumelle jobs continued, however. Printing of the intaglio high values on the Giori press carried on into January

2003. This press is sheet-fed and perforation is also, therefore, sheet-fed; the final sheets were perforated in March. The intaglio facility has been dispersed to the Dunstable factory which prints high security non-banknote products such as passports and travellers' cheques. Master engraver Chris Matthews, known to readers for his article on the Castles high values (*Bulletin* November 1988), has re-located to De La Rue's banknote design facility in Overton, Hampshire.

One of the crucial decisions for the move had to be whether to continue with the Harrison tradition of being a self-contained unit as far as possible or whether it made better economic sense to outsource some elements of production to specialists. Each aspect had to be examined in depth while ensuring that fulfilment of existing contracts by both former firms was not prejudiced. The first decision was that the work of paper conversion would no longer be undertaken and all conventionally gummed stamp paper would be obtained from Tullis Russell Ltd, who already supplied both Questa and Walsall. Existing stocks of the Harrison paper were sent to Byfleet. Harrison expertise in producing 'lay-flat' gum was passed on to Tullis Russell and some of their staff re-located there.

Harrison/De La Rue had obtained their colour printing inks from Sun Chemicals but had made their own phosphor inks, a competence obtained from many years of co-operation with Post Office scientists and engineers. At Byfleet, colour inks are obtained from SicPa UK. Phosphor inks are supplied by either SicPa or Derby Luminescents Ltd, both of whom incorporate in their product a phosphor sold under the trade name Novaglo.

Collectors will like to know that stamps overprinted with outsourced phosphor ink give an afterglow when irradiated by both long- and short-wave ultraviolet, while the former Harrison ink reacts only with short-wave. This is a useful way of distinguishing those values printed both at High Wycombe and Byfleet. Modern phosphor inks used on GB stamps also incorporate a fluor. This is to enable the press operator to see that



the phosphor ink is present during the run, and so avoid embarrassing issues with the phosphor omitted in error. The fluorescent component plays no operational part in mail sorting and its colour, apart from being in the blue part of the spectrum, is not critical. In fact different batches, although from the same supplier, may range from a dull to a very bright blue. Also, it is sometimes necessary to vary the depth of the etch, especially on darker stamps, to obtain sufficient phosphor reaction, and this can affect the appearance of the fluorescence.

Another critical decision involved the cylinder making. At High Wycombe, De La Rue had their own Klischograph machine as well as the ability to strip and re-chrome cylinders for re-use. Electromechanically engraved (EME) cylinders are also made by other firms such as Keatings of Mold, Apex and Technograv. For the present, the latter two are being used at Byfleet. The facility at High Wycombe is an autonomous unit and the possibility of transferring it to Byfleet is under consideration. Outsourcing is still a serious contender since a decision on which route to take depends not only on how many cylinders are required and how often but also on environmental considerations in view of some of the chemicals employed. The outside firms, to whom the digital images are supplied on line, give an excellent service, not only regarding turnaround time (a few days) but

also by proofing the results and supplying a proof sheet with every cylinder.

It is up to each printer to test the phosphor reaction (afterglow) of the inks used to ensure that the stamps will give a satisfactory signal in the sorting machines. Sometimes this kind of operation takes place on the press itself but, as modern presses are expensive to run, it is uneconomical to use them for the task and a special proofing press is normally used. The one formerly at High Wycombe has been moved to Byfleet and will be used in future.

For GB Machin definitive stamps the Royal Mail specification calls for strict adherence to the Jeffery Matthews colour standard. To ensure consistency, all contracted printers have been supplied with a sheet for every colour containing blocks of stamps to act as the target. Some minor variance of shade is tolerated but every effort is made to encourage printers to hit the target colour every time. Many factors can affect the printed colour. Among them are: the depth of etching, the consistency of the ink supplied and the skill of the press engineer who checks it frequently during the printing run. As the printed and perforated web is sheeted at the end of the ATN press product line sample sheets are taken periodically and checked against the standard sheet for the colour concerned, using a specially designed unit with a constant light quality.

