BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 8 | APRIL 2015 | £1.50

Previews: Post & Go Heraldic Beasts • First World War 1915 • Penny Black Anniversary



Released on April Fool's Day, the Comedy Greats stamp issue pays tribute the cream of British comedians

J HOLMAN STAMP SCENE ○ LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX ○ WIN NEW STAMPS + COMEDY STORE TICKETS

Issues and withdrawals



Front page: Comedy Greats stamps go on sale on 1 April. Photographed by Alastair Muir, a scene from *Eric and Little Ern*, the stage show created and performed by Ian Asphitel and Jonty Stephens, which recaptures some of the most famous television moments of Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise.

Information about Royal Mail products is that which is available at time of going to press. Issue dates shown in advance are subject to change. Stamps are not shown to scale. Stamp sizes are listed on Royal Mail Preview pages.

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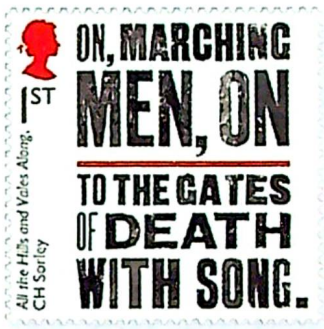
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1 April	**Issue** Comedy Greats: Stamps (2 x strips of 5 x 1st Class se-tenant), Stamp Book (2 x 1st Class Comedy Greats Stamps, 4 x 1st Class Definitives), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (10 in set).
24 April	**Issue** Anthony Trollope: Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class Union Flag Stamps).
6 May	**Issue** 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black: Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class Penny Black Stamps, 2 x 1st Class Twopenny Blue Stamps), Press Sheet, Generic Sheet (10 x 1st Class Penny Black Stamps, 10 x 1st Class Twopenny Blue Stamps), Smilers® Sheet of 20, Smilers® Half Sheet of 10, Stamp Book (6 x Penny Black Stamps), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (3 in set), Medal Cover.
13 May	**Issue** 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black: Limited Edition Penny Black Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class Penny Black Stamps, 2 x 1st Class Twopenny Blue Stamps) with Europhilex overprint and Pack; Stamp Card featuring Limited Edition Penny Black Miniature Sheet. Overprint only available at London 2015 Europhilex exhibition.
13 May	**Issue** London 2015 Europhilex: Exhibition Sheet (20 x 1st Class Hello Stamps).
13 May	**Issue** Post & Go Heraldic Beasts: 6 designs overprinted.
13 May	**Withdrawal** Great British Film: Stamps (3 x 1st Class se-tenant, 3 x £1.28 se-tenant), Miniature Sheet (4 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (11 in set).
14 May	**Issue** First World War 1915: Stamps (3 x 1st Class Stamps, 3 x £1.52 Stamps), Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (6 in set), 3 x Coin Covers – Cupro-nickel, Silver Proof and Gold Proof coins.

To order philatelic items, including those listed above, contact Royal Mail online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or at Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. We would advise you to quote 15CDC, the *Bulletin* media code. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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• **Royal Mail Editor** William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, HMS President (1918), Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HJ • Price £1.50 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches • **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address above) • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House • Royal Mail publishes the fortnightly British Postmark Bulletin, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House: £12.25 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of the world • Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors • **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.



Comedy Greats Explore the comic talent behind the performers on this month's new issue **240**

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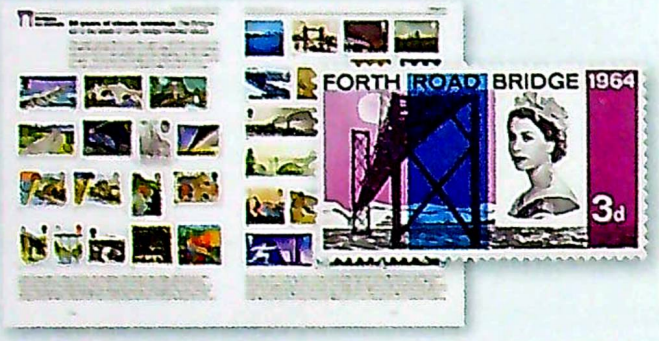
Quip quiz Win Comedy Greats and a fun night out for two **255**

Correspondence

Bridge the gap

I was very interested to see all the bridges on previous Special Stamps in the March *Bulletin*. However, you have missed a few: the 1964 Forth Road Bridge, 1994 Tower Bridge Centenary on Pictorial Postcards, and the 2009 Kew Gardens Mini Sheet showing the Sackler Crossing.
Adrian Bradbury, Leicester

Thanks for your sharp observations. Continuing our celebration of 50 years of Special Stamps, on page 243 we show stamps about British humour. Readers – let us know if we have missed any out!
Kate Shaw, Publishing Editor



Manchester missing

I have been a *Bulletin* reader and subscriber for many years and enjoy it very much. There are, however, a couple of points I would like to make. Firstly, I rarely see anything about Manchester in Stamp Scene. Is this because there is nothing happening there or are you simply not informed if there is? Secondly, Stampex is Britain's national stamp exhibition. So why does it always have to be in London?
Isabel Lunn, Greater Manchester

We are always happy to mention new local events in Stamp Scene. If you are a member of a local society, send the details to the Editor or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com. We sympathise with those who have to travel far for Stampex, but London is likely to attract the highest attendance. If you cannot visit London, try the annual ABPS Congress, in Leeds this year, from 6 to 9 August (see www.abps.org.uk).
William Doherty, Royal Mail Editor



Steel appeal

Three cheers for the recent stamp issue telling the world what we have invented. The Inventive Britain set provoked an interesting memory regarding stainless steel. Prior to its invention, the bane of every housewife was keeping her steel knives bright and shiny, because meat and vegetables often left unsightly black marks.

However, once the cutlers of Birmingham got their hands on the new rustless steel, they were able to offer us blades that would not stain – stainless steel knives. And so a new generation of labour-saving knives was born, and every home had to have one.
A F Walker, Bedfordshire

Fool explanation needed

I was happy to see in March *Bulletin* the Preview of Comedy Greats Special Stamps. The 2015 Special Stamp Programme in December's edition listed the issue on 1 April as being unconfirmed. Yet other publications listed Comedy Greats on this date. Was Royal Mail trying to keep a secret or was someone playing a very early April Fool joke?
James Hall, Lancashire

After Royal Mail issued information to the press, there arose a possibility that the 1 April issue would change. So we made that slot in December's list 'TBC' as it was the latest information. But we did preview Comedy Greats last month (page 201) and have a story on the comedians themselves (page 240).
William Doherty, Royal Mail Editor

Keep the mail coming...



The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive a Comedy Greats Presentation Pack as a thank-you. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. You can also email: bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

The new Black Royal Mail is paying stunning tribute to the historic Penny Black with a special 175th anniversary issue. William Doherty reports

A legend returns next month when the much-anticipated Penny Black issue is released to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the world's first and most famous adhesive postage stamp. The Miniature Sheet set comprises two stamps bearing an image of the Black and two showing its sister design the Twopenny Blue. The stamps come out on 6 May – marking the same historic date in 1840 when Rowland Hill's creation first launched. As well as the Miniature Sheet, the issue includes a Presentation Pack, Press Sheet, Generic Sheet, Stamp Cards, Retail Stamp Book, Smilers® Sheet, a special Mini Sheet Pack and Stamp Card available only at London 2015 Europhilex, and a Medal Cover.



Miniature Sheet Comprising two copies of each stamp with First Class values, the sheet has a border featuring a photograph of the printing presses at Perkins, Bacon & Petch, which printed all the original stamps.

Presentation Pack Written by Douglas Muir, the insert information in the Presentation Pack places the Penny Black in the wider context of the 1840 postal reform, and describes the introduction of uniform penny postage. ▸







FD1509-NP

Penny Black 175th Anniversary – Prices	
Miniature Sheet – 4 x 1st Class	£2.52
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet/overseas	£3.50/£2.92
Generic Sheet, 10 x Penny Black and 10 x Penny Blue	£12.90
Retail Stamp Book	£3.78
Stamp Cards (3 in set)	£1.35
Medal Cover	£14.95
Penny Black Exhibition Pack, only at Europhilex	£12.90
Limited-edition Miniature Sheet with exhibition overprint	£4.95
Smilers® Penny Black Sheet of 20	£18.65
Smilers® Penny Black Half Sheet of 10	£10.20

Penny Black Miniature Sheet – Specifications	
Date of issue	6 May
Number of stamps	Four
Miniature Sheet design	Sedley Place
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Miniature Sheet size	144m x 74mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA





FD1509-TH



FD1509-PL



Press Sheet The Penny Black Press Sheet contains 15 Miniature Sheets and will have a print run of 1,000 and will be serially numbered.

Generic Sheet This features ten Penny Blacks and ten Twopenny Blues. Ten labels show milestones in the stamps' development.

