

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 43 Number 7

MARCH 2006 £1.20

Bulletin

British miniature sheets • Ice Age issue • Trees in folklore



Royal Mail brings pre-history alive with the Ice Age Animals stamps: on sale 21 March.



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Wood block engraving by Andrew Davidson, used to produce his original image for the 47p woolly rhino stamp. The Ice Age Animals issue was previewed in the January Bulletin. Photograph by Geoff Dann.

Issues Some items available only from Royal Mail Talents House and Post Office Limited philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate, Leicester, London (Trafalgar Square & Eastcheap), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Truro, Windsor & York.

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30-17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.30, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps

1 March	Issue Welsh Assembly miniature sheet.
7 March	Issue Smilers sheet: Fun, Fruit & Veg stamps.
14 March	Withdrawal Magic! stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and Smilers sheet.
14 March	Issue Ice Age Animals stamp cards.
17 March	Issue Coin cover: N Ireland stamps and £1 coin.
21 March	Issue Ice Age Animals stamps & presentation pack.
21 March	Withdrawal Castles miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards • Retail stamp book with Smilers advert showing Hello stamp.
23 March	Withdrawal Written Word coin cover (Jane Eyre stamps).
28 March	Issue 37p, 44p, 49p & 72p Machin definitives; 44p & 72p Country stamps; presentation packs.
6 April	Withdrawal Machin definitives 7p, 35p dark brown, 39p and 43p; 40p country stamps; definitive packs with Europe and Worldwide stamps, and April 2004 postal rate values (7p, 35p, 39p, 40p, 43p, postcard rate stamp and 1st class gold); pack with four 40p country stamps.
7 April	Withdrawal Royal Wedding miniature sheet and presentation pack.
11 April	Issue The Queen's 80th Birthday stamp cards.
18 April	Issue The Queen's 80th Birthday stamps and presentation pack.
20 April	Withdrawal World Heritage Sites stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards; Pacific Explorer Expo Smilers sheet.
21 April	Issue Queen's 80th Birthday coin cover.
25 April	Issue Ingot cover: Castles No 3 (Wales).

Contents



Miniature sheets Once an object of derision for some, the miniature sheet is now a popular item for collectors. Glenn Morgan looks briefly at their past, and compiles a list of all the GB issues **213**

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.20 single copies from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group plc, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any article should be addressed to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

Issues and withdrawals
March and April **194**

Editor's view Past and future exhibitions **196**

Stamp scene Stamps of the islands; Events and exhibitions; Auctions; Weblogs; Publications; NPS seminar; British Library collections **196**

Royal Mail news New definitive stamps; Coin and ingot covers; 2007 programme; Wembley MS; Smilers; BPMA **201**



Special prize draw Win a 2005 miniature sheet collection **207**

If trees could talk Trees in legend, by Rosemary Bennett **208**

Philately online The Smithsonian Institution by Ron Negus **212**

Ice Age Animals Dave Warriner describes this month's new issue **216**



Brighton and Hove PS Celebrating a century, by Richard West **218**

Treasures of the BPMA Brunel postal history by Martin Robinson **220**

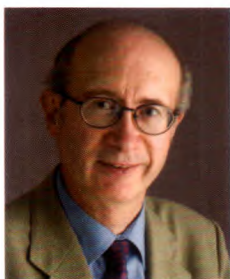


Competitions £200 to be won in two easy-to-enter competitions **222**

Events **222**

Late news **223**

Editor's view Exhibitions past and future



John Holman, Editor

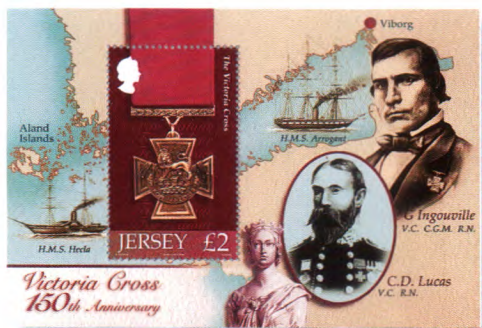
IN LAST MONTH'S *Late News* we gave preliminary details of the 2010 London stamp exhibition, and look forward to publishing further information as it becomes available. As readers will know from my comments last September, I believe money would be better spent on improved permanent facilities for collectors in the UK rather than a grandiose, short-lived exhibition. However the plans announced for 2010 indicate a much less extravagant exhibition than in 2000, and from what I gather, the anticipated cost will be about one-tenth that of its predecessor. I rather like the idea of a series of exhibitions extending throughout the year, the planned Festival of Stamps at the British Postal Museum & Archive, British Library, etc. I look forward to hearing more about these proposed events. I would like to hear readers' views, and hope to publish a selection in a future *Bulletin*.

This month we preview the miniature sheet for the new Wembley Stadium, although at the time of writing there is still some uncertainty as to whether the Stadium will be ready for the FA Cup Final on 13 May. The miniature sheet features the Stadium's giant arch which will no doubt become as familiar to a new generation of sports fans as the now demolished twin towers of the old stadium were to their fathers and grandfathers.

Wembley, of course, has a philatelic connection as the Empire Exhibition there in 1924 was the subject of our first special stamps. The stamps were sold at the Exhibition post office and a few other outlets, but were not available at post offices nationwide. If that were the case now, they would probably only be appendix listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue!

We are currently totalling up your votes in our Favourite Special Stamps and Favourite *Bulletin* Authors polls for 2005 and will announce the results next month. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Stamp scene News and upcoming events: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted



Enquiries Jersey Post, PO Box 555, Jersey JE4 8XJ.

Island stamps On 9 April the Jersey Post Office will issue a £2 stamp in sheets of four, for the first wedding anniversary of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. After 12 months the stamp will form part of Jersey Post's definitive stamp range. In January a £2 miniature sheet was issued marking the 150th anniversary of the Victoria Cross. The stamp depicts the medal, and the sheet features HMS *Hecla* and HMS *Arrogant*, with portraits of C D Lucas VC RN and G Ingouville VC CGM RN. Lucas was the very first VC recipient, and Jerseyman Ingouville was one of the first 62 to receive the award.



Guernsey Post's 2005 Yearbook contains all the special stamps and miniature sheets issued by Guernsey and Alderney in 2005. It opens with a message from the Managing Director of Guernsey Post, pointing out that 2005 included a SeaGuernsey set, part of the nationwide 'Year of the Sea' celebrations for the bicentenary of Trafalgar, the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the liberation of the Channel Islands. He notes 'perhaps our most poignant issue was the Alderney Homecoming, which marked a powerful and moving event in the Bailiwick's history.' This issue, a large £2 stamp in miniature sheet format, is indeed an impressive stamp. The 52 stamps and four miniature sheets are supplied in packets for insertion into transparent mounts on the relevant pages. Text is well written and the many illustrations show the scenery, flora and fauna, history, and life of the islands. There are two pages of portraits and profiles of the nine designers of the 2005 stamps. Price £34.64 plus £1 handling charge.

In January, Isle of Man Post marked The Queen's 80th birthday with an issue titled 'Eighty Years of Duty and Service'. Each of the eight stamps depicts an event from one of the monarch's eight decades, including some photographs by the late Lord Lichfield. The set costs £4 •

Guernsey Post enquiries

Guernsey Philatelic Bureau,
Envoy House, La Vrangue, St
Peter Port, Guernsey GY1
1AB.

Isle of Man Post enquiries

PO Box 10M, Douglas, IOM
IM99 1PB. Four of the 'Eighty
Years of Duty and Service'
stamps are shown at left.