This operation is now especially important, as the whole definitive range is being reprinted at Byfleet. Most values had been printed at High Wycombe to ensure that the National Secure Stock Centre at Hemel Hempstead had sufficient stocks on hand to meet foreseeable requisitions over the period of the move, but now supplies need to be renewed. The existing Jumelle cylinders are not worn out but they do not fit the ATN press. Thus new cylinders have been made and the ATN has been very busy printing the following values: 1p, 2p, 4p, 5p, 8p, 10p, 20p, 33p, 34p, 41p, 42p, 47p, 50p, £1 and 1st gold and the small format high values £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 which have been printed in gravure for the first time. All are printed double pane on paper which is 457mm wide, ie in two Post Office counter sheets side by side. At the left of each sheet is a continuous vertical line in the colour of the stamp. This is used as a perforator register mark to ensure that perforations are well centred. (The APS perforator units on the Jumelle have been moved to Byfleet and are now used on the ATN.) Of these new printings, the 20p, 33p and 41p appeared in March but were withdrawn from general sale on 7 May, and the 34p was issued on 6 May to meet the second weight step for second class inland letters under the new tariff which came into effect two days later.

Each cylinder has a permanent identification number embossed on its base and a record is kept of its circumference etc, to aid selection for re-use. This should not be confused with cylinder numbers known to collectors. These are engraved on the printing cylinders at Royal Mail's request to meet collectors' demand for cylinder blocks and cylinder books. All new cylinders at Byfleet, both colour and phosphor, are numbered D1. EME cylinder making is such a rapid (and accurate) process compared with the former acid-etch method that it is not necessary to make back-up cylinders but if ever a second colour cylinder were required for a particular value it would be D2, although it might still be printed with the D1 phosphor cylinder. The gravure high values are printed with a clear ink that has a pearlescent additive sold under the trade name Iridodin; the same ink as is

used on the current £1 stamp. This too has a D1 cylinder number. Iridodin shimmers and changes when viewed from different angles and can affect the final colour especially if it is a dark one.

The ATN press runs 24 hours a day and three shifts are operated to achieve this. It is used for all gravure production, not only definitives but also special issues. The annual Christmas issue is the longest print run required by Royal Mail and will keep the ATN well occupied.

Another large print job which will be dealt with at Byfleet follows the decision to reprint all 16 country pictorial definitives with a white border. The designs of the current issue extend right to the edges of the stamp and some, being rather dark, do not give a good phosphor signal even with quite deep etching. The white gutters, although narrow, will improve this. The smaller images will be scaled down from those in current use although some repositioning of the Queen's head and the value will be necessary. In the meantime, a few of the values are being reprinted in the former design. Both designs are, or will be, overprinted with wider phosphor bars than usual. These are vignettted or tapered. The fading effect achieved by this avoids a sharp edge to the bars which would be considered unsightly.

As well as sheets, new coils have been produced at Byfleet. They are 1st (gold) and 2nd (light blue) NVIs. There are jumbo rolls of 10,000 stamps for use by large commercial mail order firms and rolls of 500 and 1000 which will be sold through philatelic outlets. Although these were web printed on the ATN the actual roll making operations took place elsewhere. The small rolls were made on the original reeling and slitting machine which is still at High Wycombe. The large rolls were assembled on a different machine at De La Rue's premises at Dunstable. The cylinders for these rolls do not have numbers, ie, there is no R series to correspond with the coil cylinders used at High Wycombe.

The bookmaking machines at Byfleet are still there and are used to print the mixed special and definitive books, the latest of which at the time of writing contains two Extreme Endeavours (Everest Team) stamps and a block of four gold

Machins. There is a D1 cylinder for each of the five colours and the phosphor.

The move to Byfleet went extremely smoothly. It has made maximum use of the facilities and staff skills at both sites. This account is mainly concerned with technical matters and it would be easy to overlook the human element which makes everything work as it should. The meld of former De La Rue staff from High Wycombe and Questa staff already at Byfleet has been achieved without any loss of motivation or effort. Byfleet has become the centre of excellence that De La

Rue intended. I end this account with an expression of my grateful thanks to Darren O'Higgins, Major Account Manager at Byfleet, for not only giving me so much of his valuable time but also for readily and fully answering my many questions. De La Rue, whose continuous association with stamp printing dates right back to Perkins Bacon, printer of the Penny Black, are without doubt one of the world's pre-eminent security printers and look well set to be so for many years to come •

