

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

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Millennium Christians' Tale
preview • Machin colours



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover St Andrews Church, in Sedbergh, Cumbria by David Holmes. The Christians' Tale, next in Royal Mail's Millennium stamps series, is previewed in this issue, on page 48.

1 October	Issue 4 × 1st stamp book with commemorative label for Rugby World Cup; Philatelic Numismatic Cover bearing pane and £2 Rugby coin; Rugby pictorial aerogramme
5 October	Issue Millennium Soldiers' Tale stamps and presentation pack
5 October	Issue 'E' (European rate) stamp in sheets, printed by De La Rue. (Previously issued in books printed by Walsall, January 1999)
5 October	Withdrawal 1998 Christmas aerogramme and air-card
12 October	Withdrawal Breaking Barriers prestige stamp book
19 October	Issue Christmas aerogramme
26 October	Issue Millennium Christians' Tale stamp cards
1 November	Withdrawal 1998 Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and stamp books (10 × 26p, 20 × 20p); 1998 Year Pack and Year Book
2 November	Issue Millennium Christians' Tale stamps, presentation pack and stamp books (10 × 26p, 20 × 19p)

Issues Note some items are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters 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 Gloucester, Grimsby, Guildford Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester Liverpool, London (Lombard Street and Trafalgar Square) Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Truro, Windsor and York

Rugby World Cup label stamp book The cylinders and colours are: W1 greenish yellow, W1 magenta, W1 new blue, W1 black, W1 gold, W1 bright orange-red, W1 blue, W1 phosphor. See pages 39 and 53 for further details.

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A 1916 military postcard from Cairo, with a Port Said transit mark of 9 May and cachet of the Red Cross Hospital in Giza.

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Stamp scene Collect 99 • Glasgow 2000 • Forthcoming internationals • ABPS Awards • Societies news and journals

Details of Collect 99 (and of Stamp 2000 at Wembley, 2-6 February) from Sylvia Cook, Stanley Gibbons Exhibitions Manager: telephone 01425 461353.

Opening times

17 October	10.00-17.00
18 October	10.00-16.00

Admission £3.50; senior citizens £2.50; accompanied children under 12 free

Collect 99 This popular show, organised by Stanley Gibbons in association with *Collectables Magazine* will be held at Hall 3 of the Wembley Exhibition Centre, 16-17 October. It will include a display of Wembley memorabilia by Alan Sabey, noted for his philatelic collections of 1924-25 Empire Exhibition and other exhibitions and events held at Wembley, as well as numerous dealers catering for collectors of stamps, postcards, coins, banknotes, ceramics, diecast models, books, autographs, memorabilia and much else. A number of celebrities will be visiting the show, linked to the themes of James Bond and Pink Panther. These will include Herbert Lom, Bert Kwouk and Graham Stark who will be bringing along some personal memorabilia of Peter Sellers. Recent Stanley Gibbons shows have raised funds for the Variety Club of Great Britain Sunshine Coach Appeal – the coach will be presented to the Club on the opening day of Collect 99 •



Glasgow 2000 has a new web site: <http://home.freeuk.net/johnmorgan/glas2000.htm>

Glasgow 2000 Information about this major national exhibition to be held in Glasgow, 17-19 November 2000, was given here in March and July. In place of the Cinderella Postal History Class, previously planned, the exhibition will now have a Social Philately competition class. This covers similar ground to Cinderella Philately but widens still further the scope for display. Social Philately is defined as the study of social systems and products which derive from the operation of postal services. Exhibits may include material currently accepted in other categories, other material linked to the postal service being studied, and collateral material relevant to the chosen social theme. The category might include the telegraph and telephone services, the Post Office Savings Bank, Giro and other financial services provided through the Post Office, the impact of postal services on commerce, industry or the public in general, studies of the postal services on a regional or local basis, postal equipment and ephemera, pictorial stationery, advertising cards and envelopes, greetings cards and telegrams, exhibition covers, cards and other mementoes, or the history of philately itself. This list is by no means exhaustive, and exhibitors are invited to use their imagination in developing themes.

Those who have already sent a Preliminary Interest form in respect of a Cinderella Postal History exhibit will be automatically transferred to the Social Philately Class. Others wishing to enter the new class should write now to Roy Erskine, 22 Ochloch Park, Dunblane FK15 0DU. Full information and entry forms will then be sent to everyone by the year end.

Ian MacPherson of Ardnacraig, 28 Oldhall Drive, Kilmacollm PA13 4RF has been appointed Treasurer for Glasgow 2000 and will be pleased to receive further donations. Cheques or money orders should be payable to ASPS Glasgow 2000 •

Forthcoming internationals Details are available for exhibitions to be held in Vienna, Indonesia, Budapest and Madrid.

WIPA 2000 Bulletin 2 has now been published for the WIPA 2000 exhibition in Vienna, 30 May-4 June 2000. The exhibition marks the 150th anniversary of Austrian stamps and the Bulletin includes several interesting features about the country's stamps. Details are given of the various classes for the exhibition. The Literature class includes philatelic computer programs for exhibiting philatelic software for IBM or Apple Macintosh computers. Inventory programs, databases or programs for the display in form of diskettes or CD-Rom can be entered.

The British Commissioner is Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG.

WIPA 2000 Details available from WIPA, POB 67, A-1043 Wien, Austria.

INDONESIA 2000 One of two internationals to be held during August 2000, Indonesia 2000 takes place at the Balai Sidang Jakarta Convention Centre, in the Indonesian capital, 15-21 August 2000. The exhibition is intended as a philatelic tribute to the 55th anniversary of Indonesia's independence and the new Millennium. The success of the Indonesia '96 world philatelic youth exhibition held in Bandung in March 1996 has encouraged Pos Indonesia and the Indonesian Philatelists Association to organise an even greater philatelic show. The exhibition will comprise 3000 frames of competitive and non-competitive exhibits and approximately 100 sales booths. In addition to the invited exhibits, entries will be in 12 competitive classes including Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematic, Maximaphily, Revenue, Youth, Mophila/Open, and Literature.

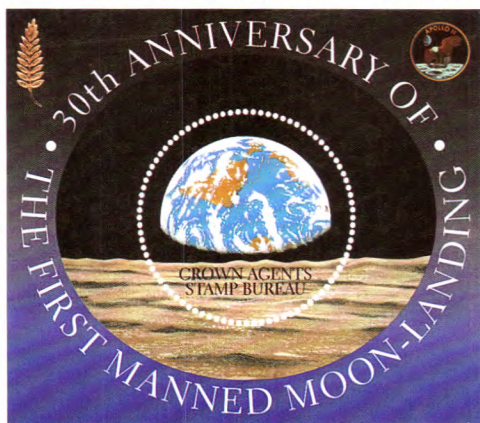
Indonesia 2000 The British Commissioner is A J Brander, 10 Garden Close, East Grinstead, RH19 4JS.

HUNPHILEX 2000 The Hunphilex 2000 exhibition will be staged at the Castle of Buda, Budapest, 18-21 August 2000. Organised by the National Federation of Hungarian Philatelists, the Hungarian Philatelic Scientific Society and the Hungarian Post Co, the exhibition will mark the 1000th anniversary of the founding of Hungary, the adoption of Christianity and the coronation of King Stephen. The national federations of European countries and the postal and stamp museums of the main countries of the world are being invited to participate with displays from their collections with reference to Hungary and Christianity. The exhibition will include all competitive classes recognised by FIP, including youth, literature and an open class.

Hunphilex 2000 Enquiries: Budapest POB 4, H-1387 Hungary.

ESPAÑA 2000 Bulletin 2 has now been published for España 2000 (Madrid 6-14 October). This includes interesting articles on the Wordless Postmarks of Madrid and Carthusian Horses, as well as details of the exhibition and the attractions of the city of Madrid. The text is in English and French as well as Spanish. Carthusian Horses feature on six stamps issued in December 1998 to promote the exhibition by featuring its logo in the design. The exhibition commemorates the 150th anniversary of the first Spanish stamps •

España 2000 Apartado 1010, 28080 Madrid, Spain.

Astro Space Stamp Society Souvenir commemorating the moon landing ●

Readers may apply to the Society for this souvenir sheet commemorating the 30th anniversary of the first manned Moon landing.

Requests, accompanied by large SAE (UK) or three international reply coupons (overseas) should be sent to: Astro Space Stamp Society, 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE.

Enquiries Robert Johnson, www.osborne-clarke.co.uk, or 0117 923 0220.