Philatelic events The 30th annual North East Philatelic Weekend is to be held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead from 19-21 May at a cost of £144 per attendee. The price includes all meals, coffee and tea breaks, pre-banquet drinks, Sunday lunch and use of all leisure facilities at the hotel. An active programme is planned including displays on Darlington postal history, Japan, the motor car as a thematic, revenues and Hong Kong.

Torquay 2006, the sixth ABPS national philatelic exhibition will be held on 24-25 November at the Riviera Centre, Torquay. This will be the only opportunity for exhibitors to enter the competitive side of philately this year, as there will be no such displays at Autumn Stampex. All disciplines will be covered. Enquiries for entering should be made to the Chairman •

NEPW enquiries

Miss Valerie Beeken, 162 Canterbury Rd,
Newton Hall Estate, Durham
DH1 5XT. Telephone 0191 386
1931.

The Chairman, Torquay 2006

J Barry Horne, 29 Bowhay
Lane, Exeter EX4 1PE. Tele-
phone 01392 273 012, email
barry@torquay2006.org.uk or
see www.torquay2006.org.uk



The Sweden 3-skilling colour error of 1855. Photograph courtesy www.glenstephens.com/column.html

Washington 2006 Leading up to this major world show, we are featuring some of the rarities that will be on display. We continue this month with the ultimate rarity, and the world's most valuable stamp, Sweden's 1855 3-skilling Colour Error.

Like the only stamp of greater fame, the British Guiana 1c magenta of 1856, there is but a single known copy of the Sweden 3-skilling colour error of 1855. Like the British Guiana it was discovered by a schoolboy, who, in response to a Stockholm dealer's public offer in 1885 of 7 kroner for the 3 skilling stamps, found it while searching through his late grandfather's correspondence. His grandmother let him soak it off the envelope, and he duly collected his 7 kroner without realizing that the stamp he had found was an error. Not so the dealer: he knew that the 3 skilling had been printed in green, not in the orange-yellow of the stamp he had bought from the boy. He knew he had a

valuable find, probably one-of-a-kind, for which he turned down an offer of 300 kroner. He sold it eventually to a dealer in Vienna, Austria, who sold it in 1894 to the 19th century's most renowned collector, Baron Philipp la Rénatière von Ferrary, for 4,000 gold florins. After the First World War, it changed hands several times, eventually ending up in the possession of King Carol II of Romania, who paid approximately \$30,000 for it in 1937.

It was at the 1974 STOCKHOLMIA stamp exhibition that the controversy about the 3 skilling error arose. The Swedish Postal Museum turned down the opportunity to purchase it on suspicion that it was a forgery, and set up a commission to prove its suspicion correct. Others formed another commission to prove its authenticity. The evidence provided by the two commissions led to the conclusion that a stray 3 skilling cliché had found its way into a printing of the orange-yellow 8 skilling stamps – and thus that the Stockholm dealer and Ferrary had been right about their error. Wealthy collectors seem to agree: the 3 skilling banco orange-yellow was sold at auction in 1978 and again in 1984, when it went for about \$455,000, the second highest price ever paid for a single stamp.

It was auctioned most recently on 8 November 1996 in a David Feldman auction for \$2,270,000 (2,875,000 Swiss francs), making it the most valuable stamp in the world, at least until another tops that price. That's a massive \$39 billion dollars a pound! It is insured for \$15,000,000.

This stamp is to be exhibited by permission of Stamp Collection AG. It has its own website (www.treskillingyellow.com) where further details may be found, and there is a recent very detailed article by Australian dealer Glen Stephens about its fascinating history at www.glenstephens.com/snmayo5.html •

Washington 2006: A World Philatelic Exhibition Saturday 27 May (Memorial Day weekend) to Saturday 3 June, 10.00am to 6.00pm daily except Saturday, 27 May at the Washington, DC Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington DC, 20001 between 7th and 9th, and K and N St. Admission is free, registration required. Visit www.washington-2006.org for more details.

Postal history seminar The opportunity to learn more about postal history collecting and displaying from two of the experts in this field is to be offered by the National Philatelic Society. A day-long seminar on this subject is to be held on Saturday 1 April at Charterhouse Street. The main speakers are Trevor Davis FRPSL, well known for his Australian Postal History collection, and Patrick Frost, whose main forte is the postal history of Great Britain. The topics include how to choose a subject, gather material and organise a collection, and how to select material to display and arrange it for competitions. Primarily this is an opportunity to bring along material for constructive criticism by Trevor and Patrick, so please bring along examples of your collection (16 or 32 pages) to assist in the critique. The cost is £8 for NPS members and £10 for others, and includes coffee and lunch. Places are limited and the deadline for application is 17 March 2006.

Saturday meetings of the NPS are normally held on the second Saturday of the month with a 400-lot room and postal members' auction at 1pm followed by the display at 2.45 pm. Members also enjoy six issues a year of the magazine *Stamp Lover* (with its checklists of philatelic articles), plus literature sales, separate stamp and postal history circulating packets, and the renowned NPS Library. Forthcoming displays include 'St Lucia' by Alister Kinnon on 11 March and 'Norway' by Pat Adams on 8 April, and visitors are always welcome ●

For details of seminars and a booking form, please send a stamped addressed envelope to Christopher Oliver at the National Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT, or visit website www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps where a booking form is also available.

NPS meeting enquiries Peter Mellor, Honorary Secretary, telephone 020 7490 9610, e-mail nps@ukphilately.org.uk or visit the NPS website at www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

Stamp shows The following major stamp exhibitions are scheduled.

2006

17-20 March ASDA Mega-Event. Madison Square Garden, New York, USA. www.asdaonline.com

4-6 May International Briefmarkenmesse Essen. Essen, Germany. www.briefmarkenmesse-essen.de

27 May - 3 June Washington 2006. Convention Center, Washington DC, USA. Washington 2006, PO Box 2006, Ashburn VA 20146-2006, USA. www.washington-2006.org

17-25 June Le Salon du Timbre 2006. Parc Floral, Paris, France. www.ffap.net/even7M.htm

24-25 June Thematica. Carisbrooke Hall, London. Thematic Exhibitions, PO Box 8843, London N3 1HL.

20-24 September Autumn Stampex. Business Design Centre, London. www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

5-8 October Fall Mega Event. Jacob Javits Convention Center, New York, USA. www.asdaonline.com

7-13 October España 06. Malaga, Spain. <http://personal.telefonica.terra.es/web2/958251679/espaf1a06/>

16-20 November Belgica 06. Brussels Convention Centre, Brussels, Belgium. info@belgica2006.be

18-19 November Thematica. Carisbrooke Hall, London. Thematic Exhibitions, PO Box 8843, London N3 1HL.

24-25 November ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition. Riviera Centre, Torquay. Torquay 2006, 29 Bowhay Lane, Exeter EX4 1PE. www.torquay2006.org.uk

December Indepex 06. New Delhi, India. Provisional show.

2007

28 Feb - 4 March Stampex. Business Design Centre, Islington, London. www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

19-23 September Stampex. Details as above.

2008

14-22 May Israel 08. Tel Aviv, Israel.

15-22 June Efiro 08, Bucharest, Romania

2010

8-15 May London 2010: Festival of Stamps. The Business Design Centre, London.