Safe hands Richard West meets the Secretary of the 'Royal'

IT IS UNUSUAL for a young collector to be immediately attracted to the stamps of one country, but that was what happened with Keith Fitton, the newly elected Secretary of The Royal Philatelic Society London. As a City of London school stamp club member, Keith found the George VI Seychelles definitives most appealing. Unusually for Colonial issues at the time, these were printed in photogravure, in single colours, but featured such romantic scenes as tropical palm trees, giant tortoises and fishing pirogues. In those days, back in the late 1940s, many collected stamps as a way of being transported to the places of which dreams were made.

After school came National Service, and then on to Oxford to read Law. There his priorities became somewhat distorted: he sold his stamp collection to buy a new tyre for his old car. Other interests also took over, showing great proficiency in both boxing and fencing.

After graduating Keith joined Shell International, spending much time overseas, in Malaya, Thailand, and Kenya. In Bangkok he found the first love of his life, his wife Gabrielle, a New Zealander working in the Embassy. In Kenya he re-discovered his second passion. This posting saw his responsibilities extend to the company's interests in the Seychelles. At that time the journey to the Seychelles took three days by sea, as



the islands had no airport, although one was planned. This sparked an interest in Seychelles aviation.

In 1969 the issue of a new definitive series tracing the history of the islands rekindled the fascination for stamps of the Seychelles: the hobby was restarted. As the airport was being constructed, so Keith's interest in aerophilately grew, including civil and military censorship, spurred on by the fact that the first (RAF) flying boats flew to the Seychelles during the Second World War. A side interest has been the RAF mail-carrying flights in the Far East between 1927 and 1939. He has also studied the islands' postal history from 1930.

On leaving Kenya, Keith worked for Shell in South and Central America and the UK, before being sent to Holland in a Europe-wide marketing role. There he was able to study, courtesy of the printers Enschedé and the PTT, the records relating to the 1969 Seychelles definitives. This led him to write a book on this issue: not his first written work, for earlier his book on Seychelles Air Mails was published by the Indian Ocean Study Circle. Two other books have followed, on Seychelles civil and military censorship, in addition to numerous articles for the philatelic press.

Keith retired from Shell in 1993, but immediately took up another post, as the Director of the Centre for International Briefing at Farnham

Castle in Surrey, where company executives were prepared for living and working overseas. In 1997 came a new appointment, as Chairman of the Board of Directors of ECHO, a charity supplying medical equipment to developing countries.

From 2002 Keith has been able to devote himself more to the hobby, 'an opportunity to put something back...having taken out for many years'. For several years his society membership was confined to the Indian Ocean Study Circle and the British Aerophilatelic Federation, although he has served as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Publicity Officer and Secretary for over 15 years of the former, and as Deputy Chairman and Publicity Officer of the latter. Later he greatly expanded his membership: he believes membership of all societies relevant to one's collection is essential. In Keith's case this meant the Civil Censor Study Group, Forces Postal History Society, American Air Mail Society and Society of Postal Historians (holding office in several), as well as his local society at Walton and Weybridge.

He has exhibited, achieving a Vermeil medal at The Stamp Show 2000. At that event he was

the Commissioner General, and has since been appointed the British Commissioner at Amphilex (2002), Bangkok (2003) and Spain (2004). He is a national accredited judge, plus a member of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) Executive Committee, looking after the interests of the national and specialist societies, and is a member of the joint British Philatelic Trust/ABPS International Committee. In all his philatelic activities Gabrielle has been very supportive.