Stuart Rossiter Lecture The 1999 lecture in memory of Stuart Rossiter, former Editor of *The London Philatelist*, will be held at the British Library, London NW1 at 11.00 on 6 November. The lecture, by Charles Goodwyn, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, will be on the Postal Reforms of 1837-41, illustrated with slides of some of the gems in the Collection. Admission will be by free ticket from John Scott, 60 Tachbrook Street, London SW1V 2NA. The Stuart Rossiter Trust will publish a major new work on the history of Postal Reform drawn from the Royal Collection which contains nearly 600 pages of Treasury Essays, Mulreadies and caricatures, Penny Blacks and Twopence Blues ●

Awards nomination forms to be returned by 26 February 2000, are available from N M Russell, 59 Granby Avenue, Harpenden AL5 5QP.

ABPS Awards 2000 Nominations are invited from local, national and specialist philatelic societies, associations and federations affiliated to the ABPS for the annual awards. The silver Congress Medal is awarded for outstanding service to British philately at national level. Up to 15 Awards of Merit, which consist of a framed certificate, are given for outstanding service at regional, specialist and local society level. Candidates must be members of an organisation affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies. Outstanding service in each category includes voluntary work to advance philately through societies, conventions or exhibitions ●

Cricket Philatelic Society Write to: Derek Gallimore, 30 Pinewoods Avenue, Hagley, Stourbridge DY9 0JF.

Society publications The July issue of *Wickets*, the quarterly newsletter of the Cricket Philatelic Society, includes a feature on West Indian cricketers, new issues, and Ferdinand von Meuller who has been depicted on Australian and German stamps.

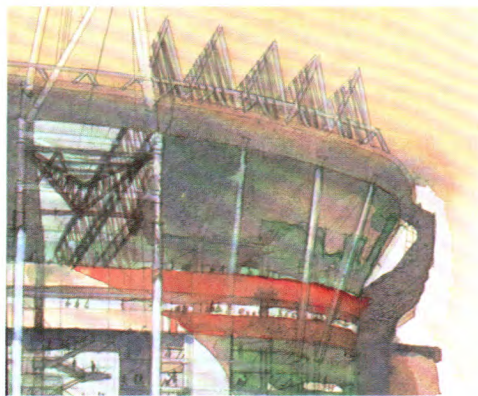
Dvořák Society Details are available from Peter Herbert, 5 Linden Grove, Garstang, Preston PR3 1FN.

The Dvořák Society for Czech and Slovak Music publishes a handsome journal, *Czech Music*. Volume 20 (1997/98) includes a major article by *Bulletin* contributor Richard Beith on Czech and Slovak Musical Philately with over 100 illustrations of relevant stamps and postmarks ●

Royal Mail news Rugby World Cup • New Millennium products • Christmas books

Rugby Union World Cup The 1999 World Cup will be staged at various venues in Great Britain, Ireland and France starting on 1 October. The final will be held at the Millennium Stadium at Cardiff Arms Park on 6 November. To mark this great sporting event, Royal Mail will issue a commemorative label booklet, aerogramme and a philatelic numismatic cover (PNC). The booklet containing four 1st class NV1 stamps and the pictorial label will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic outlets, price £1.04.

The label pane will also be available used on a PNC, designed by Moseley Webb, cancelled by a special Cardiff bilingual postmark of 1 October. The cover encapsulates Royal Mint's 1999 £2 coin which features a rugby ball on the reverse. The PNC, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, costs £12.95; early ordering is advised. ●



Rugby Union World Cup pictorial aerogramme Available from post offices in Wales and from the Bureau and philatelic outlets, price 45p. Designed by Moseley Webb Design, with illustrations of the new Millennium Stadium by Simon Jones. The Stadium has a capacity of 72,500 for major sports and music events.

E stamp in sheets A NV1 stamp coded 'E', to prepay the basic letter rate to European countries, was issued in books of four in January. From 5 October this will be available in normal sheets of 200 from main post offices in England and Northern Ireland, the Bureau and philatelic outlets. The sheet stamp will be printed by De La Rue, whereas the book stamps are by Walsall. It is not regarded by Royal Mail as a new stamp and thus no first day facilities will be available. The E stamp will not qualify for the Royal Mail first day postmarks to be used on 5 October for the Millennium Soldiers' Tale stamps. Scotland and Wales already have their own 'E' stamps, issued on 8 June. Sheets of 6p and 30p stamps, also books of four 30p stamps, will be withdrawn from sale at post offices on 4 October. ●

Millennium Moment products Royal Mail will be producing two special commemorative products to mark the Millennium. These must be ordered in advance. A one-million edition Commemorative Document bears the Millennium Timekeeper miniature sheet (issued 14 December) cancelled with 31 December and 1 January postmarks, price £12.99. A 100,000 edition Millennium Moment Coin Cover will bear the miniature sheet cancelled by 31 December and 1 January postmarks and Royal Mint's £5 Millennium coin, price £22.50.

Both commemorative document and coin cover should be ordered from the British Philatelic Bureau by 30 November 1999. They will be despatched to customers from the Bureau during January. As these are offered on a first come, first served basis, early ordering is recommended. ●

British Philatelic Bureau 20
Brandon Street, Edinburgh
EH3 5TT



The Christmas book stamps, by Clare Melinsky and Brody Neuenschwander, are shown on page 49 in our preview of the Christians' Tale issue. See also Douglas Myall's report on page 53.

Book cylinders and colours

19p B1A gold ● B1B stone ● B1C greenish yellow ● B1D bright crimson ● B1E deep dull blue ● B1F black ● B1G yellow-ochre ● B19 phosphor

26p B1A gold ● B1B greenish yellow ● B1C bright scarlet ● B1D emerald ● B1E dull violet ● B1F black ● B18 phosphor

Christmas stamp books and aerogramme Books containing twenty 19p and ten 26p Christians' Tale stamps will be available from 2 November, price £3.80 and £2.60 respectively. Details from the stamp designs are reproduced on the front covers. The stamps and books are printed by De La Rue.

A Christmas aerogramme, designed by Brody Neuenschwander, goes on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 19 October, price 45p. It will remain on sale at post offices until 24 December. The aerogramme features Christmas carols: *The first Nowell* . . . , *Silent Night* . . . , and *Love and Joy Come to You* . . . , with images of angels and a shepherd. The angel images are interpretations of those found in the Sainte-Chapelle, Paris; that of the shepherd, dog and sheep is based on an illuminated 15th century Italian missal.

Remaining stocks of the 1998 Christmas aerogramme (45p) and aircard (£1.30) will be withdrawn from sale at the Bureau and philatelic outlets on 5 October; Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and stamp books, also 1998 Year Pack and Year Book will all be withdrawn on 1 November ●

New Post Office Secretary Mr Jonathan Evans takes up his appointment this month as Secretary to The Post Office. Educated at Durham University, Mr Evans joined The Post Office in 1974; he was until recently Network Director of Post Office Counters. He succeeds Richard Adams, Secretary since September 1997, who is retiring after 33 years Post Office service. The post of Secretary dates back to 1694; amongst the many holders of the office was Sir Rowland Hill (1854-64) ●

Bulletin binders Keep your copies of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and *British Postmark Bulletin* in good order in our specially produced binders. These are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. Price £7 Philatelic Bulletin binder (order code PB001) or £6.50 Postmark Bulletin binder (PB322). For a free sample copy of the Postmark Bulletin write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ ●

Post Office Heritage Collections

The era of the mail coach, recalled by one of many fine paintings held in the collections



THE COLLECTIONS of Post Office Archives and the former National Postal Museum (now closed) include much of interest to postal historians as well as philatelists. This month we feature a fine example from the collection of paintings relating to the postal service. This painting, by James Pollard, is entitled *The Royal Day Mail at Snaresbrook* and is dated 1848 – eight years after the introduction of the uniform penny post and postage stamps. The coming of the railways saw the end of the colourful mail coach era. The last London ‘patent’ coach ran in 1846 and the PO then occasionally used existing local ‘coaches’ to carry mail. The mail guard can just be seen at the rear of the coach. This painting was reproduced on one of five postcards showing paintings and artefacts in the National Postal Museum issued in May 1993.