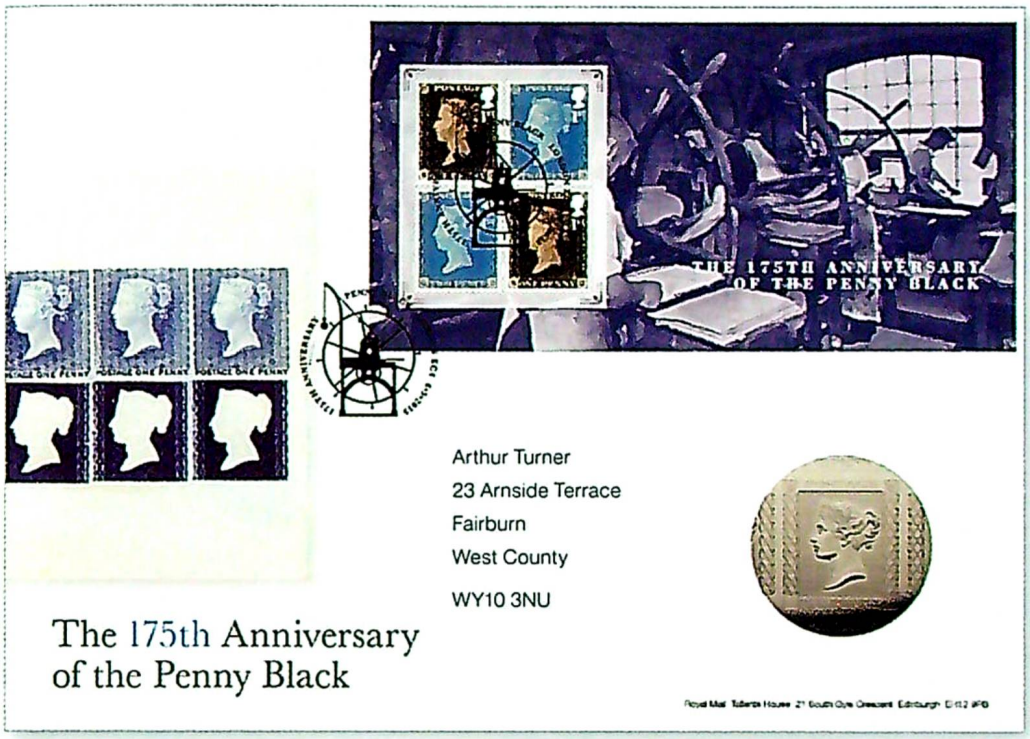
Stamp Cards The two Special Stamps and the Miniature Sheet are reproduced at postcard size.

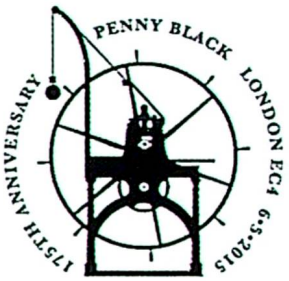
Retail Stamp Book Comprising six Penny Blacks, the book contains details about London 2015.

Smilers® Sheet Personalised sheets feature ten or 20 Penny Black stamps.

Exhibition Pack Numbered and with a special exhibition overprint, the Sheet comes in a carrier with a backing card tracing the history of international stamp exhibitions.

Exhibition Stamp Card This special card features the Penny Black Miniature Sheet with Europhilex overprint.





FD1509-M

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers should reach Royal Mail at Tallents House (address on page 226) by 6 May, quoting *Bulletin* code 15CDC. The Tallents House postmark bears the Maltese Cross used to cancel the original Penny Black. Two alternative postmarks carry the location Bath, from where the Penny Black was first sent. The pictorial version shows the postmark that cancelled the Penny Black in Bath on 2 May 1840, prior to the stamp being valid •

The Penny Black and the Twopenny Blue anniversary stamps © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2015; 'Penny Black', 'Twopenny Blue' and devices are registered Trade Marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd; border photograph of printing presses at Perkins, Bacon & Petch courtesy of The British Postal Museum & Archive.

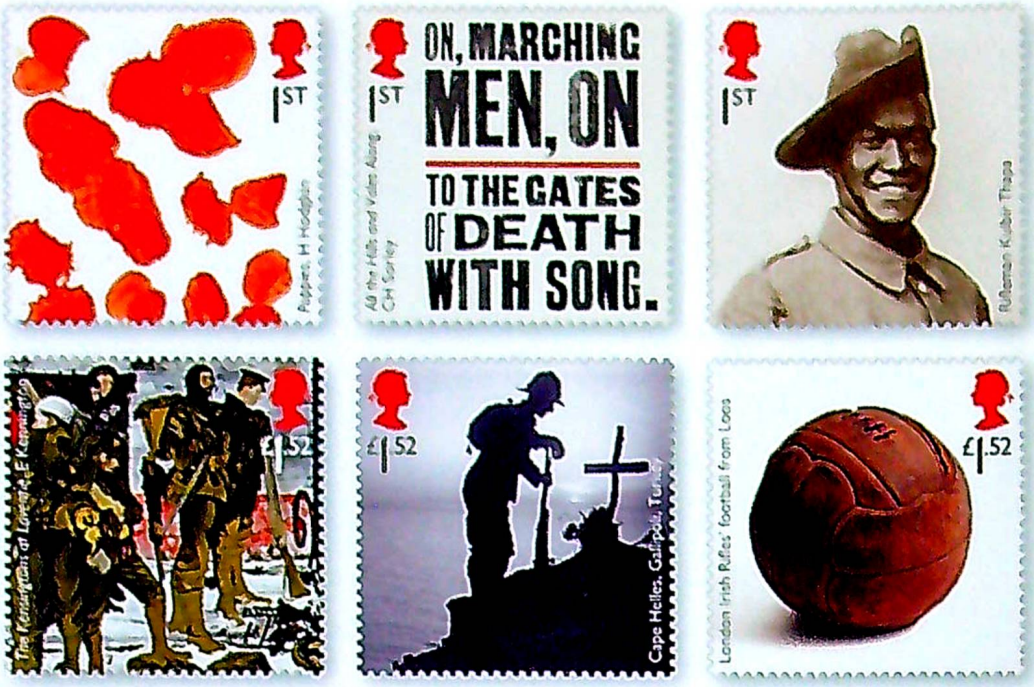
Penny Black Stamp Book – Specifications	
Issue date	6 May
Book format	6 x Penny Black Anniversary Stamps
1st Class stamp format	Portrait 20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure

Penny Black Medal Cover	
Date of issue	6 May
Limited edition	9,000
Number of stamps	Four
Design	Godfrey Design
Printer	Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd
Medal designer	Gordon Summers
Diameter	38.45cm
Weight	28.28g
Alloy	Cupro-nickel
Quality	Brilliant uncirculated

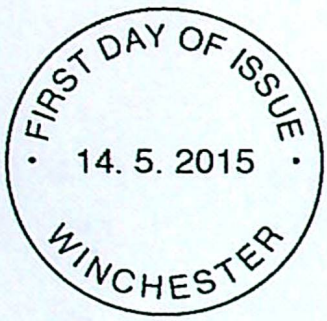


Above: 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black Medal Cover, with special handstamp

Left: Stamp Book with London 2015 Europhilex logo and the words of Rowland Hill's original concept for the Penny Black



The death toll rises Royal Mail's second set marking World War One tells a story of courage in a world of escalating violence and sacrifice



FD1511-NP

THE GROWING HORROR of the First World War as the bloodshed spread beyond Flanders in 1915 is stunningly captured by the second issue of Royal Mail's five-set commemoration of the conflict. Once again, the issue features six poignant themes: the poppy icon, war verse, pictures of those who served, war art, memorials and evocative artefacts from the carnage. The courage of a VC winner, the Gallipoli tragedy, the savagery of Loos – all are covered by the World War One 1915 set released on 14 May. Also in the issue are a Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards and Coin Covers of three values.

Stamp by stamp The six-stamp First World War 1915 set comes in a range of three First Class and three £1.52 values.

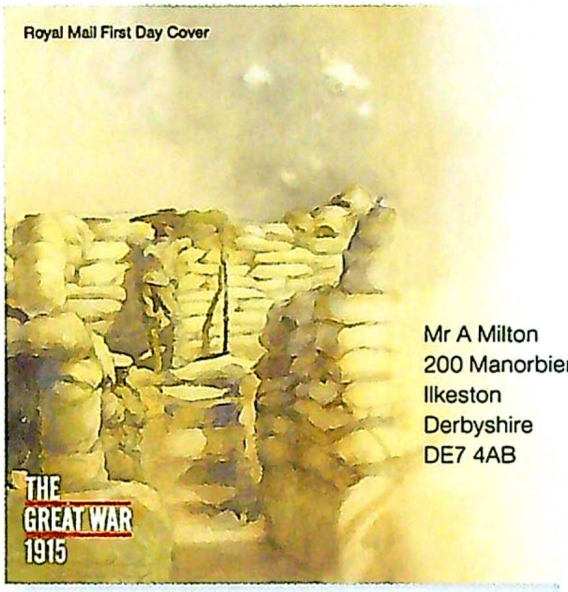
First World War 1915 Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	14 May
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Hat-trick
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Number per sheet	25/50
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Poppies The bright scarlet splashes in this abstract by Turner Prize winner Howard Hodgkin evokes the vivid blood-letting of the trenches as much as the poppy as a symbol of sacrifice. *First Class*

All the Hills and Vales Along In this poem soldiers sing confidently while they advance but as they close on the enemy lines their words resonate with the expectation of death. The author, Suffolk Regiment captain Charles Sorley, was killed by a sniper on 13 October 1915. He was 20. *First Class*

Rifleman Kulbir Thapa Wounded and separated from his comrades on the first day of the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915, brave Gurkha Kulbir

Stamp designs © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2015. Background images © Robert Hunt Library/Mary Evans