Auctions Spink's GB stamps and covers sale on 7 December included 1883-84 'Lilac and Green' Surface-Printed issue, De La Rue's First Scheme, an attractive artist's hand-painted essay, which realised £1700 (estimate £800-£1000) and in the booklets section a 1940 (Oct) 2s6d green cover printed in black, edition no 43, sold for £340 (estimate £160-£200) ●

Spink Telephone 020 7563 4000 or website www.spink.com

British Library Visit the library at 96 Euston Road, London NW1 and if possible visit their excellent website (www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic) before you go, to get the most from your visit.

British Library A report in the February 2006 issue of *Stamp Magazine* revealed that the British Library Philatelic Collections were growing faster than ever. Its curator, David Beech, reports unprecedented growth since the move to St Pancras, with many donations either having been transferred to the Library's custody or promised for the future.

There is material for every philatelist to enjoy, with collections from around the world, and collectors of British material should especially make a visit to see the Tapling Collection (where one of the few known 1858-79 1d red Plate 77s is on display). Many other collections with a British emphasis are able to be seen by appointment, including: the Chinchin and Landmark Trust Collections of Lundy Island philately • the Ewen and Turner Collections of Railway Letter Stamps 1891-1940s • the Board of Inland, Stamping Department Archive 1710-1950s • the Sherborn Collection of 1d pink postal stationery envelopes from 1841 • the Langmead Collection of Telegraph stamps and stationery • the Fletcher Collection of 300 years of public and private postal services • the Treasury Excise, HMSO and Turner Collections of Excise Revenue and Newspaper tax stamps • the Scott Collection of inland airmails • and the Walker Collection of Channel Islands occupation material.

I recently took two non-collecting friends for a visit and they both enjoyed seeing the stamps on display to the point of wanting to go back, so if you want to see stamps seven days a week, then the British Library is the place to go.

The display frames are right next to the restored printing press that had been used to produce the Penny Black, and is also situated alongside the excellent Pru Leith coffee shop with its backdrop of the six-storey King's Library collection once belonging to King George III, comprising 60,000 volumes and given to the nation by his son •

Blogging There is a new blog devoted to stamp collecting known as 'Suzi's Stamps and Stuff: stamp collecting and philatelic fun!', located at <http://suzisstamps.blogspot.com/> (note: the lack of 'www' in the URL is correct).

For those unfamiliar with blogging, Google defines it thus: 'A blog is basically a journal that is available on the web. The activity of updating a blog is "blogging" and someone who keeps a blog is a "blogger". Blogs are typically updated daily using software that allows people with little or no technical background to update and maintain the blog.'

Suzi Boyer is a 36 year old collector from Pennsylvania, USA and her site might be the start of the stamp collecting fraternity getting in to this latest 'tool' that the internet offers. At present, her site is not aimed at specialists and would largely suit the general collector, but there is no reason why the scope cannot expand.

The only British-related posting at present relates to Machins, and Suzi states 'I admit to having a Machin obsession. I have been accumulating these tiny portraits for many years, and am trying to accumulate more Wildings and KGV1 definitives also. I like to dig through my Gibbons specialized catalogues and look for varieties.' •

Society publications The December issue of *The Bookmark* was the last to be seen in its old guise of solely a decimal stamp book publication, and included specialist notes on the Smilers book of six pictorial definitives and the Trafalgar prestige stamp book, plus an interesting feature on window book display units, among other aspects.

The GB DSB SC and BDSSC have now merged into the Modern British Philatelic Circle (MBPC), whose scope now extends to all QEII material, including sheet printed, Smilers, Wildings, coils, etc. It is well worth the £8 annual subscription, especially now with greater coverage at the price •

The Machin Collectors Club (MCC) serves collectors interested in Arnold Machin's long-running series of definitives, in all its forms. It has possibly seen how the MBPC has been formed to cover the entire present Monarch's reign, and has agreed with the publishers of the Stoneham catalogue of British stamps to produce a new full-colour version of that popular publication. Look out for a review in due course, as publication is imminent. A monthly 12-page newsletter and website keep members updated on this constantly evolving scene for £10 a year within the UK •

MBPC enquiries Keith Woodward, 14 Chedington Avenue, Mapperley, Nottingham NG3 5SG. E-mail keith@mbp-circle.co.uk or see www.mbp-circle.co.uk

MCC enquiries 8 Jannys Close, Aylsham NR11 6DL. E-mail machins@supanet.com or visit www.machins.org

Awards The Philatelic Music Circle's annual Yehudi Menuhin Trophy has been awarded to Franco Filanci, designer of the miniature sheet for the re-opening of La Scala in Milan, issued by San Marino in 2004. Second and third places went to designers of Finnish and Austrian stamps •

PMC enquiries Geoffrey Datson, 55 High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB5 0HP. E-mail datcam@lineone.net

Royal Mail news New issues and products

New stamps Postal rate changes, to be introduced from 3 April, necessitate some new definitive and country stamps. These will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House from 28 March. The new definitives will be: 37p olive green (2nd class second weight step), 44p ultramarine (European basic weight), 49p rust (UK 1st class second weight step), and 72p red (airmail, second weight step). There will be new 44p and 72p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in the same designs as the current 42p and 68p stamps. The new basic UK 1st and 2nd class rates (to 60g) will be 23p and 32p, covered by the existing 2nd and 1st class NV1 stamps. The new stamps will all be printed by De La Rue in gravure, except the 44p and 72p Northern Ireland stamps which will be printed in litho.



FIRST DAY FACILITIES First day covers will be available from Tallents House bearing the new 37p, 44p, 49p, and 72p definitives cancelled Tallents House or Windsor, price £2.79 UK, £2.38 overseas. Covers for each of the four countries with the new 44p and 72p country stamps cancelled Tallents House or the country capital (London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, or Belfast) will each cost £1.78 UK, £1.52 overseas.

First day postmarks for the new definitives:

FD0611 Tallents House
FD0612 Windsor
FD0613 London
FD0614 Edinburgh
FD0615 Cardiff
FD0616 Belfast



Collectors can send stamped covers on the day of issue to Tallents House for its postmark, or to any of the Special Handstamp Centres for the other postmarks. Please quote these reference numbers: FD0611 Tallents House, FD0612 Windsor, FD0613 London, FD0614 Edinburgh, FD0615 Cardiff, and FD0616 Belfast. These postmarks can be applied to any of the new stamps issued on 28 March. Standard Royal Mail first day envelopes for definitives (coat of arms) and each of the country stamps (scenery) will be available at main Post Office branches in each country (and from philatelic outlets and Tallents House), price 25p each. There will be no new stamp cards.

A presentation pack containing the new 37p, 44p, 49p, and 72p definitives will cost £2.40 and a pack with the 44p and 72p country stamps £5.00.

WITHDRAWAL OF CURRENT VALUES The 35p, 40p, 46p, 47p, and 68p definitives and 42p and 68p country stamps will be withdrawn from general sale at Post Office branches on 1 April (2 April if open on a Sunday). They will remain on philatelic sale until further notice. Also to be withdrawn from sale at Post Office branches on 1 or 2 April will be any remaining stock of British Journey stamps (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and South West England) other than the 2nd and 1st class values, together with any residual stocks of the booklets for the Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland stamps in this series.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF EXISTING STAMPS The 3 April rate increase will result in all existing 2nd and 1st class stamps (definitives, country and special) being sold at 23p and 32p respectively. The Universal overseas rate stamps (sold only in books) will now cost 50p (postcards), 64p (Europe to 40g), and £1.19 (worldwide to 40g). The increase also applies to miniature sheets containing 2nd and 1st class stamps.