PUBLICATIONS Copies of the National Postal Museum’s *Review* of 1996 and 1997-98, also the first four of its *Special Stamp History* books (1929 Postal Union Congress; 1935 George V Silver Jubilee and 1936 proposed Memorial stamps; 1936 proposed Edward VIII Coronation; and 1953 Coronation) are all available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. The *Reviews* cost £5 each, the *Special Stamp History* books £7.50 each •

Association of Friends The Friends of the NPM continues with events and visits, also publication of the *Cross Post* journal and postcards featuring items from the PO Heritage Collections •

The Post Office Heritage Collections Freeling House, Mount Pleasant (Phoenix Place entrance), London EC1A 1BB. Enquiries: 0171 239 2570.

Enquiries Ray Pottle, PO Box 40, Uckfield, TN22 2SP. Telephone 01825 766546.

Post Impressions Philip Parker looks at craftwork and the Millennium stamps, in the exhibition at The British Library



Peter Collingwood's weaving (left), used for the 19p Workers' Tale stamp, at the British Library.

ONE OF THE JOYS of the unfolding 1999 stamps programme is the sheer variety of artistic media. The contribution of craftworkers like Rod Kelly has added a special dimension. The silversmith's piece for Civil War (this month's Tale) was created using a traditional technique called chasing. The Norfolk-based craftsman embossed his design in relief on a hammered sheet of silver, highlighting areas with inlaid gold details.

His stunning piece of silverwork may be enjoyed 'in the flesh' at The British Library in Post Impressions, the Royal Mail-sponsored exhibition that brings the artwork for all 48 Millennium stamps together with inspirational treasures from The Library's collections. With Kelly's silverwork is a letter by Cromwell to his wife, newspaper reports of the war and a contemporary illustration of the Battle of Naseby.

Master Weaver Peter Collingwood OBE is another distinguished contributor. For half a century he has been redefining the craft. Only a small section of his six foot high work is featured in Weaver's craft (Workers' Tale), but the original hangs in Post Impressions, where a video shows Collingwood in action on his loom. His unique 'macrogauze' technique creates a three-dimensional pattern. Collingwood not only works with the thread – he devises shadows and shapes above

and below the plane of the weaving. The British Library entrance hall also boasts the largest tapestry woven in the UK this century, featuring a design by Royal Academician R B Kitaj.

Natasha Kerr also uses textiles as her raw material. For her Suffragettes stamp (Citizens' Tale), she found the evocative photograph of a woman at a broken window in an Edwardian newspaper, and transferred the image onto cloth. She then hand-painted, overprinted and stitched details onto the fabric. The resulting large work has the feel of a Suffragette banner and was designed in their colours. A ribbon appears at the top – Kerr's reference to the medals the Suffragettes awarded to released prisoners. In the adjacent display case is just such a ribbon and medal, with sashes and protest postcards created by the movement. Of interest is a fascinating scrapbook by Suffragette Olive Wharry who recorded her activities from 1911 to 1914. She included newspaper cuttings relating to incidents in which she was involved, poems and drawings of life in the prison. Among Olive's acts of protest was the spoiling of mail in letter boxes in Tunbridge Wells.

Other crafts on display in Post Impressions include wood engraving, such as the work of John Lawrence and Andrew Davidson. You can listen, on headphones, to both these artists explaining how they created their designs while you admire their artwork and printed stamps for Linking the Nation (Travellers' Tale) and Bannockburn (Soldiers' Tale). Into his boxwood block Lawrence engraved some of Brunel's greatest creations: the Royal Albert Bridge, Paddington Station, Box Tunnel as well as the ss *Great Britain*. Exhibited with this are original engineering plans, illustrations and letters about these feats of engineering, and a video of the classic 1936 GPO film *Night Mail*, reminding us of the mail's role in linking the nation – and a previous era of creative commissioning by The Post Office ●

Post Impressions is at The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1. Free entry. Open every day.

British soldiers James Mackay looks at the story behind the new Soldiers' Tale stamps

ANDREW DAVIDSON's 19p stamp depicts Robert Bruce, King of Scots at the battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Bruce was born at Turnberry Castle, Ayrshire in 1274. On his father's side he was the scion of a powerful Norman family with vast estates in Essex and Yorkshire as well as Annandale, but his mother was Marjorie, Countess of Carrick and heiress of an ancient Celtic family. The transformation of the Anglo-Norman baron into King of Scots is one of the great epics of British history, no less a feat being his welding such disparate elements as Picts, Scots, Lothian English, Strathclyde Britons, Galloway Celts and the Hiberno-Norse of the islands into one nation.

Bannockburn, in which the Scottish army of about 5,500 took on the world's finest heavy cavalry (four times their number) and defeated them decisively, showed Bruce's masterly use of terrain, as well as a secret weapon, the caltrop or spiked pit which crippled the English war-horses. When it seemed the battle might go either way, about 2000 camp followers, armed only with pitchforks and axes, marched over Gillies' Hill. Silhouetted against the evening sun, they were mistaken for heavily armed reinforcements. The English ranks wavered, then broke and turned to headlong flight.

In 1320 Bruce assented to the Declaration of Arbroath (5d Anniversaries stamp of 1970) whereby he was confirmed as King of Scots. By the Treaty of Northallerton (1328) the young Edward III recognised the sovereignty of Scotland, but thereafter periodic outbreaks of warfare between the Scots and their 'auld enemy' would continue right down to the 'rough wooing' of Mary Queen of Scots in 1545-47.

The Soldiers' Tale Millennium stamps, issued on 5 October, deal with military matters: war between the countries of what is now the United Kingdom, civil war, the world wars and the modern role of the armed forces in maintaining world peace.

Robert Bruce, on the Soldiers' Tale stamp and below, right, in single combat with Sir Henry de Bohun before the battle of Bannockburn. Bruce was also featured on the 41½p of the Medieval Warriors set in 1974.



Bannockburn, the mid-way point in the Scottish Wars of Independence, was fought for the mastery of Stirling Castle.



The 26p Soldiers' Tale stamp shows a Cavalier, matchlock, horse's head and in the background the crested helmet of a Parliamentary pikeman.

Civil War Rod Kelly's 26p design, reminiscent of the silver chasing and repoussé work on the stocks of medieval firearms, symbolises mid-17th century wars. The Civil War, between supporters of Charles I and the Parliamentary faction (1642-49), was only a phase in a much longer civil conflict which began with wars in Ireland and Scotland and dragged on in the 1650s with Cromwell's campaigns in these countries. The struggle between Stuart autocracy and Parliamentary democracy culminated in the Revolution of 1688-89 and the Williamite Wars in Ireland (subject of two pairs of Irish stamps in 1990-91).

Rebellion and revolt had been endemic in Britain for centuries; out of the Wars of the Roses in the 15th century had emerged Tudor England, while the Hanoverian rulers in the 18th century had to contend with three Jacobite uprisings, in 1715, 1719 and 1745-46, before their throne was secure. But the Civil War and its violent aftermath was the most ferocious in terms



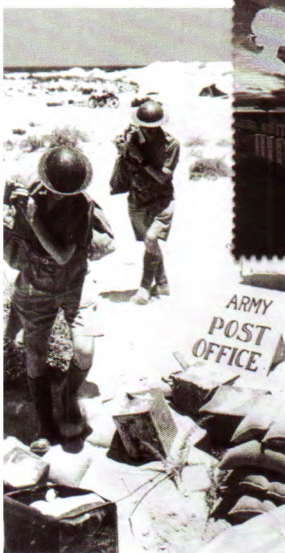
of damage and casualties sustained. A set of four stamps appeared in 1992 to mark the 350th anniversary of the Civil War and depicted a pikeman (right), drummer, musketeer and standard bearer.

The warlike propensities of the Scots had previously been channelled into service as mercenaries in the armies of Louis XIV and Gustavus Vasa of Sweden during the Thirty Years' War (1618-48). In 1633 the Royal Scots were formed as the first permanent regiment of the British Army, hence their nickname of Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard as well as 'first of foot and right of the line'. Their 350th anniversary in 1983 was the pretext for a set of five stamps showing a musketeer and pikeman of 1633 (16p, right), a fusilier and ensign of the Royal Welch Fusiliers (20½p), riflemen of the Royal Green Jackets (26p), men of the Irish Guards in khaki service dress as well as ceremonial uniform (28p) and soldiers of the Parachute Regiment in combat gear (31p).



THE CIVIL WAR 1642-51:
fought between the forces of KING
& PARLIAMENT: Pikeman 24p





Regiments on stamps Stamps of many Commonwealth countries have depicted the uniforms of British regiments associated with them; from Ascension (Royal Marines) to Zimbabwe (BSAP troopers) they present a colourful parade. Even the Irish Republic included the Royal Dublin Fusiliers of 1914 in their uniforms set of 1995. Originally an Irishman serving in the British Army was to have been featured on a 32p stamp the same year, marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, but at the last moment the soldier was replaced by a laurel wreath. Although Eire was neutral in that conflict, thousands of Irishmen served as volunteers with the British armed forces.