Mr A Milton
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB





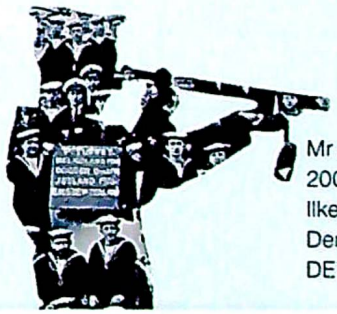
FD1511-TH



FD1511-PL

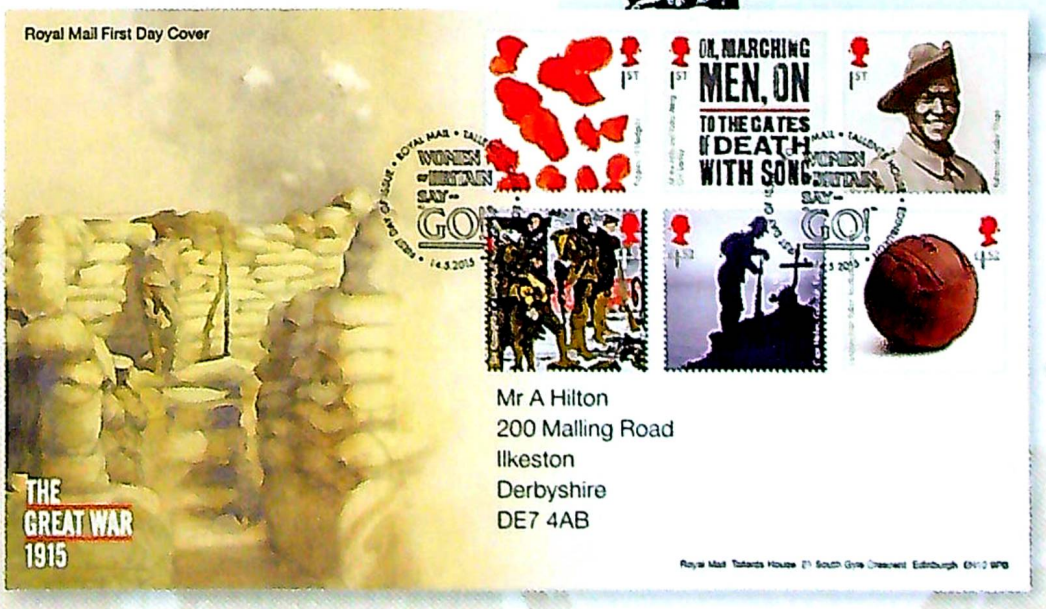
1914 • 1918
THE GREAT WAR
THE WAR AT SEA





Mr A Hilton
200 Malling Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB





Mr A Hilton
200 Malling Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

From top: First World War 1915 Prestige Stamp Book First Day Cover, Tallents House First Day Cover and the Gold Coin Cover

Thapa defiantly pressed on to the German lines. His selfless rescue of injured soldiers during the battle earned him a Victoria Cross. He was the first Nepalese Gurkha to win Britain's highest award for valour. *First Class*

The Kensingtons at Laventie Painter and sculptor Eric Kennington created this portrait of men exhausted by war after he was wounded and invalided out of the Army in 1915. The reverse oil on glass shows Kennington (on the left in black balaclava) with fellow members of the 13th Battalion, London ▸

Below: the Presentation Pack



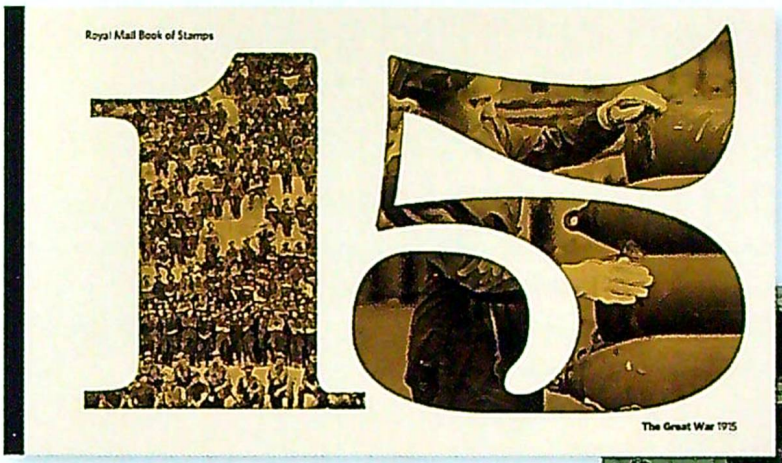
Regiment, popularly known as the Kensingtons, resting in the destroyed village of Laventie after a stint of duty in the frontline trenches during the first winter of the war. *£1.52*

Cape Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey Silhouetted against the sunset, a British soldier pays silent tribute by the grave of a comrade at Cape Helles on the southern tip of the Gallipoli peninsula. This was the scene of desperate fighting on 25 April 1915 when a British amphibious landing was met by powerful Turkish resistance. The picture is by war photographer Ernest Brooks, who made great use of silhouettes: by rendering servicemen less recognisable, Brooks transformed those outlines into the symbols of unknown soldiers. The 1924 Helles Memorial honours 20,878 British dead from the Gallipoli theatre who have no known grave. *£1.52*

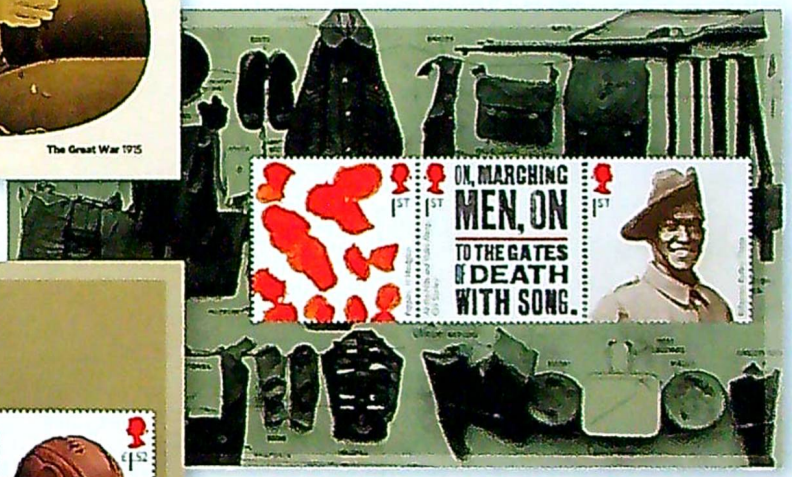
London Irish Rifles' Football from Loos This is surely cheeky British Tommy courage at its best. As the Battle of Loos began, Private Frank Edwards punted the ball out of his trench and he and his mates of the London Irish Rifles kicked it across no man's land under intense fire towards the enemy positions. It eventually became tangled in barbed wire as the Rifles overran the German

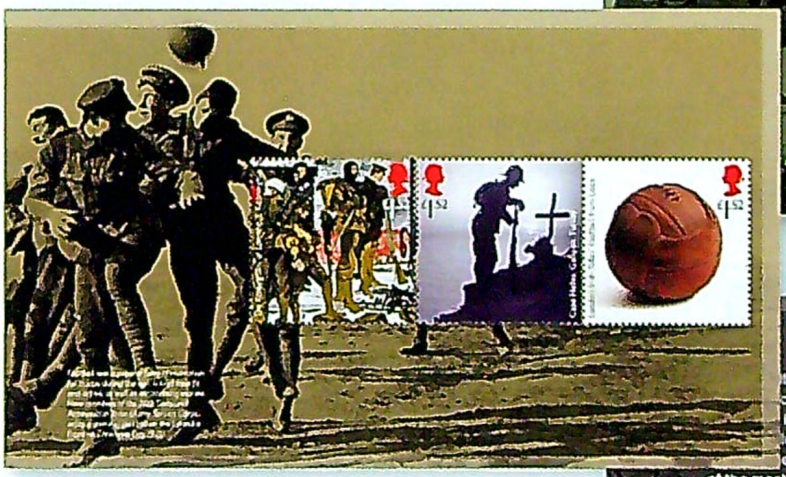
First World War 1915 Issue – Prices	
Stamps – 3 x 1st Class and 3 x £1.52	£6.45
Presentation Pack	£6.95
Prestige Stamp Book	£13.96
First Day Cover Stamps/overseas	£8/£6.67
First Day PSB/overseas	£5.32/£4.44
Coin Cover Standard	£17.50
Coin Cover Silver Proof/Gold Proof	£50/£750

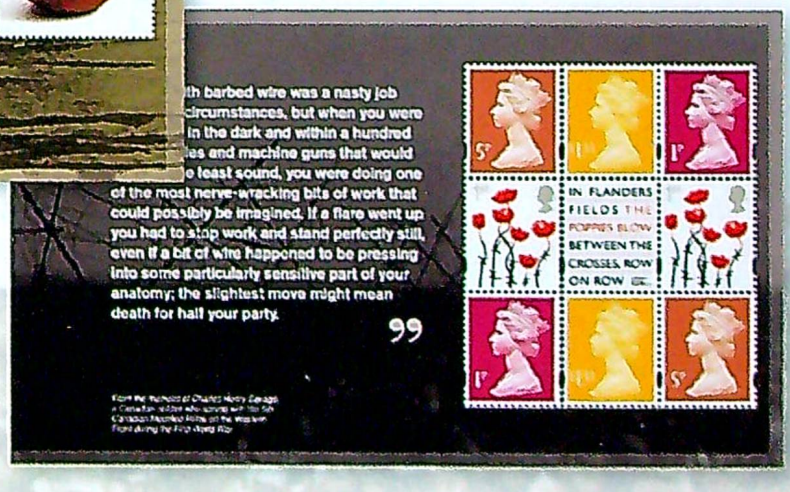
© Lebrecht Music and Arts Photo Library/Alamy



Left and below: the Prestige Stamp Book of the First World War 1915 issue







line. Edwards' superiors did not approve of the impromptu display of his football skills, but the football is still kept at the Rifles' regimental museum in London, a treasured memento of British pluck. *£1.52*

Also in the issue The Presentation Pack surveys 1915 as a year of dramatic and deadly change, covering the introduction of gas and air raids, the spread of hostilities to Africa and Turkey, and the war effort at home. A Coin Cover is available with a Gold, Silver or Standard cupro-nickel coin.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 14 May. You can send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Tallents House for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark (address on page 226), which features a slogan exhorting women to encourage their menfolk to enlist: 'Women of Britain Say Go'. The non-pictorial alternative postmark is Winchester, while the pictorial version bears another slogan: 'There's Room For You Enlist To-day' •

Wild beasts Next month's Post & Go issue salutes the fierce animals created as combat devices of knights that became heraldic symbols of power



Above: the artist Chris Wormell signing Post & Go Covers at Stampex
Below: the new Post & Go Heraldic Beasts issue



THE FASCINATING world of heraldry is explored in a new Post & Go set released on 13 May, during London 2015 Europhilex. The six-stamp Heraldic Beasts issue features mythical and real creatures that have stalked coats of arms, banners and badges for centuries, as shown below left: the lion, unicorn, yale, dragon, falcon and griffin.