Books of six 1st class stamps will cost £1.92; books of 12 2nd and 1st class £2.76 and £3.84 respectively. The price of the standard air letter (aerogramme) will be 48p •

Wembley Stadium 2006



Wembley Stadium miniature sheet, shown at proof stage, at reduced size (actual size 112 x 102mm). Designed by Roundel, who also designed the Steam Locomotives and Airliners sets, and the forthcoming Modern Architecture issue. The Crowned Lion stamp will also be perforated on the issued sheet.

Wembley Stadium miniature sheet A new souvenir miniature sheet will be issued on 11 May to commemorate the new Wembley Stadium. It bears the crowned lion stamp of the 2002 World Cup issue (but without World Cup inscription at lower left) and two each of the 2nd class and 72p English country stamps, separated by a label showing the Wembley Stadium logo, printed below in a horizontal se-tenant strip of five. The background to the sheet shows the arch of the new Stadium. The sheet, price £2.22, was printed by De La Rue in gravure. A Royal Mail first day cover envelope will be available (25p) and fully serviced FDCs can be ordered from Tallents House, priced £3.03 UK, £2.58 overseas. Please state if Tallents House or Wembley postmark required. Orders must be received by the day of issue. Collectors wishing to service their own covers should send them on the day of issue to Tallents House for the Tallents House postmark, or to one of the Special Handstamp Centres for the Wembley postmark, requesting postmark NO FDO619 (Tallents House) or FDO620 (Wembley). There will be no presentation pack or stamp cards for this issue.

The new Wembley Stadium has been designed by Sir Norman Foster and Rod Sheard, and built by Multiplex. It will have an all-seating capacity for 90,000 spectators, the largest football stadium in the world with every seat under cover. The roof will cover 11 acres, four acres being removable. Facilities for visitors will include no fewer than 688 food and drink service points and 2618 toilets! The giant arch has a span of 315 metres, making it the longest single span roof structure in the world. At 133 metres (436 ft) high, the arch dwarfs Nelson's Column (50m/165ft) and the now demolished twin towers of the former stadium (37m/121ft). Prime Minister Tony Blair says of the new stadium: 'Wembley has a special place in everyone's heart. There is no doubt that this is going to be the most spectacular stadium in the world.' •



The Wembley and Washington 2006 Smilers sheets, £6.95 each. Both are printed in litho by Cartor on gummed paper.

Customised Smilers sheets

For details of how to order a customised version (with your own image on the labels) pick up a leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch, or phone 0845 074 2000 (UK) or +44 131 316 7483 (from overseas). Orders using digital photos can also be made on the web at: www.royalmail.com

Smilers The next Smilers sheet, on 7 March, will contain Fun, Fruit & Veg stamps (first issued in 2003), price £6.55. This sheet was shown in the January *Bulletin*. A Smilers sheet, containing an amended lion World Cup stamp of 2002 will be issued on 11 May, day of issue of the Wembley Stadium miniature sheet. It contains 20 World Cup stamps and 20 labels showing scenes from the 1966 World Cup Final (England v West Germany) at the old Wembley Stadium. The labels are captioned with the time from 1.00pm when the gates were opened for the capacity-filled stadium (93,000 fans) to 5.30pm when World Champions England salute the crowd and perform a celebratory lap of Wembley. One label shows England captain, the late Bobby Moore, receiving the World Cup from HM The Queen.

On 25 May there will be a further Smilers sheet, for the Washington 2006 world stamp exhibition. This will contain 20 1st class Hello stamps (first issued March 2002) with labels showing a US mail box and caption 'Washington World Philatelic Exhibition 2006'. The sheet margin includes the red plane from the stamp design, and the Washington 2006 logo •



The World Cup Winners issue will feature the countries that have won the championship since 1966. The proof above is shown at reduced size.

New issues Issues this month (previewed in January) are a miniature sheet for the opening of the new National Assembly of Wales building on the 1st (St David's Day), and the Ice Age Animals stamps on the 21st. Next month we are issuing eight stamps for Her Majesty The Queen's 80th birthday (previewed last month), and on 11 May there will be a miniature sheet for the new Wembley Stadium (see p203). The World Cup Winners stamps (6 June) will be previewed next month. The Modern Architecture stamps (20 June) will feature: 30 St Mary Axe, London (popularly known as 'the Gherkin'); Maggie's Centre, Dundee; Selfridges, Birmingham; Downland Gridshell, Chichester; An Turas, Isle of Tírree, and The Deep, Hull. The stamps go on sale during National Architecture Week, 16-26 June.

The stamp issues for the remainder of the year are: 18 July National Portrait Gallery; 31 August Three Kings (George V, Edward VIII, George VI) miniature sheet; 21 September Victoria Cross; 3 October Sounds of Britain (Europa issue); and 7 November Christmas •



Coin and ingot covers Three new covers will become available during March and April. Firstly, on 17 March (St Patrick's Day) we will issue the third in the series of coin covers featuring bridges with the relevant £1 coin. This bears the four Northern Ireland country stamps tied by a special Newry St Patrick's Day postmark. The cover design features a map of the Newry and Mourne area, and a colourful insert card gives details of historic buildings and places of interest. This includes the unique Egyptian Arch Railway Bridge which features on the new £1 coin for 2006. The Egyptian Arch, built in 1851 by Sir John Macneill for the Dublin and Belfast Railway Company, spans the Newry to Camlough road in County Down. The unusual construction reflects the popularity of the Egyptian style in public architecture in the 19th century. The bridge is a noted local landmark as well as one of the architectural highlights of the railways in Ireland. The cover, a joint Royal Mail and Royal Mint production, can be ordered from Tallents House. The two earlier covers in this series, featuring the Forth Railway Bridge, Scotland (2004) and Menai Bridge, Wales (2005) are still available from Tallents House. The final cover in the series, featuring the Millennium Bridge, Gateshead will be issued in April 2007. The bridges images on the reverse of all four £1 coins were designed by Edwina Ellis.

The third Castles ingot cover will be available from 25 April and bears the £1 Caernarfon Castle stamp from the 2005 miniature sheet cancelled by a special Caernarfon postmark. The silver ingot reproduces the design of the 5s Caernarfon Castle stamp of 1955. The two previous covers in this series, still available from Tallents House, feature Windsor Castle (23 September 2005), and Edinburgh Castle (17 January 2006 – see back cover of January *Bulletin*). The fourth cover, featuring Carrickfergus Castle, will be available from 25 July. Collectors who place a regular order for this Castles series will receive a free booklet, miniature sheet and collection box.

Above: the Northern Ireland £1 coin cover, a limited edition of 25,000, price £13.50 (plus handling charge of £1.30 UK, £1.55 Europe, and £2.15 elsewhere). Scotland and Wales covers were shown on the back cover of the June 2005 *Bulletin*, and a feature on the series was published here in November 2004 (page 75).

Above left: the third Castles ingot cover, Caernarfon. Price £24.95 (plus handling charge).



The coin cover to mark HM The Queen's 80th birthday goes on sale on her actual birthday, 21 April. It shows her playing deck games, with Princess Margaret and crew, on the HMS *Vanguard* on the eve of her 21st birthday, during a voyage to South Africa in 1947. The cover bears all eight 80th Birthday stamps cancelled by a special Windsor postmark and has Royal Mint's £5 (crown) Birthday coin encapsulated. The reverse side of the coin features state trumpets and the inscription '1926 VIVAT REGINA 2006'. The cover costs £17.95 (plus handling charge) •

Going off sale The 'Written Word' coin cover bearing the Jane Eyre stamps cancelled by a special Hay-on-Wye postmark, and Royal Mint 50p brilliant uncirculated coin marking the 250th anniversary of publication of Samuel Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language* will be withdrawn from sale on 23 March. The cover, available from Tallents House, costs £13.50.