Commonwealth troops, top, depicted on a Second World War poster. Above, Officers from the Army Postal Service delivering post at a station in the western desert of North Africa, 1942.

World war The two world wars witnessed a frightful escalation in human suffering. About 10 million members of the armed forces on both sides died in the First World War and about 17 million in the Second; but 6 million Jews and 20 million Russians were among the estimated 50 million civilians who perished in that holocaust. Several previous issues allude to the world wars, including the set marking the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Britain (1965), the set of gallantry medals (1990), the D-Day commemoratives of 1994 and the 50th anniversary of the end of the war (1995).



Peace keeping If the First World War was fought as the war to end all wars, the terms of the peace congress at Versailles virtually ensured that war would sooner or later engulf Europe. Learning the bitter lessons from that mistake, the victors in 1945 founded the United Nations, whose Security Council has served for more than half a century as the supreme arbiter of disputes between nations. Although it has not prevented war, it has succeeded in limiting the spread of conflict through the use of troops drawn from member countries for a wide range of peace-keeping roles, from Palestine (1948) to Bosnia and Macedonia at the present time. Christopher Corr's design for the 64p stamp shows British troops in camouflage kit, flanking a small child and symbolising their peace-keeping role. The stamp also indirectly marks the 50th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, formed in the aftermath of the Berlin airlift (the subject of a recent label booklet) to protect the west from Soviet domination. With the collapse of communism in central and eastern Europe in 1989-90 and the demise of the Warsaw Pact in 1991, it might be thought that NATO had no further purpose. In fact, strengthened and expanded by the recent admission of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, it is now playing a vital role in the Balkans •

Stamps from left opposite to right: a military cemetery on Don McCullin's *Soldiers' Tale*; Gallantry medals 1990; D-Day commemorative 1994; British troops as peace keepers on Christopher Corr's *Soldiers' Tale*; Eire UN commemorative 1995; and a NATO issue from Belgium, 1999.

Above, a soldier from the 1st battalion Irish Guards with a young Albanian boy, Pristina, Kosovo, in June this year.

Robert the Bruce p43, Mary Evans Picture Library; Detail from *Cromwell after the Battle of Marston Moor* (oil on canvas) by Ernest Crofts (1847-1911) p44, Towneley Hall Art Gallery and Museum, Lancashire/Bridgeman Art Library; Commonwealth troops p46, Imperial War Museum; Army Postal Service p46, Hulton Getty; Kosovo p47, Reuters/Popperfoto

The Christians' Tale

The eleventh of the 12 sets of Millennium stamps to be issued during 1999 is on the theme of Christians.

The Christians' Tale stamps will go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 2 November.



The design of the **19p** stamp, by American calligrapher and collage artist Brody Neuschwander, features the words from Charles Wesley's famous hymn 'Hark, the Herald Angels Sing', joyously sung in many churches during the Christmas season. Written in 1739, the line 'Hark, the Herald Angels Sing' was actually coined by George Whitefield, an open-air preacher. The theme of Christmas hymns and carols also features on the Christmas aerogramme (see page 40).

The **26p** value, by Clare Melinsky, depicts King James I (VI of Scotland) with his authorised version of *The Bible* (1611). The work, commissioned in 1604, took nearly 50 scholars seven years to complete. The translation had a marked influence on English church style and literature; it was generally accepted as the standard English Bible for over three centuries. James, a noted theologian, was described as the wisest fool in Christendom.





The 19p stamp, *Wesley*, by American artist and calligrapher Brody Neuenschwander, features words from the hymn 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' by Charles Wesley. Wesley published over 4500 hymns and left some 3000 more in manuscript.

The 26p, by Clare Melinsky, shows King James I (VI of Scotland), with his authorized version of The Bible. This is Clare Melinsky's second set on a Christian theme, following the Missions of Faith stamps commemorating Saints Columba and Augustine in 1997.



Catherine Yass's 44p stamp recalls medieval pilgrimages, in this case to the cathedral at St Andrews in Fife, Scotland. The cathedral, which developed from a shrine for the saint's bones, was in disrepair by the mid-17th century. It was featured on the 1993 Scottish aerogramme honouring St Margaret.

The 64p stamp, titled *First Christmas*, is by one of Scotland's most celebrated artists, Craigie Aitchison RA, awarded the CBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours this year. His paintings were used on five aircards in September 1997.



Cylinders and colours

19p 1A gold ● 1B stone ● 1C greenish yellow ● 1D bright crimson ● 1E deep dull blue ● 1F black ● 1G yellow-ochre ● P87 phosphor

26p 1A gold ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C bright scarlet ● 1D emerald ● 1E dull violet ● 1F black ● P88 phosphor

44p 1A gold ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C bright magenta ● 1D new blue ● 1E black ● 1F ultramarine ● P88 phosphor

64p 1A gold ● 1B bistre-yellow ● 1C cerise ● 1D bright emerald ● 1E bistre ● 1F slate blue ● 1G pale new blue ● 1H black ● P88 phosphor

Catherine Yass's design for the **44p** stamp reminds us of medieval pilgrimages, in this case to the cathedral at St Andrews in Fife, Scotland. Tradition has it that St Rule (Regulus) of Patrae was told in a vision to take some bones of St Andrew (died AD60) and travel to the most westerly part of the known world. He is said to have landed at Kilrymont near the present town of St Andrews. The cathedral, which developed from the shrine of the saint's bones, was in disrepair by the mid-17th century. The ruins, as shown on the stamp, are now in the care of Historic Scotland. The Cathedral featured on the 1993 Scottish aerogramme honouring St Margaret.

The Scottish link is maintained by the **64p** stamp, designed by one of Scotland's most celebrated artists, Craigie Aitchison RA, who was awarded the CBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours this year. The stamp is entitled 'First Christmas'. His paintings were used on five aircards issued in September 1997.

Royal Mail Millennium Stamps

Christians' Tale

November 1997



religion was in a state of change the Reformation in the mid-16th century. The liturgy of the faith was people's lives, but some held fast; while the corporate nature of the mass, remained. Ritual practices were developing. Religion did more than divide and conquer in Britain. One which was to have far-reaching replacement of Latin by English. It began the first-ever English Bible, the new Testament directly from the Greek, but the first complete English Bible, the King James Version, was printed in 1611. It was ordered every parish church to have a copy. Later, in the reign of James I, the King's Authorized Version, designed to be both popular and

tolerated Wesley and Methodism.

Over the millennium the Church has played a significant role in another area of our lives – as a patron of the arts. This patronage has resulted in the great medieval cathedrals of Europe and a cultural wealth of paintings, sculptures, frescoes, gold- and silver-ware, wood and stone carving beyond measure. One of the great inspirations for such work is the story of the birth of Christ. The millennium-old theme of the nativity and the story of the first Christmas continues to inspire modern artists, including one of Britain's greatest living painters, Craigie Aitchison.

Many of the questions that have confronted the different Christian Churches in the past are just as relevant today: how best to meet the needs of their flocks; how to reach out to others; whether to be inclusive or exclusive? At the close of the millennium it is important to appreciate the central role that Christianity has played in our past, and to reflect on a new beginning in human history.

ROYAL MAIL MILLENNIUM FIRST DAY COVER



Christians' Tale

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Presentation pack The well-illustrated pack above (price £1.90) will be available from philatelic outlets and main post offices.

Royal Mail 2000 Millennium Stamp Edinburgh 1997

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 2 November, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or St Andrews must reach the Bureau by 2 November. Price £2.22 UK (including VAT) or £1.89 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ (St Andrews postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9925' (Bureau), or 'FD9926' (St Andrews). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the St Andrews postmark. A non-pictorial St Andrews postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre: request 'FD9926 NP'.

Bilingual Welsh/English versions of the St Andrews handstamps can be obtained by sending covers to the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA, quoting reference 'FD9926 Bil' (pictorial) and 'FD9926 NP Bil' (non-pictorial).

Please note that there will be no Royal Mail first day handstamp for Bethlehem this year; any sponsored handstamps for this small Welsh village will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. Covers may bear just the 19p Christians' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 2 November.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated Christians' Tale pack (price £1.90) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. A Millennium Stamps Album, with pages for the 1999 issues, is available from the Bureau. Price: album and slipcase £19.99; sets of pages only £9.99. A presentation case has been produced to display the Millennium packs and covers. Enquiries: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT.