Each animal has its own special significance but in heraldry creatures were often chosen to represent qualities required in battle, including bravery, physical power and resilience. This is because heraldry arose from the need for symbols to distinguish fighters in combat whose faces would invariably be covered by armour. Later these practical symbols of who's who on the battlefield would grow into the complex power code of heraldry.

The stamp illustrations have been created in linocut by Chris Wormell, a leading exponent of this artistic medium. (Chris also illustrated the 2013 Post & Go Freshwater Life collections and the 2005 Farm Animals issue.)

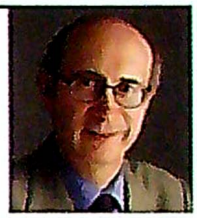
The carrier card is designed by Osborne Ross, as are the stamps. It includes expert text by Jim K Davies, explaining the linocut process, whereby Chris made preliminary sketches of the animals, then traced them onto lino boards. The individual components of the image were scraped out using traditional tools, handprinted separately, scanned into a computer and finally fine-tuned in Photoshop.

The First Day alternative postmarks give the appropriate 'Dragonby, Scunthorpe' location •

Post & Go Heraldic Beasts – Specifications	
Date of issue	13 May
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Osborne Ross
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Kiss die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

Post & Go Heraldic Beasts – Prices	
Stamp Set	£3.78
First Day Cover UK	£5.01
First Day Cover overseas	£4.18

Stamp Scene John Holman keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world



UK diary dates

10 April Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1, 9am to 4pm. Details: 020 8946 4480, www.stampsshows.net.

11 April Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fair, Belmont Community Hall, Wellington Centre, Telford, Shropshire TF1 1LU, 10am to 3pm. Entry is free. Details: Bob Hemmings, 01694 720192.

17-18 April Scottish Philatelic Congress, Dewar's Centre, Perth. Details: A Watson, 01324 415558, scottishphilately@hotmail.com. See also below.



25 April Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) displays: Undeliverable Mail from 1764 to the Present Day (Bob Galland, 11am) and Aspects of Postal Mechanisation (Ray Downing, 2.15pm), RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1.

25 April Midland Philatelic Federation Convention, hosted by Banbury Philatelic Society, Blessed George Napier School, Banbury.

9 May Worpex Stamp & Postcard Fair, Tudor Grange Academy, Bilford Road, Worcester WR3 8HN. 45 dealers, car parking, refreshments. Details: www.worpex.com.

12 May FISA Congress, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, 10am to 5pm. Details: billtrower@aol.com. See also below.

13-16 May London 2015 Europhilex, Business Design Centre, London N1. Open 13 May 10am to 7pm, 14 to 15 May 10am to 6pm, 16 May 10am to 5pm. Admission £10 on first day, free thereafter. See also below.

15 May Strand Stamp Fair, as above.

26 May Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies Convention, Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ, 10am to 4.30pm. Admission 50p. 15 dealers, annual competition entries, refreshments and limited car parking. Details: N Prior, 01656 740520.

30 May Royal Philatelic Society London displays: College Stamps (Chris Harman, 11am) and British Hospital Ships Postal History (Peter High, 2.15pm), RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1 •

Europhilex

London 2015 Europhilex will be the biggest philatelic event in Europe this year. It runs from 13 to 16 May at Islington's Business Design Centre, home of Stampex and venue for the international exhibition in 2010. Admission on the first day costs £10: see www.london2015.net or send a sterling cheque payable to 'SWE London 2015' to Mrs Deborah Gooch, London 2015 Europhilex, Greystones, Green Lane, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2BX. Europhilex Organising Committee Chairman Bill Hedley discusses the show on page 246.

The European Championship for Thematic Philately – in Essen, Germany from 7 to 9 May – forms the thematic arm of Europhilex (for details visit www.ectp.de). The thematic exhibits will be judged to international standards in eight sections: Arts & Culture; History & Organisations; Man & Everyday Life; Sport & Leisure; Transport & Technology; Medicine & Science; Animals & Plants; and Agriculture & Pets. There is also a Champions Class for winning European ▸

Championship entries from 2006 to 2013. The winning entry in each of the eight sections and in the Champions Class will be shown at Europhilex.

The Business Design Centre, incidentally, has some postal history attached to it. Originally the Royal Agricultural Hall, the building opened in 1862. In 1943 the post office half a mile away was bombed, leading to the Inland Parcels and Overseas Parcels and Customs departments moving to the Royal Agricultural Hall. Inland Parcels later returned to Mount Pleasant, but Overseas Parcels remained until 1970 when most of the venue fell empty. After renovation it opened as the Business Design Centre in 1986 •

Aerophilately Congress

The 47th Congress of the International Federation of Aerophilatelic Societies (known by its French acronym FISA) will take place on 12 May from 10am to 5pm at the Royal Philatelic Society London building at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, the day before Europhilex opens. The FISA was evolved to separate aerophilately and astrophilately from basic 'postal history' in competitive classes. Delegates from 28 major aerophilatelic and astrophilatelic societies worldwide are expected to attend the day, hosted by the British Air Mail Society. The event is open to all: those wanting to come should email billtrower@aol.com in advance •

Scottish Congress

The popular Scottish Philatelic Congress will be held at the Dewars Centre, Glover Street, Perth on 17 and 18 April, 10am to 5pm and 10am to 4pm respectively. Admission is free. This will be the 86th Congress and hosted by the Falkirk & District Philatelic Society. The Congress features the National Exhibition and about 40 dealers in stamps and postal history. Royal Mail is providing Post & Go machines and a special Congress postmark will be used. As in previous years, a commemorative cover has been produced that depicts Callendar House in Falkirk, built in the 14th century and remodelled in the 19th century to resemble a French chateau. It is now a museum. To order the cover see page 218 of the March *Bulletin*. For more information see www.scottishphilately.homestead.com •

Stamp-related exhibtions

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. An exhibition at the British Library, called Law, Liberty, Legacy, will display the Magna Carta along with the American Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. The exhibition is on until 1 September. Visit www.bl.uk/magna-carta for details. Royal Mail stamps marking the Magna Carta anniversary go on sale on 2 June •

2015 is the bicentenary of the birth of Anthony Trollope – novelist, travel writer and Post Office employee credited with the introduction of the pillar box to Britain. A British Library display, focusing on Trollope's approach to authorship, includes the manuscript of his autobiography, printed editions of his works, correspondence and personal effects. The display runs until 7 June, and admission is free. The Library is also holding an event, A Celebration of Anthony Trollope, on 23 April from 6.30pm to 8pm, with a panel of speakers giving their views on Trollope's work, followed by questions from the audience (there is an admission charge). For more information on this and other British Library events, see www.bl.uk/whats-on.

Details of the British Postal Museum & Archive's Trollope touring exhibition and Royal Mail's new Commemorative Sheet are on page 244 •

Society journals

GB Journal, from the GB Philatelic Society, includes two features of interest to collectors of modern British stamps. Peter Shaw writes on the missing Queen's head on the Castle high values of 1988 to 1999 with good illustrations of mint examples and used on wrappers from parcels. Dr Jean Alexander comments on Machin proof and disability trials. Other articles cover an Oxford Union Society 'O.U.S.' overprint variety (by Vincent West), proposed designs for George V postcards (by Douglas Muir) and two book reviews. Sent out with *The GB Journal* is the Society's *Newsletter*. The January/February issue includes reports of GBPS displays on railway mail from 1837, the Queen Victoria 4½d stamp and Wembley Exhibition and events 1924 to 2014. There are interesting short features on a turned Mulready, book token stamps and changes to official mail in the early 1980s.



Membership of the GBPS, now celebrating its diamond jubilee, is £25 UK, £27 Europe and £33 Rest of World airmail, or £27 seamail. To join, contact Ian Harvey: 27 Landford Road, London SW15 1AQ, 020 8789 7358, or iph@harvey27.demon.co.uk.

The latest *Newsletter* of the Welsh Postal History Society (WPHS) includes articles on a South Wales travelogue in 1792, Mumbles post offices and their datestamps, Llansoy Post Office, and a listing of recent Welsh post office openings and closures. Colin Peachey provides a useful and comprehensive account of Post & Go machines from a Welsh perspective. The Society will hold its annual Maentwrog Weekend on 25 to 28 June. For WPHS details contact Neil Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY or visit www.wps.wales.org •



New catalogue

Stanley Gibbons has published new editions of two of its many catalogues. The 2nd edition of the Southern & Central Africa catalogue covers the issues of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe (price: £32.95). The 4th edition of the Cyprus, Gibraltar & Malta catalogue costs £21.95. Both are available from the Stanley Gibbons shop at 399 Strand, London WC2, and by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Publications, 7 Parkside, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH. Call 0800 611 622 (UK only) or email orders@stanleygibbons.com •



Small is beautiful

Last year we reported the sale of the British Guiana One Cent stamp for £5.5 million. This is rather overshadowed by the recent sale, for £200 million, of the famous Paul Gauguin painting of two Tahitian girls entitled *When Will You Marry?*. The painting featured on a stamp from French Polynesia in 1953 and in a Mozambique miniature sheet in 2001 •

Buckingham Palace

The Buckingham Palace Special Stamps released on 21 April 2014 have proved a very popular set. Royal Mail has announced that they will not be taken off sale this month, but will remain available until 21 April 2017 •



Comedy on stamps

Comedy Greats

Slapstick, satire, sketches or stand-up – being funny for a living is not easy! Andrew Neish looks at the comedic brilliance of the great British performers celebrated on these Special Stamps released on 1 April

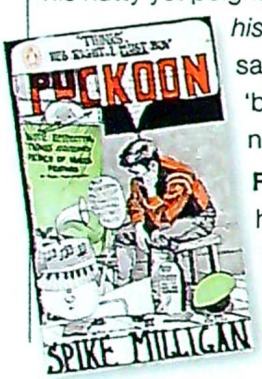
Spike Milligan

Titter type

Piercingly surreal, endearingly bonkers with a strong whiff of pathos – Milligan's anarchic humour influenced a generation of alternative comedians.