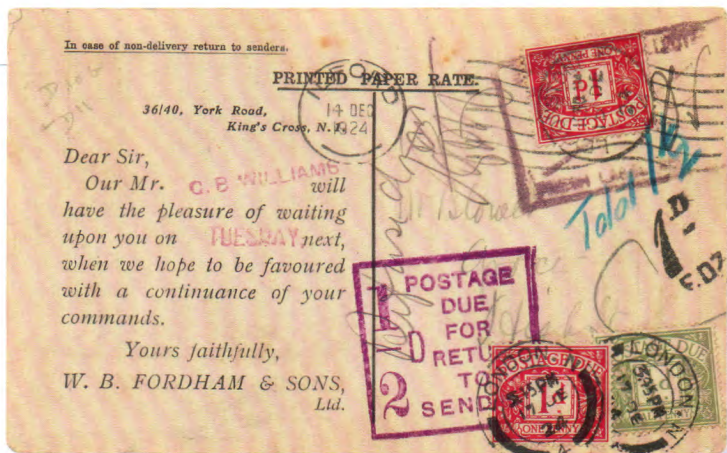
In 1991 Keith joined The Royal Philatelic Society, and he has recently become its Honorary Secretary. He sees his role 'as helping to make membership more rewarding and thereby expanding the membership by retaining existing members and attracting new members; in helping to ensure that the society continues to move ahead by improving its facilities and services to members – and to enjoy being Honorary Secretary for, after all, philately should be fun!'

It is said that if you want a job done, you ask a busy person. In Keith Fitton you have that busy person, safe in the knowledge that the job will be well done ●

Text © Richard West 2003

Cover corner

Undelivered mail A 1d Due is cancelled Leytonstone (?) but refused upon attempted delivery ('Refused' and postman's initials). The 1d Due is struck out with the usual 'charge not collected fresh label required' mark. A '1/2d postage due for return to sender' has been applied and the card has been returned with a 1d Due for the original uncollected surcharge plus the 1/2d return fee – these are cancelled with a double ring London N with thick side bars of 17 December 1924.



ROBERT PHILLIFENT submits the card shown here. The practice of charging the sender for the return of undelivered mail sent at the printed paper rate began in c1895 and lasted until the introduction of 1st and 2nd class post in 1968. The

unpaid card was sent from Ilford (14 December 1924) and surcharged 1d (2 × 1/2d printed paper rate). Mr Phillifent comments: 'A good example of the Post Office being determined to implement the rules and get its money!' ●

Ludlow posting boxes by Ron Negus

THE CLOSURE of many sub post offices in rural areas has been the subject of comment in the national press. For letter box devotees, these closures often lead to the loss of another familiar wall-mounted Ludlow post box as well. These boxes are commonly known as Ludlows after their main manufacturer, James Ludlow & Co of Birmingham. It is estimated that there are presently about 725 Ludlows still in use, or preserved, which makes them the rarest of the main types of letter box.

In addition to their removal when a sub office closes, this type of box also suffers from an inherent design weakness. The front is metal but the remainder that sits in the wall is made of wood. If removed, this wooden part tends to fall apart, whilst the metal face is subject to rust and decay.

Martin Robinson, a contributor to the *Bulletin*, has been a keen student of these particular boxes for over 20 years. During this time he has photographed almost every known variety, and was able to obtain images of the few he had missed from other like minded enthusiasts. He found he had accumulated 124 photos of the 55 basic types of box plus all their variants and hybrids. In the course of his research he found a new George V type that was unlisted in the master catalogue kept by the Letter Box Study Group.

Martin realised that this mass of detail ought to be recorded as an aid for other collectors, and he has produced a fully-illustrated catalogue listing of the information he has collated. For convenience, he chose to use Microsoft Word for tabulating the text matter on his computer, and then scanned each of the photos. The resulting text and coloured image files were then copied on to a compact disc for storage, as well as being printed out on 14 A4 pages.

This final list, which will prove of great interest to letter box collectors, is made up of a five page introduction and commentary, four pages showing each Ludlow box with its Letter Box Study Group identification number, description, plus the location and date of the photo, and five sheets with all the photos ready to print out in colour or black and white.

Although this catalogue listing is available on a compact disc, it should not be regarded as a CD-ROM. It is only a data disc that can be inserted into a computer drive and its contents displayed on the monitor screen or printed. Unlike the more familiar CD-ROMs, there is no index provided and the various sections on the disc are not displayed automatically when it is inserted into the computer. To access any specific content, for display or printing, the user must select the required file or image via the standard Windows file explorer software. Computer users who are not familiar with using Windows selection procedures for handling files or folders may prefer to obtain the printed version.