Future Millennium issues The last 1999 set – Artists' Tale – will be issued on 7 December, featuring specially commissioned paintings by Allen Jones, Bridget Riley, Lisa Milroy, and Sir Howard Hodgkin. In addition a Millennium miniature sheet containing four new 64p stamps, designed by David Gentleman, will be issued on 14 December 1999, and a Millennium definitive for use during 2000 will follow on 6 January. Further information will be published shortly.

The 2000 series begins on 18 January with a set entitled 'Above & Beyond', followed by Fire & Light (1 February), Water & Coast (7 March), Life & Earth (4 April), Art & Craft (2 May), People & Place (6 June), Stone & Soil (4 July), Tree & Leaf (1 August), Mind & Matter (5 September), Body & Bone (3 October), Spirit & Faith (7 November), and Sound & Vision (5 December). The titles of issues are subject to change; further details are to be announced ●



Technical details

Printer De La Rue Security Printers

Process Gravure

Size 37 x 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 19p ● two bands others

Gum PVA

Central gutter Vertical



Decimal stamp books 48 Specialist report by D G A Myall

World Changers prestige book The second of this year's prestige books was issued on 21 September, entitled *World Changers, a Tale of British Scientific Genius*. It contains five panes of stamps which seems to be the normal number nowadays. Each of the first four contains a block of four stamps from one of the Millennium pictorial series. The fifth is the usual se-tenant pane of nine, comprising eight Machin definitives and a central label. All were printed by Questa. No cylinder or plate numbers appear in the books as issued. The book costs £6.99, the face value of the stamps.

The se-tenant pane was shown in last month's *Bulletin*. The three 19p stamps placed in positions 2, 6 and 8 have a central bar. They are new stamps for the specialist since the bars are 5mm wide instead of the normal 4mm or 4.5mm and fluoresce a very bright blue. The two bars on the other stamps are also 5mm wide and so are also new to the specialist. The four 1p stamps are placed in the four corners. This maximises the number of se-tenant pairs obtainable; there are 10, four horizontal and six vertical, and you will need four books to get them all. The stamps were printed in gravure at 350 lines per inch (lpi).

Collectors of the ongoing millennium series will want this book. Each of the four stamps chosen for it is presented in a kind of miniature sheet which is rouletted and can be detached from the stub. More importantly, there are differences between some of them and the sheet versions. Pane 1 has the 20p Jenner's vaccination stamp. Both versions were printed by Questa at 720lpi, the first use of high resolution for a gravure stamp. The main difference is that the phosphor bar on the booklet stamp is wider than that on the sheet version. Pane 2 has four of the 44p Faraday stamp while pane 3 has the 26p Darwin stamp. In both cases the booklet and sheet stamps were printed in lithography by Questa using their high resolution process. There is no discernible difference between the booklet and sheet versions. Pane 4 has the 63p Turing stamp, printed in gravure. Questa have made an excellent job of matching De La Rue's sheet version of this and it takes a



Above, £1.04 World Rugby Cup book. Right, £2.60 Millennium no2 book, with its contents indicated by the illustration on the cover, and a pane of Millennium stamps from World Changers prestige book.

long-wave UV lamp to see any difference. This reveals that the booklet phosphor has an afterglow (both phosphoresce under short-wave) and the fluorescence is paler. Both stamps have pva gum but the sheet has the 'lay-flat' variety and is white compared to the creamy appearance of the booklet stamp.

Millennium book no2 This was also issued on 21 September. Like the first of these books, described here in June, it contains a pane of two Millennium stamps above a pane of eight 1st class xvts. Both were printed in gravure by Walsall.

The top pane comprises two of the 26p Mechanical Farming stamp. This was first issued on 7 September in sheets printed by De La Rue and again a good match has been obtained by a different member of Royal Mail's group of contracted printers. There are some differences, though. Most obvious is the marginal surround, making the pane into a miniature sheet. This is enhanced by printing 'From Farmers' Tale set issued September 1999' in the binding margin. The Queen's head, printed in silver, is much brighter in the De La Rue version. Less obvious, unless you have a long-wave ultra violet lamp, is the fact that the booklet stamp gives an afterglow while the sheet stamp does not. Under magnification, the Walsall cylinders also seem to have been engraved with a finer screen.



The pane of eight *xv1s* in both of the books issued so far in this series is obtained by removing the rightmost pair from the normal pane of 10 sold in books. In the first Millennium book, this was from cylinder *w2*; in the new book it is from cylinder *w3*. This cylinder first appeared in books of 10 during July. Some panes, believed to come from column 1 of the cylinder, have the leftmost phosphor band only 6.5mm wide instead of 9mm, although the width of the bars on the actual stamps does not vary. The covers are 50mm high, an indication that the books were not made on the Bickel machine. Although the books contain both *xv1* and value stamps they have the same barcode, 100197, as those with a pane of 10 $\times$ 1st class *xv1s*. Both books cost £2.60 retail.

World Rugby Cup label book The eighth in this series of books of four 1st class *xv1s* attached to a large commemorative label was issued on 1 October. The only indication that the contents were unusual was the printing on the yellow strip which reads: 'Commemorative Label Inside'. If, like me, you are interested in the covers as well as the contents, you will be able to distinguish an unopened book from the Berlin Airlift label book issued on 12 May by the text on the outside back cover. The first sentence advises you to 'Look out for our Millennium Stamps' instead of informing you that first class stamps are also available

in books of 10. Like the one in the Berlin book, the pane is printed by Walsall in gravure from seven colour cylinders and a phosphor cylinder. All are *w1* and it is clear that Walsall, like Questa, start a fresh series of numbers for each layout. The covers are 50mm high. The phosphor bands have an afterglow under long- as well as short-wave irradiation. As is usual with Walsall *xv1* booklets, panes exist with the leftmost phosphor band either 6.5mm or 9mm. Correctly printed bands are not inset; they go right to the edge of the left and right perforations.

Christmas books The stamps in this year's books are taken from the Millennium Christians' Tale. Both they and the sheet stamps were printed in gravure by De La Rue so I do not expect them to differ although I had not seen the sheets at the time of writing. The £3.80 pane has 20 $\times$ 19p featuring the hymn 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' by Charles Wesley. The £2.60 pane has 10 $\times$ 26p commemorating the King James Bible. Curiously, the acknowledgements of the two designers, printed on the inside cover beneath the stamps have these reversed. At first, I thought the panes had been pasted into the wrong covers, but not so; the images on the fronts are those of the stamps inside. Apart from the acknowledgements, the text is identical on both inside covers and it seems possible that the two plates got mixed up.

Cylinders seen are: 26p, BIA BIB BIC BID BIE BIF BIG/BIG (phosphor); and 19p, BIA BIB BIC BID BIE BIF/Bi8 (phosphor). The bands on the 26p stamps are very broad, about 15mm, in order to ensure a good signal in the sorting machines in view of the multicoloured background provided by the seven colour cylinders. The 19p stamps have a pale background so the 4.5mm central band suffices for sorting second-class post. The type on the yellow strip reads: 'Season's Greetings' the same as last year, but is much more spaced out because the books are 70mm deep instead of 60mm to accommodate the Millennium stamps.

Perforation variety on £1 and £2 book Some of the panes from the machine-vend books have a slanting edge at the left or right of the perforation in the binding margin. This may be cut or, more usually, torn. It is commoner on the £1 panes. This variety was first noticed on a part sheet exhibited at Questa's stand at Wembley last April. This firm's bookmaking process requires that the printed web be reduced to gangs comprised of nine panes in a single column. This is usually achieved by a guillotine, producing the typical straight vertical edges in the binding margin, but occasionally the columns of panes are divided manually by tearing or cutting a v-shaped notch in the selvage to facilitate tearing across the column. Collectors know this type of perforation as $\frac{1}{2}v$ from its appearance. It is possible that this variety also occurs on the gravure versions of the panes with a 20p stamp. This is not the first time that booklet panes have been separated from the web in this way. Pre-decimal panes are known with $\frac{1}{2}v$ perforation as are the very first decimal panes. Interestingly, the latter were also for machine-vend books •

Current £2 book, left, and pane of $2 \times \frac{1}{2}p + 2 \times 2p$ from first machine-vend decimal pane, both with $\frac{1}{2}v$ perforations at left.