Clowning glory Take your pick of his best comedic bits: the iconic Ying Tong Song (inspired by the nickname of wartime pal Harry Edgington – Edge-Ying-Tong); the deliciously daft Eccles in his groundbreaking *Goon Show*; his nutty yet poignant war memoirs – in *Hitler: My Part in his Downfall*, former artilleryman Milligan says he and fellow gunners had to shout 'bang' during training because they had no shells to practise with.



Funny peculiar Talk about graveyard humour. Part of the inscription on Spike's headstone reads (in Gaelic): 'I told you I was ill.'

The Two Ronnies

Titter type

Stand-up, musical send-up, sparkling banter – topped by witty wordplay, double entendres and two oversized sets of trademark specs.

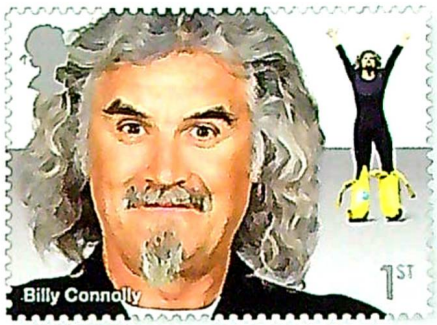


Clowning glory The spoof newsdesk. Ronnie Barker: 'The toilets at a local police station have been stolen. Police say they have nothing to go on.' Plus the brilliant sketches: cue the hilarious misunderstandings of the hardware shop skit: customer Barker seemingly asks for 'four candles'. Shopkeeper Corbett gets them. 'No, 'andles for forks!' says Barker.



Funny peculiar Before a Two Ronnies recording Ronnie B always had a ritual 'good luck' meal of sausage, egg and chips in the BBC canteen.

Billy Connolly



Titter type The gritty Glaswegian goes in for gloriously rambling funny-grim tales often drawn from his own life and experience.

Clowning glory Brilliantly cynical one-liners: 'There are two seasons in Scotland – June and winter.' Or: 'The great thing about Glasgow is that if there's a nuclear attack it'll look exactly the same afterwards.'

Funny peculiar To distinguish between them, Connolly was once called Wee Billy and his father Big Billy. When he grew up and became larger than Dad, Connolly earned his now famous sobriquet 'The Big Yin' (the big one).

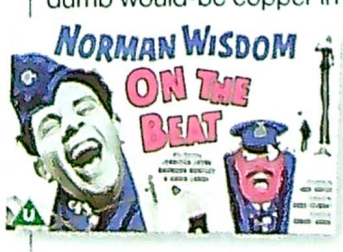


Norman Wisdom



Titter type Expertly choreographed slapstick: Wisdom perfected the trip-stumble-trip manoeuvre as a unique visual comedy catchphrase.

Clowning glory His little-man-made-good movies. Wisdom plays lovable spanner Norman Pitkin, a genetically useless employee (daft shop assistant in *Trouble in Store*, dumb would-be copper in *On the Beat*, and so on): he falls over, annoys over-serious boss ('Mr Grimsdale, Mr Grimsdale!'), triumphs against establishment, implausibly wins pretty girl. End of.



Funny peculiar Norman was big in Cold War Albania where his films were shown despite a ban on decadent western movies – communist leaders saw his character Pitkin as an inspiring working-class hero battling against evil capitalist bosses.

Morecambe and Wise



Titter type Cheerful Seventies variety act – song 'n' dance, skits and sharp repartee – with a hint of weird: remember wannabe Arthur randomly appearing on stage playing his mouth organ, only to be cut off by the boys with 'Not now, Arthur!'

Clowning glory The music and dance routines: classic is the breakfast sketch when Eric and Ernie get ready to that stripper soundtrack: they swing strings of sausages provocatively and execute hilarious novelty grins with grapefruit halves.



Funny peculiar At the bloody height of The Troubles in 1975 the Wilson government considered hiring Eric and Ern to perform *Bring Me Sunshine* at Stormont to cheer up locals as part of its Brighten Up Ulster campaign.

Lenny Henry



Titter type The Red Nose day guru's mimicry and characterisation both affectionately mocks and salutes black British culture.



Clowning glory His key role in introducing multicultural Britain to multicultural comedy via brilliant character creations such street-smart Brixton DJ Delbert Wilkins ('Cruuucial!'), pirate broadcaster Joshua Yarlong ('Katanga, my friends!') and 'one-man sex machine' Theophilus P Wildebeeste – his tribute to Barry White.

Funny peculiar Lenny loves collecting Marvel comics, cufflinks and vintage vinyl. ▶

Comedy on stamps

Peter Cook and Dudley Moore



Titter type Clever satire and surreal sketches – see the famous One Leg Too Few routine when a one-legged Moore applies to casting agent Cook for the role of Tarzan. 'Your right leg, I like. I've got nothing against your right leg,' says Cook. 'The trouble is, neither have you.'

Clowning glory The 'Dagenham Dialogues' sketches from *Not Only... But Also* when Pete and Dud in flat caps and seedy macs clutch their pints in a pub and try to make sense of a mad world. Classic is Pete's complaint of being sexually harassed by Hollywood royalty: 'Tap, tap, tap at the bloody window pane. I looked out – you know who it was? Bloody Greta Garbo!'



Funny peculiar We always knew he was a star: an asteroid discovered in 1999 was named after Peter – it is called 20468 Petercook.

Monty Python



Titter type Insane, irreverent, inane, infantile, intellectual, ingenious. *Monty Python's Flying Circus* was certifiably unique.

Clowning glory Bonkers sketches that have become legends. Dead Parrot ('It's bleedin' demised, this parrot is no more, it has cease to be, it's expired and gone to meet its maker, this is an ex-parrot!'); the Lumberjack Song (I'm a lumberjack and I'm okay, I cut down trees, I skip and jump, I like to press wild flowers, I put on women's clothing, and hang around in bars'); the Argument Clinic, where patients pay to get involved in a row.

Funny peculiar BBC chiefs, worried about offending audiences, once confronted the Python team with a memo called Thirty-Two Points of Worry. One point demanded they remove 'the giant penis that John [Cleese] holds around the door'. It is in fact a (pretend) severed leg.



French and Saunders



Titter type With their smart take on modern life and gender, TV queens Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders were Britain's first successful female alternative comedians.

Clowning glory That sharp characterisation and those witty spoofs: like Jim and Jim the hopelessly repulsive old lechers who sexually harass any woman they see whether on the telly or at the shops; the micky-take of *Titanic*, and a musical send-up of Madonna.



Funny peculiar Jennifer Saunders' *Absolutely Fabulous* character Edina Monsoon is an in-joke – a pun on the name of her husband Ade Edmondson.

Victoria Wood



Titter type Observational humour (often to the accompaniment of Wood's piano), merciless send-ups, and amusing yet moving sitcoms.

Clowning glory Her big show *Victoria Wood: As Seen On TV* featured the brilliant spoof soap *Acorn Antiques* – a cruel but fair send-up of the chronic *Crossroads*, complete with shaking sets and appalling camera work. By contrast her sitcom *Dinnerladies* was delightfully bitter-sweet with finely drawn characters.

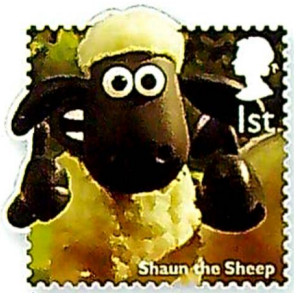
Funny peculiar Vegetarian Victoria sums up her lifestyle choice thus: 'I'm all for killing animals and turning them into handbags. I just don't want to have to eat them.' ●



Comedy on stamps

Humorous heritage As the Comedy Greats set launches we present comic stamps from the vaults

When this month's Comedy Greats issue got us talking about favourite funny moments, we decided to select some stamps from the past 30 years that showcase the great British sense of humour. If we have missed your favourite, write to us at the address on page 228 and tell us your top comedy stamps.



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21

1 Classic Children's TV 2014. **2** Comics 2012. **3** Musicals 2011. **4** Christmas: Wallace and Gromit 2012. **5** Posters for Carry On and Hammer Horror Films 2008. **6** Christmas: Pantomime 2008. **7** Punch and Judy Show Puppets 2001. **8** Millennium Series 1999: The Entertainers' Tale/Chaplin's Genius. **9** Greetings Booklet Stamps 1990: Smiles/Stan Laurel. **10-14** Comedians 1998. **15** Big Stars from the Small Screen: 50th Anniversary of Children's Television 1996. **16** Greetings Stamps 1996: Cartoons. **17** Centenary of Picture Postcards 1994. **18** Greetings Stamps 1993: Gift Giving. **19** 150th Birth Anniversary of Sir Arthur Sullivan 1992. **20** British Film Year 1985. **21** Great Canadian Comedians 2014: Jim Carrey, a Canada Post stamp available from Royal Mail with the new Comedy Greats issue ●

Pillar of society

Marking the bicentenary of Trollope are a touring exhibition, a niche postmark and a handsome sheet



APRIL IS Trollope tribute month as both Royal Mail and the British Postal Museum & Archive celebrate the 200th anniversary of the great man's birth. The BPMA has just launched a touring exhibition featuring artefacts from its extensive archive and a Commemorative Sheet is being released this month.