The Magic stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and Smilers sheet will disappear from sale on 14 March, and the Castles miniature sheet and presentation pack on 21 March. The Royal Wedding miniature sheet goes off sale on 7 April, and the World Heritage Sites stamps, pack, stamp cards and Pacific Explorer Smilers sheet will all be withdrawn on 20 April.

A number of definitive stamps will be withdrawn in April: 7p, 35p dark brown, 39p, and 43p on 6 April, and the 35p lime green printed by Enschedé on the 25th. Packs containing the Universal Europe and Worldwide stamps and the 2004 tariff increase stamps (7p, 35p dark brown, 39p, 40p, 43p, postcard rate and 1st class gold) will also be withdrawn on 6 April. The 40p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will come off sale on 6 April as will the pack containing these four stamps. The 6 × 1st retail book with advert for Smilers (featuring Hello stamp) will be withdrawn on 21 March and the *Letters by Night* (TPO) prestige stamp book on 28 April •

2007 stamp programme The subjects for next year's issues are as follows. The exact dates of issue and values will be announced nearer the time of issue. Please note that dates are subject to change •

January	The Beatles	June	40th anniversary of Maching (MS)
February	Astronomy	July	British Grand Prix
March	Science & industry	July	Scouts
March	Abolition of the slave trade	September	Military uniforms
April	Sea animals	November	Christmas
May	Beside the seaside		

British Postal Museum & Archive Still on show at the BPMA is the Victorian Innovations exhibition, some highlights of which were featured by Martin Robinson in his article here last September. The special cover for the exhibition, shown in his article, is still available. A new exhibition, marking the 80th birthday of HM The Queen, entitled 'Elizabeth: Queen & Icon' opens on 18 April, day of issue of the 80th birthday stamps •

The BPMA at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, is near Mount Pleasant. Run by the Postal Heritage Trust, it holds the collections of the former PO Archives and National Postal Museum.

Storing the Bulletin Binders and box files are available for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The sturdy box files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin* are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £9.95 each. Order codes PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the Philatelic and about 50 of the Postmark Bulletins. The traditional binders for the Philatelic (PB001) and Postmark (PB322) Bulletins cost £8.50 each •



Prize draw Win a miniature sheet collection

OUR PRIZE this month is our new Miniature Sheet Collection containing one each of the sheets issued during 2005, plus our Royal Mail Miniature Sheet Album. Five runners-up will receive Brunel and Welsh Assembly miniature sheets. Simply send your name and address on a postcard to: Miniature Sheets Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 31 March •

Royal Mail Miniature Sheets 2005

From pagentry and
revel romance to drama
on the high seas



If trees could talk by Rosemary Bennett

Trees are a much-loved part of our landscape, and have featured on a number of British stamps. Quite rightly, we value them both for their beauty and for the benefits they bring, but they also form a part of another aspect of our national life – our folklore.

NUMEROUS AND COLOURFUL are the stories and legends associated with the trees, some involving supposed magical qualities, some relating to historical events, and others being of the 'fairy tale' variety.

The yew (2000, SG2156) is the longest-lived of our trees, some specimens being claimed to have lived for thousands of years. In Saxon times they sometimes formed the meeting place for the 'Court of the Hundred'. A 'hundred' was an area of land probably measuring one hundred 'hides' (a hide was about 120 acres). The court would meet periodically to try cases and mete out punishments, which it is thought could include execution.

From Powys comes the legend of 'The Dancing Tree of the Goblins'. It relates that two farm workers named Twm and Iago had been working in the forest, and on their way home they came upon a yew tree with a circle of light around it. They lay down under the tree for a nap, but when Twm awoke his friend was gone. Assuming he had woken first and gone home alone, Twm returned to their village. However, next morning there was still no sign of Iago, so a search of the forest was made, but without finding him. Twm then consulted a gwr cyfar wydd (or conjuror), who told him to wait until the anniversary of Iago's disappearance and then to go to the yew tree, but not to step inside the circle of light. Iago would come out to dance with some goblins, and could then be snatched to safety. These instructions were carried out, but sadly the story ends in tragedy. Iago had no recollection of his missing year, and returned home to carry on his normal life, but, as soon as he tasted food, he mouldered away.

The Martyrs' Tree A sycamore (2000, SG2158) called the 'Martyrs' Tree' features in the history of the Trade Union Movement in this country. In Tolpuddle, Dorset, are the living remains of the tree under which the farm workers who would become known as the 'Tolpuddle Martyrs' used to meet in the 1830s. Life was hard for agricultural workers in those days, as wages were very low following the Napoleonic Wars, and the men decided to form a type of friendly society. Unfortunately they swore an oath of secrecy, and this caused them to fall foul of the law. Their six ringleaders were tried at Dorchester in 1834 and sentenced to seven years transportation. This led to such a public outcry that they were pardoned in 1836.

Rowan (1993, SG1782) has long been associated with protection from evil, and sprigs of rowan were hung over doorways to prevent evil entering a building. It was also fixed to cattle sheds to protect the animals, and in some places farmers used to drive their sheep through hoops of rowan branches as a preventive measure. Planting a rowan tree outside your house was also said to give some protection against witches, and in ancient times Druids are said to have built platforms of interwoven twigs, which were known as 'Wattles of Knowledge'. The Druid would lie on the platform as part of a trance-inducing ritual to gain hidden knowledge.



Above: the British Trees issue oak (1973) and horse chestnut (1974); and three of the 1993 Autumn Fruits and Leaves set – horse chestnut, hazel and rowan. Left: fairies and tree by Arthur Rackham, 1914



A yew tree from the Millennium Tree and Leaf issue, and ash, elder and beech trees, Jersey 1997.



'Men of the Trees' plants around The **Ash** *Fraxinus excelsior* with its leaves early in Autumn.



'Men of the Trees' plants around The **Elder** *Sambucus nigra* is a as hedges.



'Men of the Trees' plants around The **Beech** *Fagus sylvatica* examples of mature trees may be

Marden, Herefordshire, is home to a legend involving the rowan. In days gone by, Marden church stood near the river and one of its bells is supposed to have fallen into it. The bell was immediately seized by a mermaid who held it so fast that a team of horses could not pull it from her grasp. Instructions were then given, some say by a wiseman, some by the bell itself, that a team of Freemartins (sterile female cows) should be attached to the bell. This was done, with the cows wearing yokes of yew with wittern (rowan) bands, and the bell was recovered, to the fury of the mermaid.

Chestnut trees The horse chestnut (1974, SG949 and 1993, SG1779) has not attracted a great deal of folklore, perhaps because it was not introduced into this country until the late 16th century. The sweet chestnut (Jersey, 1997, SG833) is also not an indigenous species, having been brought here by the Romans, who made a porridge from the ground-up nuts, and this too does not have much folklore connected with it. Nor does the beech (Jersey, 1997, SG832), although its smooth grey bark led to the belief that water from its bole would cure imperfections and afflictions of the skin.

The ash (Jersey, 1997, SG830) does figure substantially in our traditions. Dorset girls who wished to know who would be their husband, used to find an ash leaf with an even number of leaflets and say this rhyme: 'An even ash leaf in my hand, the first I meet shall be my man. / The even ash leaf in my bosom, the next I meet shall be my husband.' In some areas, sick or weak children were passed naked through a cleft ash sapling. The tree was then bound, and as it grew together again, the child was supposed to heal.