Machin colours An updated



THIS is a third summary of the colours of small format machin definitive stamps. It follows two previous listings in the *Bulletin* of September 1991 and February 1995. The listing comprises stamps issued since the second listing, plus those in that listing which remained on sale after 1996. Stamps marked • are in current use.

As with the two earlier listings, it is stressed that although these colour descriptions are those used by Royal Mail, stamp catalogues may use other descriptions. Excepting the gold stamps (see note 2), all NVIS and values up to £1.50 have colours from the 'Jeffery Matthews 31 colours range' which was introduced in 1988. However, six colours of the 31 are not represented here. Four of these – salmon pink (25p), old gold (35p), red (38p) and slate blue (60p) – were withdrawn from post offices in 1996. The other two – dark turquoise (32p) and dark grey (75p) have not been used since 1991 and 1993 respectively.

From 1971, based solely on colour and value differences, the number of standard-sized Machins has reached 130. This total is sub-divided into 124 with decimal values and six NVIS •

summary of the small-format Machin definitives by John Bird



The current range of stamps on sale at post offices (excluding Country stamps available in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales).

Editorial note: Royal Mail regrets it cannot engage in correspondence about this listing, but the author is happy to deal with queries on 01367 240 756.

Non value indicators (NVIs)

Class	Colour	Year
2nd	● bright blue	1991 ¹
1st	● flame	1990
1st	gold	1997 ²
E	● dark blue	1999

39p	● shocking pink	1996
43p	dark brown	1996
44p	● stone	1999
50p	● sand	1990
63p	emerald green	1996
64p	● sea green	1999
£1	● mauve	1995

Additional details

From 1995 all stamps in this list have elliptical perforations.

Resulting from improved gravure-printing technology in 1997, NVIs and low values have the 'new image' enhancement.

The high values are printed in recess (intaglio).

Low value stamps

1p	● dark maroon	1991
2p	● dark green	1988
4p	● light blue	1988
5p	● ash pink	1988
6p	lime green	1991 ³
7p	● light grey	1999
10p	● light tan	1990
19p	● olive green	1999 ⁴
20p	● light green	1996 ⁵
26p	● rust	1996
26p	gold	1997 ²
30p	sage green	1989 ³
31p	● purple	1996
37p	rhododendron	1996
38p	● ultramarine	1999

High values

£1.50	● terracotta	1999
£2	● blue	1999 ⁶
£3	● purple	1999 ⁶
£5	● brown	1999 ⁶

¹ Re-issued 1991.

² Special colour for the Royal Golden Wedding anniversary. 1st flame and 26p rust suspended during year of availability

³ Withdrawn from sale at post offices 4 October 1999.

⁴ Re-issued with its 1993 colour.

⁵ Originally had one phosphor band but with two from April 1999.

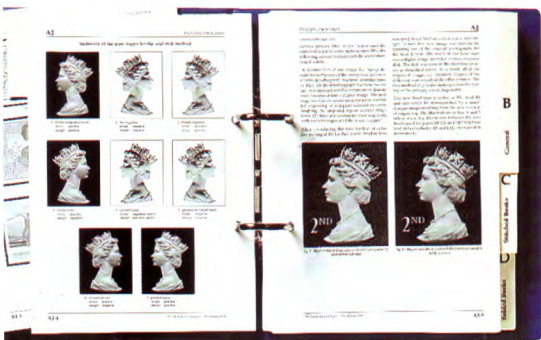
⁶ Colour descriptions transferred from superseded 'Castle' designs. Thus the £3 has a different shade of purple from the 31p.

Portugal's Ceres stamps



The world's longest set used to be Portugal's 86 Ceres stamps issued between 1912 and 1931. The Machins overtook that record in 1990. 42 overprints could boost the Portuguese total to 128, but the Machins have now surpassed even that figure.

Book review New, 7th edition of *The Bookmark* catalogue



The Bookmark £49.95 + £6.45 UK postage (enquire for overseas) from Gerry Fisk, 4 Gorse Meadow Drive, Barnt Green, Birmingham B45 8XS. Price includes free membership of the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle for 1999/2000.

A new, 7th, edition of '*The Bookmark*' *Catalogue of British Decimal Stamp Books* has recently been published by the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle, founded in 1971 to record all issues of GB decimal stamp books and the results of their study in depth. Under its registered trademark 'The Bookmark', it publishes a regular journal as well as this catalogue which first appeared in 1973. The Circle's unique coding systems for every element of the thousands of stamp books issued are recognised as authoritative and are in daily use by collectors and specialist dealers.

Since the last edition, edited by Douglas Myall and published in 1991, there have been many innovations such as self-adhesive trials, new printing methods, new book production techniques, and new security features affecting the stamps. The new Editor, Hanns Jorg Fasching, has completely revised and expanded the catalogue, with improved and more extensive illustrations and technical articles. The 7th edition covers issues up to the end of 1998, with separate sections for each type of book, each section dealing with production methods, the issued books, their panes and the packaging used. Another major section deals with the many perforators used in book production; this is fully illustrated with diagrams of the pin layouts of each perforator.

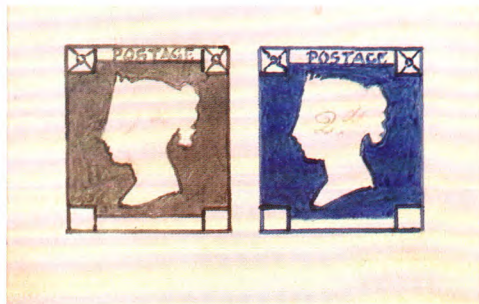
This massive catalogue (over 1700 pages) has

been produced in loose-leaf format supplied in two sturdy, if slightly unwieldy, binders. The first contains sections A to D: Introduction, General (Bookmark systems etc), Stitched Books, and Folded Books); with sections E-J – Window Books, Self-adhesive Book, 'Red' Machine-vended Books, Special Issue Books, Perforations, and Miscellany (postal rates etc) – in the second binder. Each section is sub-divided, often by different series of books according to the Bookmark coding system, ie series DB6, DB7, etc. Section A deserves careful reading as it sets out the catalogue's policy with useful notes on advertiser's voucher copies, book layout and production, errors and varieties, first day covers, forgery, gum, head types, paper, perforations and much else. This is followed by a good account of gravure printing by both acid etch and EME methods; the diagrams and photographs help greatly in understanding the process. Section B4 includes quality illustrations of the labels in advertising and prestige book panes, also the commemorative labels from the 1994 Bank of England to 1998 Prince of Wales books.

Section E on window books gives a history of their development with details of the prototypes and trials reported here by the late Len Newbery in January 1989. Such is the detail given in this catalogue that the one self-adhesive book (October 1993) requires eight pages to record all aspects of its production, characteristics and packaging. The Miscellany section (J) records postal rates quoting the number of days each set of rates lasted – from just 168 days for the 8p and 10p 2nd and 1st class rates (20 August 1979–3 February 1980) to 1022 days for the 20p/26p rate from 8 July 1996 until 25 April 1999. The section also deals with marker bars, explaining barcodes, and the text on the inside of book covers.

One cannot but be impressed by the amount of research that went into the compilation of this catalogue. Although at first it appears somewhat daunting, it quickly becomes clear that everyone is catered for, from the collector of 'one of each' to the ultra-specialist. Hitherto only available to GBDSBSC members, it is now available to all ●

Rare Stamps of the World A review by John Holman



Embossed profile of Queen Victoria by Charles Whiting, left. Above, watercolour sketch of the 1d and 2d made for Rowland Hill in February 1840, subsequently given to Lord Northbrook and later to George V when Duke of York. Rare Stamps of the World was at Claridge's, London, 29-31 July.

THE THIRD exhibition of rare stamps contained much to interest collectors of older British stamps and postal history. The exhibit from the Royal Collection opened with rare Parliamentary Privilege envelopes for use at the Houses of Parliament in 1840 and 20 sheets of Treasury Competition entries which included a fine embossed profile of Queen Victoria by Charles Whiting and examples from James Bogardus, F Coffin, and Benjamin Cheverton, and Sir G Mackenzie whose design is not dissimilar to the Penny Black. Twenty sheets relating to the 1d Black included the original pen and ink drawing by Wyon, and the sketch of the 1d and 2d made for Rowland Hill, above. A block of 18 of the 1d black from a trial printing of June 1840 on lighter paper was shown, also stamps used on covers before and on the first day of validity, 5 and 6 May 1840. The stamp was left uncanceled on the 5 May cover, a red 'Paid' handstamp denoting payment of postage. The nine sheets devoted to the 2d blue included the magnificent block of 38 from plate 1 and many other multiples.