Currently at Islington Museum in north London, the Trollope exhibition moves to Mansfield Museum in Nottinghamshire, to run from October until 21 November.

Highlights of the exhibition include two early Victorian post boxes and an Edward VII lamp box, Trollope's personal handstamp for signing off letters, facsimiles of his letters detailing proposals for the pillar box and original photograph of the writer never before exhibited by the BPMA.

Also featured is a writing slope believed to have belonged to Trollope and a duplicate poster advertising the first pillar boxes (Jersey in 1852). A display tells the story of the communications revolution prompted by the introduction of the Penny Black and enabled by Trollope's pillar box, with focuses on Trollope himself and on Rowland Hill. Drop-in sessions for children will feature puzzles and craft activities, as well as replica Victorian letter carrier outfits to try on. For more details of the British Postal Museum and Archives' varied programme of events and exhibitions, visit www.postalheritage.org.uk.

The ultimate man of letters

The Anthony Trollope Commemorative Sheet, from Royal Mail, explores the colourful career of the renowned author, man of letters and post box pioneer. Trollope, whose wide portfolio of novels profiled the manners and

mores of Victorian society, is remembered in a sheet of ten Union Flag stamps with labels illustrating scenes from his life.

The insert card details the great works of his literary life, which included the Chronicles of Barsetshire books and the Palliser novels. It also looks at his childhood, family life and post office career, for which he travelled extensively in Britain and across the world and, of course, brought the post box to Britain. The card reveals that in his novels Trollope wrote about the places he visited in Ireland, England and Wales as a Post Office Surveyor's Clerk.

The Commemorative Sheet is released on 24 April – the date of Trollope's birth 200 years ago.



Above: 'The B.P.M.A Trollope 200' is the special wording dispensed on Machin Post & Go stamps in the foyer of the BPMA until April 30. The stamps feature a Channel Islands pillar box, circa 1853

Label by label The Anthony Trollope Commemorative sheet comprises ten First Class Union Flag stamps and accompanying labels. It is issued in a limited edition of 7,500.

Like mother like son Anthony Trollope's mother Fanny, pictured in the sheet's first label, was also a well-known author and a travel writer. Three of her children would follow in her professional footsteps.

Troubled times Trollope's schooldays were marked by beatings and bullying. His time at Harrow was 'unhappy as that of a young gentleman could well be'.

First post Trollope began working for the Post Office at the age of 19. He earned £90 a year as a clerk. For the first seven years of his career, he was based at the St Martin's-le-Grand office in London.

Wedding bells In 1841 Trollope relocated to Ireland to become a Surveyor's Clerk. At the seaside near Dublin he met Rose Heseltine, the daughter of a Rotherham banker, and the couple married in June 1844.

Out of the box Trollope's lobbying to introduce the innovative post box to Britain revolutionised the postal service. The first box was installed on Jersey in 1852, followed by the pillar box's debut in London in 1855.

Returning home From Ireland the Trollopes and their children moved into Waltham House at Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire in 1859. Here the author penned many of his best-loved books.

The literary arts Pre-Raphaelite master John Everett Millais created more than 80 illustrations for Trollope's books – including one for *Orley Farm*, which features on the stamp label.

Political tracts Trollope, a loyal Liberal, unsuccessfully bid to become an MP in 1868. His Palliser novels would record the social lives of politicians and their families.

Emotional journey In 1871 Trollope and Rose sailed on the *SS Great Britain* to visit their son Frederic, who had emigrated to Australia. He wrote *Lady Anna* while at sea.

Words of wisdom Anthony Trollope was the ultimate man of letters. This most prolific writer produced 47 novels, five travel books, two plays, biographies and short stories •



Above: this card from the BPMA exhibition was a Priory Tea trade card in the mid-20th century and features a schoolboy posting a letter in a fluted post box

Anthony Trollope Commemorative Sheet - Specifications

Date of issue	24 April
Number of stamps	Ten
Sheet design	Frontmedia Studio
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive



See you at the

As the philatelic world gathers in London next month for a historic exhibition that has something for all kinds of collectors, we talk to London 2015 Chairman Bill Hedley

PHILATELY is coming home with London 2015 Europhilex – the prestigious international exhibition that celebrates Britain as the birthplace of the postage stamp and the country that inspired the modern postal system.

With major exhibitions increasingly taking place on the other side of the world, the attention has been off Europe as a philatelic centre. In recent years Asia has hosted the big shows, with China, South Korea and Thailand among those playing international host. London 2015 – from 13 to 16 May at the Business Design Centre in Islington – refocuses the spotlight on the country that produced the Penny Black.

The 175th anniversary of the stamp, the 125th anniversary of international philatelic exhibitions in London and 150th anniversary of the first Stanley Gibbons catalogue combine in this year to make Europhilex especially significant.

'This show is particularly important because it takes place on the 175th anniversary of a great British invention that had a profound impact on people's lives around the world – and we thought that was worth celebrating in London,' says Europhilex Organising Committee Chairman Bill Hedley.

Exhibition highlights for GB collectors

While London 2015 caters for all kinds of stamp collectors worldwide, for GB collectors it offers an especially rare opportunity to see some valuable historical artefacts that feature GB material or are important in British postal and philatelic heritage. They feature as exhibits in the 'Special Display', entitled Philatelic Events that Changed the World – in 20 Frames, and as lots in the Rarities Auction on the Saturday during the show.



Above: visitors to London 2015 Europhilex can see Rowland Hill's original sketch of the Penny Black

Top: collector Bill Hedley, the Chairman of the Europhilex Organising Committee

The Special Display items come from high-worth private collections, the Royal Philatelic Collection and the British Library. Of special note to UK collectors is a 1326 letter from Robert the Bruce (as King of Scotland), Rowland Hill's Penny Black sketch, the earliest dated Penny Black in existence and a 1911 cover addressed to King George V from the world's first airmail flight.

'There's some wonderful material here,' enthuses Bill Hedley. 'We're very honoured and delighted that all of these people have very generously agreed to lend us these items and I shall be looking forward to seeing them all.' With the recent emphasis on Asia, European enthusiasts, including British

big one?



collectors, have lacked opportunities to exhibit on an international level. London 2015 addresses this, and emphasises the philatelic expertise here and our continuing passion for collecting.

'While other exhibitions are particularly important for dealers, London 2015 is an exhibition which is being run first and foremost for the collectors,' stresses Bill, Honorary Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL). 'And the heart of the matter is also the fact that the exhibitors are really participating. They can show their exhibits, get their awards, and qualify for the next awards – everybody benefits.' ▸

Philatelic Events that Changed the World

Twenty fascinating frames will display a collection of historic documents, letters and philatelic items that define a period in our past or signal the start of a new era. The collection was assembled for London 2015 by the Club de Monte-Carlo, one of many European philatelic societies coming to the Business Design Centre in May. Here is a selection of the frames:

- **Frame II: Creation of the Post Office** King Charles I's Royal Charter of 1635 approved the opening of the 'Royal Mail' to the public.
- **Frame III: The letter as an instrument of state** This document, dated 20 March 1326 in the name of Scotland's King Robert, more famously Robert the Bruce, gave land to Sir William Oliphant, one of his supporters in the campaign against the English. In return it demands that Sir William offers the services of three archers for the Bruce's army.
- **Frame V: Independence of America 4 July 1776** On this historic date this letter was received by John Hancock, one of the delegates debating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Hancock was the first signatory of the Declaration.
- **Frame VI: 1839 – Birth of the Penny Black** Rowland Hill's 1839 sketch became the basis for the design of the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue issued in May the following year. It appears on a special limited edition commemorative card available at London 2015.
- **Frame VII: Creation of the postage stamp** The earliest dated Penny Black postage stamp in existence with a proof of the Mulready, without the value tablet, printed in black on India paper.
- **Frame IX: First Transatlantic mail** The first postal document with stamps to cross the Atlantic, from London to Boston, featuring three Penny Blacks and two Twopenny Blues.
- **Frame X: Innovative ways of sending messages** John Sands, marooned on the Scottish island of St Kilda for seven months, sent messages to the outside world in 'mailboats' made from hollowed-out driftwood and attached to a sheep's bladder for buoyancy.
- **Frame XV: Communications by clandestine mail** Rudolf Slatin, a prisoner of the Mahdi during the Mahdi Revolt in the Sudan in the 1880s, wrote this letter on his shirtsleeve, and had it smuggled out to his sister in Vienna.



There will be some 1,400 frames of competitive exhibits, as well as winners' displays from this month's European Championship for Thematic Philately in Essen (7 to 9 May), the thematic arm of London 2015.

'The standard of the exhibits is very high,' says Bill. 'There are one or two in particular that I am personally looking forward to seeing. There really will be something there for everybody.'

Not to be missed

During London 2015 the RPSL's Curator Mark Copley will be demonstrating the printing press of infamous philatelic forger Jean de Sperati, who used the machine to create reprints of classic stamps from the 1920s to the 1950s.

Royal Mail also has a strong presence at Europhilex. Stamps and Collectibles Managing Director Andrew Hammond delivers a key speech at the opening ceremony. And Royal Mail is hosting four seminars a day on the subjects of stamp production, stamp design, stamp printing and the work of the BPMA. As well as the new stamps issued during the exhibition – Post & Go Heraldic Beasts on 13 May and First World War 1915 on 14 May – a limited edition version of the Miniature Sheet marking the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black will be on sale – a unique souvenir of the exhibition.