The listing is offered to readers of the *Bulletin* at £5 post paid for either the printed or the CD version. Members of the Letter Box Study Group qualify for a discount. Orders, including the remittance, should be sent to Martin Robinson at 31 Tuckwell Close, Stockton, Southam CV47 8JP •



Postbag Letters to the Editor

Occasions stamps I think the Fun Fruit & Veg stamps much more suitable for use as Occasions stamps (on birthday, good luck and other cards) than the actual Occasions stamps. I have used the Fruit & Veg stamps (suitably embellished) on cards to relatives and friends and received a number of appreciative comments. The wording of the Occasions stamps leaves me a bit puzzled; indeed I can only think I might use the purple stamp (Angel/Poppet/Little terror) on cards to my grandsons. Hopefully future Occasions sets will be better and easier to find a use for. MARY THORNTON, HUDDERSFIELD •

Joining a society Richard West (April) states that most local societies charge between £5 and £10 a year for membership. At Fareham we only pay £2 a year and receive free tea, coffee and biscuits, even mince pies and sausage rolls at Christmas. A club box of members approval books is circulated each month and a 10% deduction of sales pays for all of the goodies. We belong to the Hampshire Federation, have displays, competitions (with cash prizes, not only cups), quiz nights and guest speakers. For £2 – how is that for a bargain! JOAN MALTHOUSE, FAREHAM •

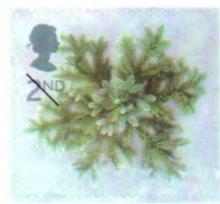
Special stamp variations In the March *Bulletin* (page 202) you reported further cylinder number combinations for the 2002 Christmas 1st class stamp. I have blocks from cylinders 1A1B1C1D1E and 1A2B2C2D1E. Comparing the two, I note that there is a distinct shade difference – the background on the stamps from the 2B2C2D cylinder is noticeably pink compared to grey on the 1B1C1D printing. The holly berries appear a deeper red on the 1B1C1D cylinder. I also have 2nd class from cylinders 1A1B1C1D1E and 1A1B2C1D1E. The colours are more closely matched, but on the 2C cylinder stamps the background has more lilac in it, most noticeable around The Queen's head and to the right of the spruce star. There are also shade differences between the two stamps from the booklets (sheetlets) compared to the normal sheets.



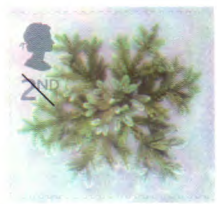
1A1B1C1D1E



1A2B2C2D1E



1A1B1C1D1E



1A1B2C1D1E

I have also examined the recent Occasions and Flowers Smilers sheets (see March *Bulletin* page 201). The Occasions stamps from the Smilers sheet and ordinary sheets are both printed in litho by Questa and I can see no appreciable distinguishing features between the two. The Flowers stamps however are very different from the booklet printing. To start with there are no elliptical perfs on the Smilers version and the colours are noticeably duller. Comparing different printings of special stamps has renewed my interest in these issues in recent years. DAVID PHILLIPS, COLCHESTER •

2004 issues I read with interest the list of special stamps for next year in your April issue (page 232). None of the subjects seem objectionable, but why do we need separate issues for the Royal Horticultural Society and Royal Society of Arts? Surely they could have been accommodated in the same set, say with two stamps for each Society. I do not think that the anniversaries of such organisations really justify a set in their own right. In the past we had general anniversaries issues which seemed a good way of celebrating in stamps a number of such organisations and events. I hope

the Trains issue will be rather more colourful than the Age of Steam set of 1994. A PELLING, LONDON NW11 •

Military philatelic club In the pages of the *Bulletin* I have seen mentioned a great number of organisations and societies that cater for stamp collectors with interests that range from aero and astro philately through ships, railways and music to birds and animals and specific countries, but I have never seen mentioned an organisation that caters for collectors with an interest in military items, ie stamps and covers depicting soldiers, tanks, weapons, battles and items of that nature. Is there such an organisation? If there is I would be obliged if a reader could send details to: boots.allistone@ntlworld.com or to my postal address: 157 Verity Crescent, Poole BH17 8TX. Thank you. JOHN M ALLISTONE •