The famous 'Rainbow Trials', displayed by 'Dionysos', included special sheets of 12 stamps in various colours to test cancellation inks after it was discovered that the red Maltese Cross cancel could be easily cleaned off the 1d black. Also shown were colour trials (November 1840) for the

2d stamp in blue and shades of green. His surface-printed exhibit included imprimaturs and artists' drawings as well as issued stamps. In Hassan Shaida's 'Postal Art' exhibit of handpainted covers were examples by Henry Corbould who often drew a Queen's head 'stamp'. Mulready caricatures by Fores & Co were shown by Louis Grunin. Other *recherché* items of postal history included historic letters dating back to the late 14th century, and triangular-shaped letters of Victoria's reign.

Dr Alan Huggins's exhibit of the embossed adhesives of 1847-54 included many examples used on cover. Particularly interesting were covers stamped with a 10d blue, including one cancelled with the Penny Post Jubilee exhibition postmark in 1890. Such covers were contrary to regulations as the 10d value was intended only for stamping telegraph forms. Peter Jennings's 'Pioneer Airmails' featured cards from the early UK flights of 1902-10, in addition to other scarce items from overseas. The delightful Victorian and Edwardian stamp boxes, shown by Marjorie Humble and Martin Leverton, came in such unusual shapes as an elephant and a beautiful Louis XIV desk with ink-wells and compartments for stamps, also a unique stamp applicator made in 1884 by Victoria De Bunsen for the Prince of Wales (Edward VII).

Amongst the many wonderful overseas stamps on display were sheets and part-sheets of the typewritten stamps of Long Island (1916), covers sent by the Overland Mail of Thomas Waghorn, and the impressive 'First Ones Collection' of the first stamps of 14 European countries used on cover from 1849 to 1885. The British Library displayed 45 sheets of airmails including a unique cover bearing both 'Hawker' and manuscript 'Martinsyde' stamps of Newfoundland (1919). Perhaps the most exquisite item on show was a letter sent by King Rama IV of Siam in a red satin case complete with gold royal seal.

This fine exhibition lived up to the high standards set in 1995 and 1997. However despite improved lighting, it was difficult to view material at the bottom of the frames without kneeling down (thankfully Claridge's has thick carpets), and as before there was little material after 1920. Hopefully these two points can be considered for next time. Congratulations again to Mrs Caron de Vico and her team for a splendid exhibition and excellent catalogue. The £10 admission (included catalogue) compared favourably to going to the theatre or sporting event •

Stamp Show 2000

THE COUNTDOWN is on for Stamp Show 2000, the biggest philatelic event in Britain for 10 years. The Show will comprise a variety of features and displays from Britain and around the world. Confirmed displays include: an art gallery with most of the original artworks prepared for the Royal Mail Millennium Collection 1999 by some of this country's leading artists; 'Post Haste', which tells the story of mail delivery from Roman times to the 21st century, and a Travelling Post Office with interactive display showing how mail has been carried by rail over the years. The Stamp Show 2000 is a full world FIP (International Federation of Philately) exhibition, which will comprise international competition entries in 3500 frames. The Court of Honour will be dedicated to a truly magnificent display of items from HM The Queen's personal collection, most of which has never been seen in public before. Another special attraction during the week will be a two-day Prestige Auction of rarities. And there will be plenty for the younger visitors to do, with a Postman Pat competition for the under-sevens, and a national photography competition for the over-sevens •

Cover corner

THESE days collectors are used to colourful (some might say garish) first day cover designs. It was not always so, as this month's cover shows. Submitted by Geoff Isherwood of Cheshire, it comprises a plain envelope FDC of the four stamps issued 50 years ago this month to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The stamps were cancelled at Welwyn Garden City, Herts on 10 October 1949. Another FDC of this issue was shown on page 182 of the February *Bulletin*.

The UPU, which this year celebrates its 125th anniversary, has 189 member states, employing 6.1 million staff working in 700,000 post offices and handling over 400 billion letters a year. Commemorative stamps have been issued by, amongst others, Alderney, Brazil, Gibraltar, Jersey, Isle of Man, St Kitts, San Marino, South Africa, and Switzerland •



**THE
STAMP
SHOW 2000**
EARLS COURT, LONDON 22-28 MAY 2000

Show organiser Royal Mail will be celebrating 1000 years of British achievement, with its stand 'Perspectives on Britain' at Stamp Show 2000.

Rugby Union World Cup One of the year's major sporting events starts this month

TO MARK THE OCCASION, Royal Mail is issuing a commemorative label book, aerogramme, and philatelic numismatic cover. We thought readers might be interested to see some of the Rugby stamps issued by Australia and New Zealand earlier this year, and the French World Cup stamp issued 11 September (right) •



VALUE \$4.00

1999 NEW ZEALAND U-BIX RUGBY SUPER 12



Postbag

Philatelic honours In reply to Mr Arnold (March) and Mr Woodridge (July), readers might be interested to learn that the Midland Philatelic Federation has introduced a Certificate of Service, to be presented to collectors within the Federation to which Mr Woodridge refers, ie a Society Secretary, Treasurer or similar officer who has devoted many hours of unstinted service to a local Society but would probably not normally qualify for an ABPS or Rowland Hill Award. The MPF has laid down certain criteria and it is hoped that nominations will be considered in December and for the Award to be made at the Federation Spring Convention, 2000. This is a move which other Federations might consider emulating. PAUL HORTON, Convention Officer MPF, Stourbridge ●

Citizens' Tale I am sure that I am not the only collector who is disappointed with the 64p Citizen's Tale stamp that depicts the signing of Magna Carta. Most GB special stamps (at least 90% of them) are good but occasionally some real 'turkeys' are issued. Here was one of the greatest landmarks in English history and all we get for it is a low quality, poorly designed stamp. Surely a scene depicting the actual signing of Magna Carta with King John being watched by the barons would have been more appropriate? In his article (July *Bulletin*), James Mackay writes 'but why should a bad king get the privilege of his image on a postage stamp?' The answer is simple: because he is part of British history and, bad or good, he was the first British monarch to recognise that other lesser mortals had certain rights (even if the rights were restricted to lords). Besides, British history is full of good, bad and mediocre kings and queens – but they are all part of our national heritage and should be recognised as such. It is my opinion that Royal Mail should not decide which historical figures appear on stamps – based on 'endearment'. Henry VIII wasn't exactly a good king – at least not to his wives – but he has appeared on GB stamps. (I suspect King John did a few good things during his reign but we only ever hear bad things about him!) I live

in Canada; a few years ago Canada Post produced a special stamp to commemorate the centenary of the death of the Métis leader, Louis Riel, a man who was executed by the government of the day for treason! I mention this just as an example of how historical perspective changes over time. I enjoy reading the *Bulletin*. CHRIS HYDE, SOOKE, BC, CANADA ●

IBRA '99 The negative description of IBRA '99 (July *Bulletin*) stands surely for the singular perception of Francesca Rapkin. Other people may have received a different and more positive impression. They might have found that Nuremberg was convenient to reach using one of four regular daily flights from London. And most people were not irritated at all that German language is normally used in Germany. So quite naturally the exhibition catalogue was written in German, also all directions or explanations in showcases, etc and the show program. The use of German corresponded to the expressed objectives of the organisers and should not be criticised since German is one of the official FIP languages. It should be mentioned that the palmares session was held in English, with German being the second language. In addition, the daily free copy of the IBRA '99 newspaper was bilingual. Thus the observed 'lack of consideration for overseas guests' cannot be taken as meaningful complaint.

What really counts are the results of a survey conducted at the end of IBRA '99 with the postal administrations and the philatelic trade. To my knowledge this is the first time an international philatelic exhibition has conducted such a survey and published the results, thereby setting new standards in exhibition practices. Some of these results may be mentioned here to counter the negative impressions as perceived by Mrs Rapkin. The majority of impressions in her report concerned the organisation of IBRA. The organisation was part of the survey and revealed an overriding 95% satisfaction of all stand holders, both philatelic trade and postal administrations.

Only 5% remained unsatisfied with the organisation due to some security questions of the philatelic trade. Stanley Gibbons commented 'Well laid out, easy to find stands'.