'A voyage of discovery'

With some 130 dealers booked, there will be plenty to tempt collectors. But what do the organisers want visitors to get out of Europhilex?

'Philately is a voyage of discovery, isn't it,' says Bill, a collector for almost 30 years. 'It's about knowledge and exploration and it's about sharing. I would like everyone to go away feeling that they have found, learned, seen something, or shared something with a fellow enthusiast that has enhanced or enriched their experience.'

London 2015 takes place from Wednesday 13 May to Saturday 16 May at the Business Design Centre, Islington, north London. Entrance costs £10 on the first day and is free on all other days. For more details of displays and seminars, and to book tickets for the first day or for the Awards Ceremony on the Friday, go to www.london2015.net •



Also showing next month...

During London 2015 visitors will be able to see some exciting 'sister' displays beyond the Business Design Centre. The British Postal Museum & Archive is running an exhibition from 6 May until 7 August telling the **story of the Penny Black stamp.** The major exhibit is a full sheet of Penny Blacks – and the BPMA is the only place in the world where it is possible to see one. For more details go to www.postalheritage.org.uk.

The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) is holding an **open day on 14 May,** the second day of Europhilex, at its London headquarters. There will be a number of displays from the RPSL's collections and from those of RPSL members. For more information visit www.rpsl.org.uk.

Report by Andrew Neish

E is for Eddystone

Such was the enthusiasm for a new lighthouse off Plymouth, a special postmark was made available to thousands who visited its replica at exhibitions



Fig 1

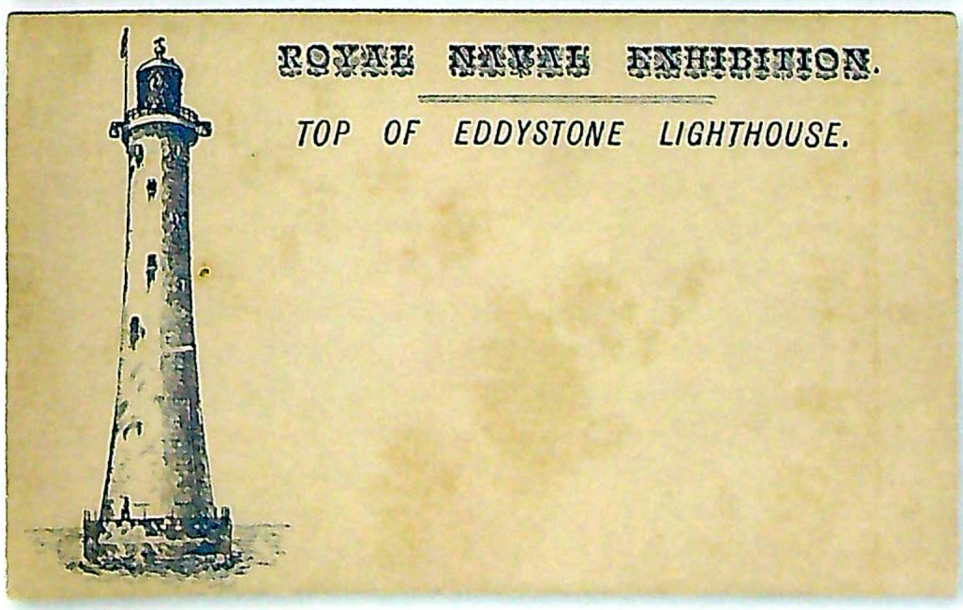


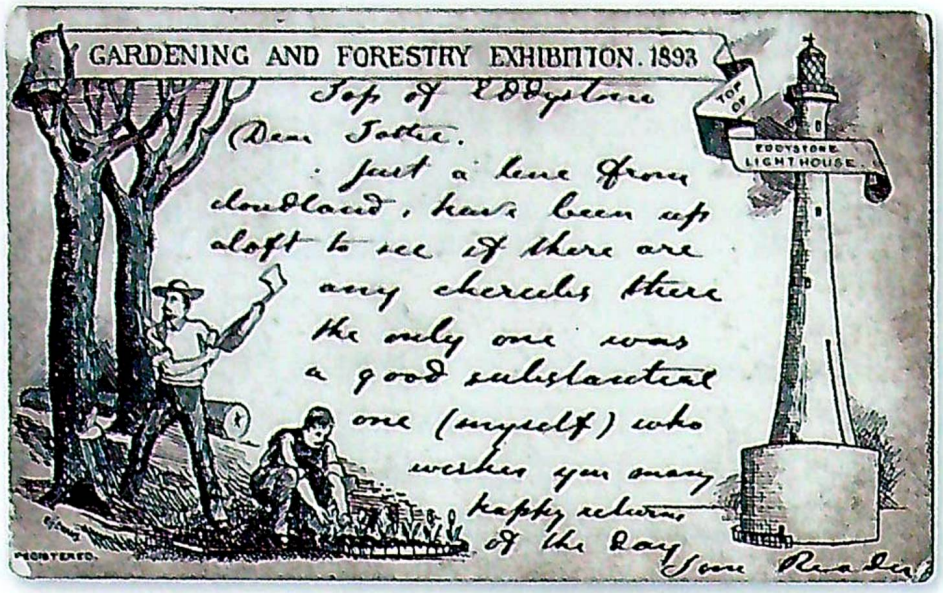
Fig 2



Left: front and reverse of a card posted at the 1891 Royal Naval Exhibition in London

Above: a view of the current Eddystone Lighthouse and the stub of its predecessor, Smeaton's Tower

ONE OF THE ENGINEERING WONDERS of the 19th century, the Eddystone Lighthouse was built in 1882 on the dangerous Eddystone Rocks, 13 miles off Plymouth. Three previous lighthouses constructed on the same rocks had already succumbed to the power of the sea, but this one has stood the test of time and is still in use today. Standing 161 feet high, its light can be seen 20 miles away. ▸





Above: stamp showing Eddystone Lighthouse issued by Royal Mail on 24 March 1998. It was designed by Dick Davis and illustrated by John Boon

Top: a card from an Earl's Court exhibition in 1893 bears a message written from 'cloudland' at the top of the replica Eddystone Lighthouse

An interesting line in postal stationery resulted from a replica of the Eddystone Lighthouse featuring at the 1891 Royal Naval Exhibition, held in the grounds of London's Chelsea Hospital. For 6d visitors could ride in hydraulic lifts to the top of the replica lighthouse, where there was a post office selling postcards carrying a picture of the lighthouse. This postcard was cancelled with a special handstamp.

There were several printings of the postcards during the exhibition. Some printings used the Post Office issue postcards (Fig 1), while others used those stamped to order. There were also significant variations to the printing on the reverse of the postcards, including different lengths of the heading and shades of the blue printing ink used (Fig 2).

While the real lighthouse was constructed of granite blocks to withstand the power of the waves, the replica consisted of a grid of iron girders wrapped in expanded metal mesh. The mesh was covered with a cement mixture to resemble Portland stone, one of the materials used in the actual lighthouse.

The replica's hydraulic lifts worked as a pair, one going up as the other came down. The lift at the top of the tower had a tank that could be filled with water, making it slightly heavier than its partner at the bottom. This allowed the upper lift to slide down the shaft, pulling the bottom lift up to the top. Then the water in the tank, now at the bottom, was emptied and the process repeated, this time by filling the water tank in the other lift, now at the top. The water was collected at the bottom of the lighthouse and pumped up to the top for reuse.

The exhibition attracted more than 2.25 million visitors in the six months it was open. Profits from the show went to a fund for dependants of non-commissioned Navy personnel who had lost their lives serving the nation. When the show closed its doors, £47,000 had been raised.

After the exhibition the replica was dismantled and rebuilt at Earl's Court for the Gardening and Forestry Exhibition in 1893, where it was again featured on souvenir cards (above). More recently, the Eddystone appeared on the 63p value stamp (left) in Royal Mail's 1998 Lighthouses issue, commemorating the 300th anniversary of the first lighthouse built on the Eddystone Rocks •

Colin Baker welcomes queries about meetings of The Postal Stationery Society, by email to pss.secretary@gmail.com.

This Month in History John Holman recalls April 1990 when the first stamp set created with Paintbox was issued

On 10 April 1990 Royal Mail issued four stamps marking the 25th anniversary of the Queen's Awards for Export Achievement and Technological Achievement. The establishment of the Awards was recommended by a committee chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh. In the early years the winners received a single award called the Queen's Award to Industry. By a Royal Warrant of 1976, two separate awards were given, for Export and Technological Achievement.





Organisations operating in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man, and foreign companies with a UK subsidiary are eligible. Central and local government departments with industrial functions, research associations and educational institutions also qualify. The awards are made by The Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister who is assisted by an advisory committee.

The 1990 stamps were designed by Simon Broom using the Award emblems – E for Export, T for Technology – created by Abram Games (see the *Bulletin* March 2014). The stamp designs were the first to be produced by Paintbox, described in the *Bulletin* at the time as 'a revolutionary British electronic graphic-design system which produces artwork of complex designs in a fraction of the normal time'. Paintbox was developed by Quantel of Newbury, Berkshire, which itself received a Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in 1988.

The stamps were of 20p (UK First Class) and 37p (Airmail Zone C) values, printed in horizontal se-tenant pairs of the E and T stamps. Printing was by Questa in offset litho using the four colours black, cyan, magenta and yellow plus silver for The Queen's silhouette and value. Six sets of plates, 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B for each colour, were used for the 20p stamps, and 1A and 1B for the 37p.