Queen's head on stamps I have some sympathy for Mr Arnold (April) concerning The Queen's head on our special stamps. However I would not welcome a return to a larger head as Mr Arnold seems to be suggesting. I think the silhouette used since 1966 is quite adequate but I would make a case for it to always be shown facing left. The monarch has always faced left on our definitive and country stamps and on all the Wilding period special stamps (bar the Coronation 193d). The first time she was shown facing right was on the

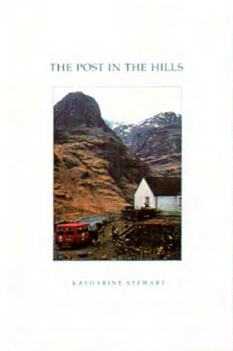
193d Battle of Hastings stamp but it always looks rather odd to me. Compare the 1969 Cathedrals stamps. On four of the six stamps The Queen faces left – these stamps look ‘correct’ whereas the other two seem out of place for some reason. It also looks odd positioned in the centre of the stamp on the 199d value of the 1969 Anniversaries set. Facing left and positioned in the top right corner of the stamp seems to me the most satisfactory position for the head – making it abundantly clear that it is a British stamp. Certainly it should never again be so unfortunately placed as on the 29p Commonwealth Games stamp of 1986! DAN EDWARDS, CARDIFF •

Old Post Office Tintagel Since publication of my article (April) I have acquired two more cachets used by the National Trust at the Old Post Office at Tintagel in Cornwall. The first was used in 2000 and refers to the Total Eclipse Year; the second is a new one recently introduced to mark 100 years of the Trust's ownership of the Old Post Office. MARTIN ROBINSON, SOUTHAM •

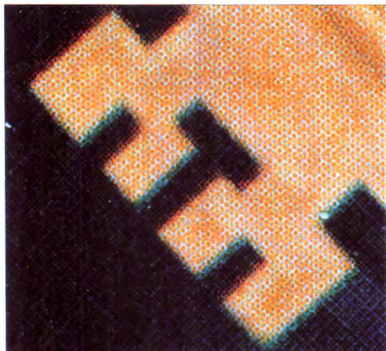


Special draw Win *The Post in the Hills* signed by the author

FOR THIS MONTH'S DRAW we have five copies of the delightful book *The Post in the Hills*, written by Katharine Stewart, who for many years ran the tiny post office at Abriachan near Inverness. The book will be enjoyed by all who love rural life and Scotland in particular. Mrs Stewart has kindly agreed to sign the books. For a chance to win a copy of this book simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to Post in the Hills Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 31 July •



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



April identify The detail was from the 1985 Arthurian Legends 17p stamp. The winner was E Bullock, South Africa.

April knowledge Answers: 1) H Bartram; 2) Shakespeare Festival 2s6d; 3) Earl's Court. The winner was N Cartwright of Manchester.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1963 COMPAC Cable stamp?
- 2 In which year did Peter Cook feature on a stamp?
- 3 Who has recently been awarded the Congress Medal?

Send your answer (addressed to either the July *Identify* competition or July *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 15 August 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

Until further notice Postal Memorabilia displays at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln and Manchester Postal Museum, Wythenshaw Park, Manchester (open 10.00-16.00). **Enquiries** D Harrop, 15 Hawthorn Road, Stockport SK4 3DQ.

28 June Midpex 2003 at Midland Sports Centre for Disabled, Tile Hill, Coventry, open 10.00-16.00. 60 specialist societies, 40 dealers. Admission 50p.

Enquiries M Benford, Cloudshill, High Street, Shutford, Banbury OX15 6PQ.

28-29 June Thematica 2003 at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Near Marble Arch. Dealers, UK thematic societies, displays and competitive exhibits. Open Sat 10.30-17.30, Sun 10.30-17.00. **Enquiries** 020 8343 2434.

4-6 July Philatelic Congress of GB at Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Talks, social events, etc. **Enquiries** C Garside, 0191 384 5468.

29-31 August 55th International Stamp Fair and 42nd 'Europa' International Philatelic Exhibition at Palace of Tourism, Riccione, Italy. **Enquiries** Comune Di Riccione, Palazzo del Turismo, I-47838 Riccione, Italy. Telephone +39 0541 692194.