Another feature within the survey was concept and presentation. The satisfaction rate attained with the trade was even higher with 99%, whereas postal administrations answered more reluctantly. The philatelic passport, with masses of customers, was a real challenge especially to European postal administrations. Some found they had ordered stands too small to handle the unexpected crowds of customers. The main reason to invest in a stand apart from sales is sales promotion, initiating new contacts and acquiring new customers: 45% reported acquiring many new customers and 46% established satisfyingly new contacts. One auction dealer expressed his impression verbally: 'During the first days of IBRA '99 I could get more addresses than otherwise via advertising throughout a whole year!' When the trade was asked about the result of sales during IBRA '99, 36% were highly satisfied with sales, 52% generally satisfied. Only one dealer complained about high booth fees. In total, IBRA '99 won the merit of a successful exhibition, both in terms of quantity and quality. The wide acceptance as expressed by the philatelic trade and postal administrations is a far better yardstick than any individual impression. KLAUS E EITNER, Bund Deutscher Philatelisten.

Franceska Rapkin replies: Herr Eitner is as entitled to his opinion as I am to mine. If he re-reads my article he will see that I tried very hard to be objective and stick to the facts. The comments were not only my own but were expressed by many others to whom I spoke. Nowhere did I state that Nuremburg could not be reached by air from London. However, there is no direct access from the Americas and Asia. This is a fact. It is interesting that, while Herr Eitner quotes a number of statistics in his letter, with the exception of the catalogue, he does not respond to any of the criticisms that I expressed ●

NVI country stamps I welcome the issue of 1st and 2nd class and 'E' (European rate) stamps for Scotland and Wales. The next logical step I suggest is to make them available in books and coils (rolls) at post offices and retail outlets in the two countries. They are, it must be said, rather more attractive than the national Machin design. PETER MOORFIELD, EDINBURGH ●

Stamp Show 2000 books The first two prestige books issued to promote the exhibition are in my view the best prestige books yet issued by Royal Mail. Can you give some indication of the contents of the third? ALAN MILES, OLDHAM.

The third of the Stamp Show prestige books will be issued on 15 February, entitled 'Special by Design'. It will look at the important stamp design work of Jeffery Matthews and contain some unique stamps. Further details will be published nearer the time. ED ●

Posting boxes 189

THIS MONTH'S BOXES are located in Kingsdown, Kent. The photographs, submitted by Mr D J Mercer of Dover, show the Victorian box in the wall of the old post office in South Road (left), and a George V box in a garden wall in Old Stairs Road.

For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a SAE or IRC to the Membership Secretary, Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES. The Group produces many interesting publications and postcards ●



Competition Identify the stamp from the detail and win £100



SIMPLY identify the special stamp from the detail above and send your answer name and address on a postcard (or back of a sealed envelope) to September Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y

8HQ. The sender of the first card to be drawn on 19 November will receive £100. Twenty runner-up prizes will also be awarded.

The competition is not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

October exhibition Thomas Musgrave, Postmaster of Bath at Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, Bath BA1 5LJ. **Enquiries** 01225 460333

2 October Letter Box Study Group 'Get Together' at the Toby Midway, on the A508 between M1 Junction 15 and Northampton, 10.00-15.00. Members displays, chat, sale of postbox items. **Enquiries** Helen Crabtree 01536 762127

2 October Philatelic Music Circle 20th Anniversary Annual Convention at British Philatelic Centre, Charterhouse Street, London EC1. Exhibitions, competitions, live musical entertainment. Visitors welcome. **Enquiries** Ian Summers, 01706 826655.

9 October Ashford (Kent) PS Stamp & Postcard Fair at Norton Knatchbull Grammar School, Hythe Road, Ashford, 10.00-16.30. **Enquiries** D H Todd, The Cottage, Bockhanger Lane, Kennington, Ashford TN24 9BP

10 October Hinckley & District Phil Soc Stamp & Postcard Fair and Exhibition at St John Ambulance Hall, Brunel Road, Hinckley, 10.00-16.00. Refreshments, raffle, parking nearby. Admission free. **Enquiries** C Smith, 01827 717253

16-17 October Collect 99 fair at Hall 3, Wembley Exhibition Centre. See page 36.

28-30 October Philatex (London International Stamp & Cover Show) at Royal Horticultural Hall 2, Greycoat Street, London SW1. 28 Oct 11.00-19.00; 29th 10.00-18.00, 30th 10.00-17.00. Over 100 dealers. Free admission; buffet & bar. **Enquiries** Chris Rainey 01268 726687 or Trevor Davis 0181 946 4489

30 October Thatcham & District Phil Soc Annual Stamp Fair at Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Thatcham, 10.00-16.00. Auction lots (18 November) on view, refreshments, car parking. Admission free. **Enquiries** G Stewart, 01635 866942.

30 October Colchester & District Phil Soc Stamp Fair at Stanway Village Hall, Villa Road, Stanway, Colchester, 10.30-16.30. Dealers, refreshments, free admission, car parking. **Enquiries** D F Sapsford, 24 Thurlston Close, Colchester CO4 3HF

30 October Salvation Army Philatelic Circle convention at Priory Street Centre, off Micklegate, York, 10.30. 'Machin Heads of GB' display. Anyone wishing to attend please contact Harry Hayes 01904 764660 •

Late news



Millennium stamps Artists' Tale stamps, the last set in the 1999 Millennium series, will be issued

Obituary Sir Hugh Casson, who died aged 89 on 16 August, will be remembered by collectors of British stamps for his fine London Landmarks stamps of 1980. He also designed a set of Museum stamps for Guernsey in 1986. Sir Hugh, a noted architect, was elected to the Royal Academy in 1970 and served as its President from 1976 to 1984. His wife served on Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee from 1981 to 1995 •

National Topical Stamp Show, Milwaukee After somewhat critical reports on IBRA and Philexfrance, it is nice to be able to report favourably about the National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin over the weekend of 30 July-1 August. Admittedly, this was a national, and not an international show, but nevertheless the Americans showed that if the venue is accessible, the dealers plentiful and the seminars interesting, sufficient visitors will come, without large numbers of non-philatelic artifacts, which take up space and cost money.

The NTSS was very special since it marked the 50th anniversary of the American Topical Association (ATA). It is only the second time that the exhibits receiving a silver-gilt medal or higher qualified for international participation. Previously, known as TOPEX, the exhibition was one of the many 'national' shows held across the width and breadth of the US, which in reality are little more than large-scale federation exhibitions. There are only two dozen or so exhibitions that are qualifiers for would-be international participation, and the NTSS is the only single-discipline



on 7 December. Full details will be published in next month's *Bulletin* •

show. Thematics have truly come of age in the United States. Two dozen national exhibitions each year may seem a lot, but it should be remembered that the USA is a large country and it is not possible for everyone to travel or send an exhibit to a single show nor would there be sufficient space.

The ATA was formed in 1949 by Jerome Husak and a small band of like-minded collectors in Milwaukee. It was fitting that the NTSS should return to that city for the Golden Jubilee celebrations. The sister organisation in the UK, the British Thematic Association, was represented by Margaret Morris, the President, and myself, the founder Chairman and Past President. I presented Dorothy (Dottie) Smith, the ATA President with a beautiful crystal goblet engraved with a commemorative inscription on behalf of the BTA.

Although all the exhibits in the 300 frames were thematic, there were three distinct classes, each with their own rules and judging procedures: the Competitive Class, where up to 10 frames could be shown; the Display or Open Class, where up to 30% ephemera could be included; and the One Framer. The latter is an exacting discipline and not as easy as it sounds. Fifty dealers, lively seminars and collectors from all over the USA, as well as from further afield, ensured a busy and interesting weekend.

Amongst the exhibitors, two were from Britain: Malcolm Hawkins with his 'Pidgeon Pielately' and Brian Sole with 'Go by Cycle'. Brian's exhibit earned one of the nine gold medals awarded at the exhibition. FRANCESKA RAPKIN •

THE PROFILE ON PRINT PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK



Royal Mail's prestige stamp book for 1999 tells the story of the development of the Machin head definitives – now one of the longest-running and most complicated of any definitive series with a large following of specialist collectors.

This book will be of great interest not only to Machin collectors, but anyone interested in stamp printing, as it includes 1st class Machin stamps printed by no fewer than five different processes! Three panes contain large size Machin stamps printed in black by recess (intaglio) and typography (letterpress), and embossed on white self-adhesive paper. The two other panes con-

tain normal sized stamps, in flame (orange) printed in gravure and lithography. This is a unique opportunity to compare the different methods and reproduction of the Machin head by the five processes. Issue date 16 February, price £7.54. The book is the second in a series of three related to the Stamp Show 2000. The first, issued in March 1998, contained unique Wilding design stamps in decimal currency. This is still available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets, at £7.49.

The British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT



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