The Royal Mail first day cover featured the crown from the award emblems, and the letters E and T were used respectively on the Philatelic Bureau and London SW First Day of Issue postmarks. Six special handstamps relevant to this issue were used on 10 April 1990, including ones for the Confederation of British Industry and the Laboratory of the Government Chemist. Covers were also serviced for the counter datestamps of Tufton Street, London SW1, near the Queen's Awards office, and Newbury, home of Quantel. Covers with the Buckingham Palace datestamp are worth a premium.



The stamps were withdrawn from sale one year after issue, and numbers sold were 44.5 million of the 20p and 9.6 million of the 37p. While the issue ranked seventh of the nine 1990 sets in the annual *Bulletin* reader stamp poll, there were readers who approved: one reader said the issue was 'striking yet dignified', and liked 'the colour reversal between the high and low value stamps and the subtle differences of the shadows'. Another reader suggested that the initials ET might 'intentionally or not, symbolise technical cooperation – even beyond planet Earth'.

A month after the issue of the stamps, the Stamp World London 1990 exhibition was held at Alexandra Palace. The printer Questa had a stand where it gave out cards bearing the company balloon logo. Some cards had a Queen's Award stamp (20p or 37p) affixed and a House of Questa cachet applied nearby •

Editor's pick A century of aviation history, a quarter-century of space research, amazing bridges, plus the first ever postage stamp – well covered!

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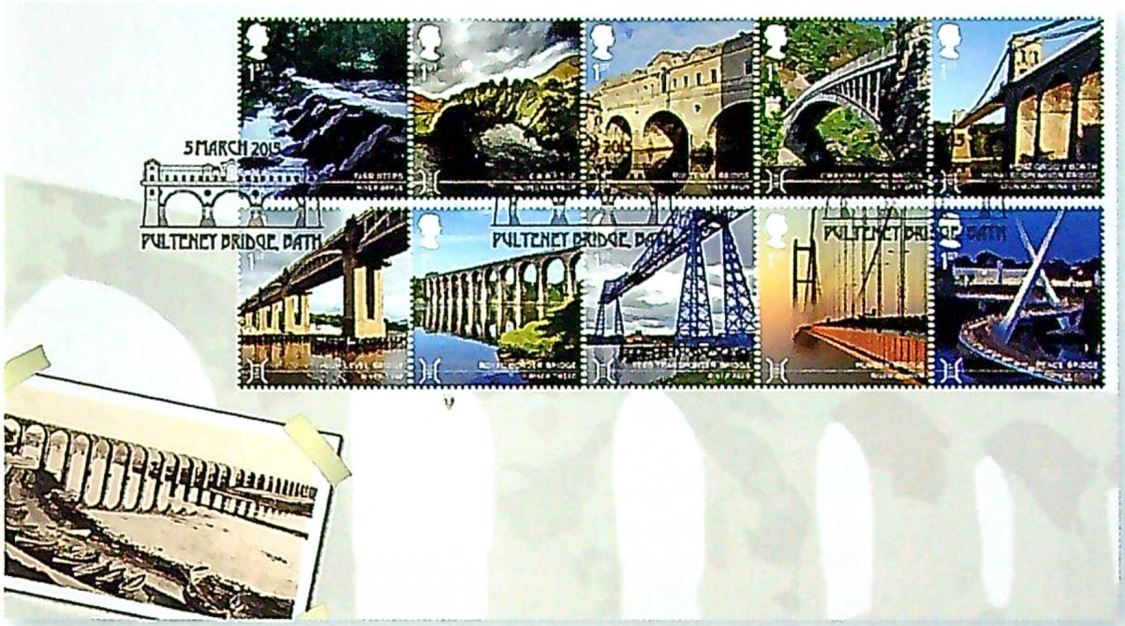
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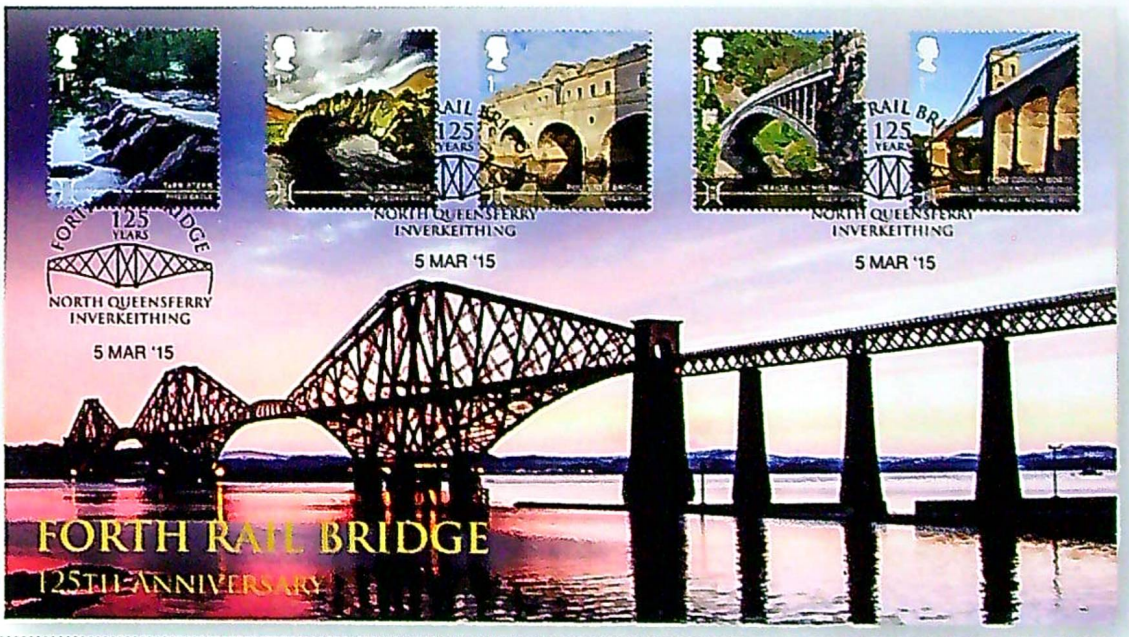
▲ **RAF centenary** BFPS has marked the centenary of RAF Northolt with this historic cover. The issue includes 500 flown covers, some signed by the Station Commander and Officer Commanding Operations Wing. **Price** £6 (UK/BFPO p&p free); £8 for flown covers only and £12 for signed versions ●



◀ **Anniversary card** This intriguing Commemorative Stamp Card bears the Penny Black 175th Anniversary stamp with special first day postmark, above illustrations showing the development of Victorian postage stamp design. A4 size, in a limited edition of 200. **Price** £19.75, including p&p from BFDC (code 43620) ●



◀ **Pulteney postmark** From FD Covers, a crisp design carrying the ten stamps of the Royal Mail Bridges issue, cancelled on first day of issue with a special 'Pulteney Bridge, Bath' postmark.
This cover also has a fully illustrated fold-out insert.
Price £25 plus £2 UK p&p ●



▶ **Happy Birthday Bridge** The Forth Rail Bridge is 125 years old this year. Buckingham Covers marks the occasion on a cover illustrated with a dramatic image of the bridge at sunset. Five stamps from the recent Royal Mail Bridges issue are cancelled on their first day of issue with a special 'North Queensferry Inverkeithing' postmark.
Price £15.95 plus £2.45 UK p&p (ref BC520/ *Bulletin)* ●



◀ **Honouring Hubble** On 24 April Jersey Post issues a commemorative stamp set entitled 'Hubble – 25 Years of Space Exploration'. This striking first day cover carries the eight stamps of the set, cancelled with a special 'Hubble 25 Years' postmark in silver grey **Price** £7.32 + VAT ●

London2015

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London 2015 thematics will be exhibited in Essen, Germany from 7-9 May. The winners will be displayed in London. Details at www.ectp.de

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Comedy on stamps

WIN Comedy Greats stamps and a big night out



Quip quiz These questions are a bit of a giggle and not too ha-hard. Simply match the anagrams below with stamps *a* to *g* above. For example, if you think the first anagram refers to *d*, write the answer as 1d.

1 Genial silk imp
2 Hymn on potty
3 Maid owns norm
4 Avoid cow riot
5 Nuns faced nerd rash
6 Leers respelt
7 Corny oracle



Name That Stamp From the detail shown left, identify the comedian on the stamp and its year of issue.

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'April Quip Quiz' and/or 'April Name That Stamp' to: Bulletin Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com. **Closing date** 20 May 2015.

Prizes The senders of the first correct entries in each section, drawn from the postbag after the closing date, win the complete Comedy Greats Presentation Pack and a Comedy Store voucher for a night out for two people at the London or Manchester Comedy Store, including supper. Six runners-up win Comedy Greats Stamp Cards.

January solution and winners *Sheep Stamp Quiz solution* 1c, 2a, 3a, 4b. *Winners* G Mills, I Bennett, J Foote, J Allport, R Delasalle. *Name That Stamp solution* Jacob. *Winners* I D Povall, J Bruce, T Pearce, J Williams, G Levitt •

In collaboration with Don Ware, the CEO of The Comedy Store, we are delighted to offer two star prizes of vouchers for a free evening of great British comedy in London's Soho or Manchester Deansgate Locks. For more details visit www.thecomedystore.co.uk.

Prize draw rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person 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 The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

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Left, from top: First World War 1915, issued 14 May'; Post & Go Heraldic Beasts, 13 May; limited-edition Exhibition version of the Miniature Sheet marking the 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black

Special stamps at London 2015

Next month Royal Mail releases three very special issues, all available at the prestigious exhibition which runs from 13 to 16 May at the Business Design Centre in Islington.
Come and meet the Stamps & Collectibles team at the Royal Mail stand, where you can see these fascinating new stamps:

- First World War 1915 – philatelic preview on page 232
- Post & Go Heraldic Beasts – as previewed on page 236
- 175th Anniversary of Penny Black – see Update on page 229.

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