17-21 September Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. National Senior and Junior competitions and Russian philately display. **Enquiries** Stampex 020 7490 1005 •

Late news

Royal Mail Group results Our annual results for 2002-2003 were announced in mid-May. The company made a pre-tax loss of £611 million, down on the record deficit of £1.1 billion in 2001-2002. The Post Office network lost £194 million on day-to-day operations, an increase of £31 million on the previous year. Over the three years of the Renewal Plan announced by Chairman Allan Leighton in 2002, 30,000 jobs are to go and 3000 post offices to close. Some 16,600 jobs have already been cut. Royal Mail is expecting to break even during the current financial year ending March 2004 •

Stamp books The special folder containing the *Across the Universe* and *Microcosmos* prestige books, also the empty folder, are now sold out and regrettably no further orders can be taken. The two books remain on sale as individual items. The revised overseas stamps books (28 May) have the strapline 'The Real Network' added to the Royal Mail logo on the front cover. There are also amendments to the text on the back cover of the E stamp book •

TPO withdrawals The Glasgow-Cardiff TPO ran for the last time on 9 May. Three more services – London-Swansea, London-Dover and London-Norwich – will cease on 25 July. The TPOs are being phased out as part of a review of Royal Mail's transport links •

Literature The May *Picture Postcard Monthly* includes a feature on the Letter Box Study Group, showing 12 postcards of letter boxes, including the stamp (PHQ) card of the 12½p Christmas stamp of 1983 showing a pillar box. The article mentions the Group's own series of cards which is now nearing no 100. The magazine is published by Reflections of a Bygone Age, 15 Deb-dale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT; telephone 0115 937 4079. Annual subscriptions: UK £28, Europe airmail £34, USA/Canada airmail £45, Rest of World airmail £47, surface mail £32 •

The May *Newsletter of the Welsh Philatelic Society* (Cymdeithas Ffilatelig Cymru) includes articles and reports on Welsh Christmas postal arrangements and special handstamps in 2002, the first official post office at Pontypridd, the Holyhead PO clock, begging letters of the 19th century, the air crash in Pembrokeshire in 1934, miners' letters, Welsh datestamps, and an obituary of Ted Bennett, a much-loved WPS member and postal history dealer. For details of the WPS contact Paul Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX or see website: www.brindley.u-net.com/wps •

The Victoria & Albert Museum has recently published a biography of Sir Henry Cole (1808-82) who worked with Sir Rowland Hill on postal reform and the introduction of adhesive postage stamps. He is credited with the introduction of Christmas cards in 1843 and is best known for the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the creation of the South Kensington Museum (later the V&A). *The Great Exhibitor: The Life and Work of Henry Cole*, by Elizabeth Bonython and Anthony Burton, is published by V&A Publications, price £35 •

Auction results In the Cavendish auction on 11 April, Falmouth and Bridport Ship Letter covers made £1495 and £690, a 1911 Aerial Post notice £1150, a Leicester Christmas cancel over £552, and a 'India Soldier &c/3/Liverpool' mark £1610. For details of future sales contact Cavendish on 01332 250970 •

Competitions The wrong answers for February's Knowledge competition were given in the May *Bulletin*. In error we repeated the answers of the December competition from the March issue. The correct answers are: 1) David Gentleman, 2) Travellers' Tale; 3) Michael Furnell. We apologise for any confusion caused •

Exhibition Stamps marking the 250th anniversary of the British Museum will be issued on 7 October. An exhibition on life in London in 1753 is on show at the Museum until 23 November •

Pillar to Post ingot covers



Pillar to Post' is a series of five sterling silver ingot and stamp sets. The third in this series is being issued on 29 July. Featuring two E stamps from the Pillar to Post stamp set, this cover focuses on the time period relevant to the pillarbox shown on the stamps, including an appropriate cancellation for the period. The ingot displays the unique Royal Mail hallmark and the Royal Mint 'mintmark' on its reverse as a sign of its authenticity. Each cover is individually numbered and limited to an edition of 5,000. The second and first covers in the series, featuring first and second class stamps respectively, are also available priced £29.95 each.

For more information and to order the Pillar to Post Ingot Cover series or any other coin and ingot covers currently available from Royal Mail, contact Royal Mail Tallents House on 08457 641641, write to us at Royal Mail, Tallents House, FREEPOST EH3647, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PE, or visit www.royalmail.com/stamps

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