The elder (Jersey, 1997, SG831) also features in much folklore. In the Isle of Man, the elder is thought to be the fairies' tree. Each old cottage is said to have had one outside the door, used by a creature called the 'Phynodderree' to swing in. He was believed to bring good luck and even help with outside work. In the Fens however, elder flowers were feared, since folk thought that inhaling the scent for long, would bring coma and death.

Twigs of hazel (1993, SG1781) could be made into a 'Wishing Cap'. If a person made a wish while wearing such a cap, it was believed that their wish would be granted. And where the hawthorn (Jersey, 1997, SG834) is concerned, there is not only the tradition of the Glastonbury Thorn, but



Sweet chestnut, hawthorn and oak trees, Jersey 1997, and sycamore seeds from the Millennium stamps Tree and Leaf issue, 2000.

it is associated in folklore with lightning, and there is an amusing legend from Wiltshire concerning the Witches' Scrag Tree which grew on Winklebury Hill. This was said to be a trap for witches coasting low over the hill, presumably on their broomsticks. Tradition claims that, after a full moon, their corpses could be found littering the hillside!

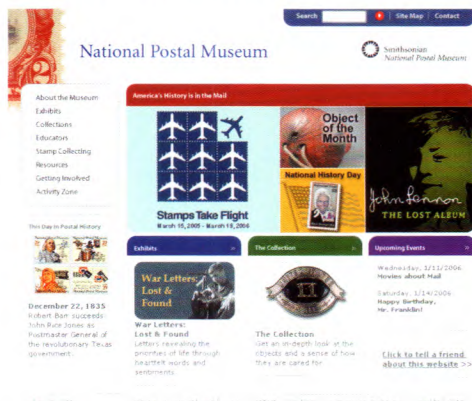
The oak The tree which seems to have attracted most history and folklore is the oak (1973, sG922 and Jersey, 1997, sG835), the most famous one being that in which Charles II hid from his enemies after the battle of Worcester. Another 'royal' oak is the Remedy Oak at Woodlands, Dorset. Tradition states that the boy king Edward VI, separated from his companions while hunting, sat down to rest under the tree. Local people suffering from the 'King's Evil', (the old name for scrofula), begged him to touch them, as it was believed that the touch of the sovereign could bring about a cure.

Also in Dorset, Blandford is the site of another famous tree, the 'Damory Oak'. This was an enormous, hollow tree which in Cromwell's time measured 68ft in circumference, with room inside for 20 men. During the Civil War, an old man is said to have sold ale from a booth he made in the hollow trunk. When the Great Fire of Blandford occurred in 1731, two families, who had presumably been made homeless by the fire, lived in the tree for a time. Sadly, 24 years later it was felled and sold for firewood, but it is commemorated in the name of a local pub.

Oaks, or the area in which they grow, can also be haunted. Windsor Great Park is reputed to be the haunt of Herne the Hunter who, according to tradition, appears at midnight in winter with antlers on his head, and walks round the site of the tree, which was cut down in the reign of George III. Who he is is unclear, but he may have been a Forest Keeper in the reign of Elizabeth I who committed a grave offence and hung himself from the tree. He is mentioned by Shakespeare in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

There are many more instances of trees having featured in our history, or forming part of our national folklore, and it is interesting to ponder on all the things which must have happened under their shade – lovers meeting, robbers sharing their spoils, and our hard-working ancestors taking a well-earned rest. If trees could talk, what tales they would have to tell! ●

Philately online The Smithsonian Institution by Ron Negus



www.postalmuseum.si.edu/ The Smithsonian Institution comprises many other buildings, in addition to the Postal Museum, and most of these have their own websites. Perhaps the most well-known of them is the Library of Congress – the world's largest library, with 26 million books, films, documents and photographs.

For collectors who are unable to get to Washington, the National Postal Museum has created an excellent website (address above) that covers all the major areas available for inspection during a personal visit. This site has been designed with great care. An imaginative selection of stamp and postal history images has been incorporated on the various pages to illustrate the text which gives the detail of the various stories being told. The very high quality of these images enhances the site's usefulness, and most of them can be enlarged with a single mouse click so that fine detail can be examined easily.

The Exhibits section of the site provides examples from the fifteen permanent displays to be found in the Museum. These are all fully written up with appropriate illustrations. They cover topics that include, for example, the early history of the mail service from pre-Revolutionary America through to the end of the nineteenth century, the story of the items posted and lost aboard the *Titanic*, information on the philatelic activities of President Franklin D Roosevelt, and a comprehensive display of the revenue labels which are popularly known as duck stamps.

The Museum also sets up temporary exhibits that are on show from between six and twelve months. The site has full details of those that are open currently and these are described in a similar format to that used for the permanent exhibition pages. Finally, two specific on-line exhibits have been added to the site. The first describes the growth of parcel post traffic in the USA, and the other gives the background to the Grinnell Missionary Stamps of Hawaii.

A visit to this site is strongly recommended, regardless of your own particular collecting area of interest. Anybody with any liking for stamps will find it instructive and rewarding ●

IN MAY THIS YEAR, the Washington 2006 International Philatelic Exhibition will be held. This will be a major event in the American philatelic calendar, and is expected to attract tens of thousands of collectors from the USA and around the world. Supported by the US Postal Service, the American Philatelic Society and the American Stamp Dealers Association, the exhibition will be under the patronage of the FIP.

Whilst very important, this International is a one-off occasion. Stamp collectors visiting Washington DC after the show has finished, however, can still find much to interest them at the National Postal Museum in the city, which is part of the famous Smithsonian Institution. This National Philatelic Collection was originally established at the Smithsonian in 1886, with the donation of a sheet of 10¢ Confederate States postage stamps. Since that time, gifts, exchanges with other country postal agencies and purchases have increased the Collection to its current size of nearly six million items.

The National Postal Museum has been housed in the lower level of the historic City Post Office Building, close by the main Union Station, since 1993, after occupying previous homes within the main Smithsonian complex. As well as its 23,000 square feet of exhibition space, the current building contains offices, seminar rooms, a research library, a stamp store and Museum shop. Admission is free and it is open daily.

Miniature sheets A list of the GB issues, by Glenn Morgan

THE miniature sheet format (often abbreviated by collectors and cataloguers as 'ms') is frequently believed to be a modern phenomenon, but they go back at least 80 years, with Luxembourg and France being two of the first nations to produce them. Miniature sheets were defined in the *Bulletin* of March 1978 by James Watson as 'a small sheet containing a single stamp, pair, block or strip of stamps with inscribed and/or decorative margins, issued as a commemorative souvenir for collectors' and this definition still holds true today, although 'collector' is less applicable, due to these sheets also now appealing to non-collectors, especially when sold in descriptive and illustrated presentation packs.

For many years, these items were looked upon with derision by collectors (and still are by some), and were issued mainly by so-called 'unrespectable' countries, such as some African states. However, time marches on and attitudes change, and there has been a large increase in the quantity of these miniature sheets in the past few years as part of Royal Mail's annual special stamps new issue programme.

The format has, until recently, remained fairly static all around the world, ie a square or rectangular outer shape. This is changing though, with turtles, flags and any other shape you can imagine being produced. I wonder how long it will be before a sheet is issued by Royal Mail in, say, the outline shape of the Victoria Cross medal?

It was felt that a listing in the *Bulletin* of all the sheets issued and planned would help readers to complete their collections. The production of the first Miniature Sheet Year Collection in 2005 is bound to have stimulated sales and interest in these items, as will have the latest Royal Mail album designed to house the sheets (both are available from Tallents House). Readers may recall the impact of the introduction of a Smilers album on prices, as collectors tried to fill their gaps.

Sheets 1 to 6 each bore a premium above face value of the stamps in favour of either the London 1980 or Stamp World 1990 (sw90) stamp exhibitions. Royal Mail did not employ miniature

sheets as a means of allowing collectors to help fund The Stamp Show 2000 (TSS2000), although did give substantial financial support in the form of funds, staff time and use of internal resources. Later sheets have all been sold at face value.

Sheets are sometimes additionally sold in presentation packs costing more than face value, to recover the outlay of production for the accompanying information sheet, protective mount and sleeve. There is an inconsistent policy, though, over when a presentation pack is produced. Generally, if the stamps in the ms are also released as sheet printed stamps at the same time, a pack is not issued.

Almost the reverse policy is applied to stamp cards, where if there are sheet-printed equivalent stamps released at the same time, an ms card is issued, but if the stamps are only available in an ms format, a card does not appear. However, there were cards for the Flags and Ensigns and Castles high values.

Forthcoming ms issues already announced for 2006 are listed, although extra sheets may be produced if there is a need to 'fast-track' an issue for unforeseen reasons. In 2005, three sheets were fast-tracked, and these were for the Royal Wedding, London 2012 and Ashes win, where Royal Mail considered that these events or successes deserved philatelic recognition.

Creation of stamps in a ms format is a quicker production process for the printers, as they only have to print one item, instead of perhaps four individual stamps, and they can be distributed to post offices quicker. The Princess Diana memorial issue, comprising a se-tenant strip of stamps and which was fast-tracked, was probably created in this format for this reason. Miniature sheets are also probably perceived by most people to be a more attractive souvenir item than the sale of loose stamps would be.

Unfortunately for those collectors of 'used' material (and also for the general public), this means that individual stamps from miniature sheets are rarely to be seen used on genuine (as opposed to philatelic) mail.

Catalogue listing

Year	No	Date	Issue (MS sales figure)	Printer & process ¹	Gum ²	Mint ³	Pack ³	Card ⁴
1978	1	01.03	London 80: Historic Buildings (sales?)	Harrison G	WA	£ .60	n/a	n/a
1979	2	24.10	London 80: Rowland Hill (5,230,000)	Harrison G	WA	£ .60	n/a	n/a
1980	3	07.05	London 80: London Views (3,557,000)	Harrison G	WA	£ .75	n/a	n/a
1988	4	27.09	SW90: Edward Lear (2,770,352)	Harrison G	WA	£ 2.50	n/a	n/a
1989	5	25.07	SW90: Industrial Archaeology (1,141,300)	Harrison G	WA	£ 2.00	n/a	n/a
1990	6	03.05	SW90: Penny Black Anniversary (1,991,550)	Harrison G	WA	£ 2.00	n/a	n/a
1999	7	11.08	Solar Eclipse (528,225)	De La Rue G	WA	£10.00	n/a	n/a
	8	14.12	Millennium Timekeeper (2,150,600)	De La Rue G	WA	£12.00	£15.00	£12.00
2000	8a	.03?	Millennium Timekeeper with TSS2000 logo			£15.00	£20.00 ⁵	n/a
	9	22.05	TSS2000: Matthews Palette (417,968)	De La Rue G	WA	£10.00	£65.00 ⁶	n/a
	10	23.05	TSS2000: Queen's Stamps (1,116,143)	De La Rue G	WA	£ 8.00	£50.00	£10.00
	11	04.08	Queen Mother's 100th Birthday (5,098,171)	De La Rue G	WA	£ 4.00	£10.00	£ 9.00
2001	12	13.03	British Weather (595,850)	De La Rue G	WA	£ 7.00	n/a	£ 5.00
	13	15.05	Double-decker Buses (861,670)	Questa L	WA	£ 4.00	n/a	£ 9.00
	14	22.10	Flags and Ensigns (1,888,170)	Questa G	WA	£ 3.00	£10.00	£10.00
2002	15	02.05	50 Years of Jet Aviation (607,200)	De La Rue G	WA	£ 4.00	n/a	£ 4.00
	16	21.05	Football World Cup (1,123,980)	Walsall G	WA	£ 2.50	£ 3.00	£ 4.00
	17	24.09	Astronomy (1,176,800)	Questa G	WA	£ 2.50	£ 3.00	£ 4.00
	18	05.12	Wilding Definitives 1 (532,790)	De La Rue G	WA	£ 3.50	£40.00	n/a
2003	19	20.05	Wilding Definitives 2	De La Rue G	WA	£ 4.00	£ 6.00	n/a
	20	18.09	British Transport Toys	Enschedé G	WA	£ 3.00	n/a	£ 3.00
	21	19.12	Rugby World Cup win by England	Walsall L	WA	£ 3.00	£ 4.00	n/a
2004	22	13.01	Classic Railway Locomotives	De La Rue L	WA	£14.00	n/a	£ 5.00
	23	13.04	Ocean Liners	De La Rue G	WA	£ 5.50	£85.00 ⁷	£ 4.00
	23a		Ocean Liners error 53p value instead of 57p ⁸					
	24	25.05	Royal Horticultural Society	Enschedé L	WA	£ 5.00	n/a	£ 4.00
	25	05.10	Scottish Parliament Building opening	De La Rue G	WA	£ 4.00	n/a	n/a
	26	02.11	Christmas (Briggs' Father Christmas)	De La Rue G	WA	£ 4.50	n/a	£ 3.00
2005	27	24.02	Charlotte Brontë's <i>Jane Eyre</i>	Walsall L	WA	£ 5.00	n/a	£ 3.00
	28	22.03	Wilding Castles high values	Enschedé I+L	WA	TH ⁹	TH	TH
	29	89.04	Royal Wedding of The Prince of Wales	Enschedé L	WA	TH	TH	n/a
	30	07.06	Trooping the Colour anniversary	Walsall L	WA	TH	n/a	TH
	31	05.07	End of World War Two	Enschedé G	WA	TH	n/a	n/a
	32	05.08	London 2012 Host City	Walsall L	WA	TH	TH	n/a
	33	06.10	'Ashes' cricket win by England	Cartor L	WA	TH	TH	n/a
	34	18.10	Battle of Trafalgar anniversary	Cartor L	WA	TH	n/a	TH
	35	01.11	Christmas (Madonna and Child)	De La Rue G	WA	TH	n/a	TH
2006	36	23.02	Isambard Kingdom Brunel (engineer)	Enschedé L	WA	TH	n/a	TH
		01.03	Opening of Welsh Assembly Building					
		11.05	Opening of the new Wembley Stadium					
		06.06	'World Cup Winners' 40th anniversary					
		.08	70th anniversary of the three Kings					
		21.09	Victoria Cross (military medal)					
		07.11	Christmas					



NOTES

- 1 Printing process** G (photo) Gravure; I Intaglio (recess); L (offset) Lithography.
- 2 Gum** All sheets have been printed on water activated (WA) gum. Self-adhesive gum, if used, will in future be denoted SA.
- 3 Price** Approximate current prices: substantial discrepancies can be found. Sheets have been available mint as loose sheets, while others were also sold in presentation packs.
- 4 Card** More recent issues may include a stamp (previously 'PHQ') card depicting the MS, although occasionally the item is too large to fit onto a card for postmarking. The price quoted is for a mint set of cards when there are also sheet-printed stamps in the set.
- 5** No conventional presentation pack issued: this overprinted sheet available only in TSS2000 Show Pass wallet. Now £20.

- 6** No conventional presentation pack was issued: this sheet was sold in a translucent folder that unfolds in the shape of a Maltese Cross, containing a cancelled sheet on a postcard and mint MS. Now £65.
- 7** No conventional presentation pack was issued: this sheet was sold for £75 in a Presentation Case containing the MS and silver medals. Now £85.
- 8** Estimate £3000. Note that the seventh stamp card depicting the MS also exists with the wrong face value.
- 9 TH** Item still available at the original issue price from Royal Mail Talents House.

n/a Not available in that format.

Ice Age Animals Dave Warriner looks at this month's issue

OVER THE LAST two million years our planet has experienced extreme changes in temperature and climate. Periods of intense cold have alternated with much warmer periods, like the one that we are living in today, known as interglacials, and this has meant that both plants and animals have had to evolve and adapt to survive in these conditions. The last of these Ice Ages began around 100,000 years ago, and ended only 10,000 years ago. This meant that unlike dinosaurs which died out 65 million years ago, the creatures of the Ice Age shared the planet with our ancestors, who have left us a record of what these animals looked like through their carved artefacts and cave art.

It's a common misconception that during the Ice Age, the whole planet was covered with ice and snow. In reality at its furthest extent the polar ice cap reached only as far south as north London. Although winter temperatures could drop as low as -18 centigrade, summer in what was to become the UK averaged about 10 degrees. South of the ice cap lay vast expanses of grassy vegetation which, thanks to the lower sea levels and expanded continental landmasses, benefited from high pressure weather systems that ensured long clear days and an extended growing season.

This lush combination of grass, sedges, small shrubs and herbaceous plants, which is known as the mammoth steppe, supported many of the animals we are familiar with today such as reindeer, bison and horses, along with larger extinct creatures like the woolly mammoth, giant deer and woolly rhino. At the top of the food chain were predators like the wolf, hyena, cave lion and the sabre-toothed cats.

Homotherium (1st class) was the last European species of sabre-tooth cat, persisting until around 40,000 years ago. Like many of the big cats today Homotherium was highly adaptable, being equally at home in the frozen north and in more temperate and tropical climes. About the size of a lion, it had a long neck and front legs which must have made it look more like a hyena than a big cat. Very little has been deduced about the cats' social life so we don't know whether it was soli-

tary like a leopard, or hunted in prides like modern day lions. It did have a large nasal opening though, which suggests an adaptation to breathing extra oxygen, so perhaps Homotherium was a sprinter and ran down its prey like a cheetah, before springing to administer a lethal bite.

Standing over two metres at the shoulder, with antlers spanning up to three and a half metres, a full-grown Megaloceros or giant deer (42p) would have been an ambitious meal for any predator. Also known as the Irish elk, because of the large number of well preserved skeletons found in Ireland's peat bogs, this giant deer roamed across Europe and Asia from the British Isles to China. A true deer, Megaloceros would have grown and shed its antlers annually, and this growth must have expended a great deal of energy. They probably lived in small herds with their range dictated by the need to find mineral-rich browsing to support the stag's antler growth. Megaloceros became extinct in Ireland around 11,000 years ago, but may have survived up to 7500 years ago in Siberia. A dwarf species evolved on the island of Malta alongside a dwarf variety of mammoth.

Another widely dispersed Ice Age species was the woolly rhinoceros (47p). We have quite a lot of information about this creature because alongside skeletal remains, some rhino carcasses have been preserved in the Siberian permafrost and a particularly fine example, now on display in the Krakow Paleontological Museum, was found embalmed in the oil and salt saturated mud of Staruni, in the Ukraine. Not only do these carcasses prove that the rhinoceros had a shaggy fur coat, they have also supplied DNA samples that prove that the woolly rhino's nearest living relative is the rare Sumatran rhinoceros, which also has a dense coat of hair.

The woolly rhinoceros weighed in at about two tonnes and with a pair of massive horns it would have made a formidable prey animal. In some specimens the front horn was over a metre in length and had a flattened front edge, suggesting that it may have been used for clearing snow, to get at the vegetation beneath. Like its modern



Painting of deer in the caves
of Lascaux, France, c17000
BC.

relatives, the woolly rhinoceros was most probably solitary or lived in small family groups. The creature is often depicted in cave art and it may have been an important food source for our Ice Age ancestors. Remains of this animal have been found across Europe and Asia.

The best known Ice Age beast is undoubtedly the woolly mammoth (68p). This extinct relative of the Asian elephant roamed all over the Eurasian landmass, crossing over the exposed seabed of the Bering Straits to colonise North America. Well-preserved mammoth carcasses have often been discovered in the frozen soils of Siberia and

Alaska, and from these we have been able to learn a great deal about how these creatures lived and what they ate. A full-grown bull mammoth could stand over three metres at the shoulder, while the females were slightly smaller. They were covered in a coat of long black hair, with a dense undercoat of shorter woolly fur. (The red hair which is seen in many reconstructions is a result of chemical reaction with the mud they were buried in.) Under the skin was a layer of insulating fat and behind the head, a fatty hump acted as a fuel reserve for harder times. A short tail and tiny ears helped to minimise heat loss.

Like the present-day elephants, mammoths are thought to have lived in large herds, sometimes numbering up to a thousand individuals. One of its most striking features was the spirally curved tusks. In a bull these could be up to four metres long and the undersides often became flattened by wear against the ground when feeding. Today mammoth ivory is an important Siberian export.

Although they had largely died out by 10,000 years ago a population of dwarf mammoths survived on Wrangal Island, isolated from the Siberian mainland, until 4000 years ago.

The cave bear (£1.12) was a European species. The name derives from the fact that most of this species' remains have been found in caves, some of which have produced remains of up to 30,000 individuals. The bears probably congregated in

these caves to hibernate, and many of them must have died during their hibernation. A much larger bear than the American grizzly, recent biochemical analysis of its bones has revealed that it was almost exclusively vegetarian. Some early humans may have worshipped these animals, as shrines of piled skulls have been discovered, although it is not known whether these were scavenged or the result of hunting.

So what caused the extinction of all these creatures? Some people accuse early man of wiping them out through predation and disease. A more likely explanation is that, with the rising temperature of the present interglacial period, the mammoth steppe was gradually reclaimed by forest, and they just could not adapt to their new environment in time •

Text © Dave Warriner 2006

Centenary of the Brighton & Hove PS by Richard West



The first philatelic society in Brighton dates from 1891, but it failed to succeed and within 10 years had disappeared. Nevertheless there was one collector in the area who thought that a society could prosper in that town (now, of course, a city). It is well known that Fred Melville, refused membership of what is now the Royal Philatelic Society London, decided to start his own Junior Philatelic Society (JPS), implying 'junior' to the 'Royal', rather than catering solely for a young membership. That society was founded in 1899 and still flourishes, albeit now renamed as the National Philatelic Society.

Branches of the JPS were created at Manchester and Liverpool, but both soon declared their 'independence'. In Brighton, the determination of a Mr J Corner-Spokes led to another attempt at launching a society. He felt there must be other collectors around, so persuaded Fred Melville to visit and give a lecture on 'Postage Stamps With Stories', which he did on 6 December 1906. Two days later a meeting was held of interested collectors, and the new Brighton Philatelic Society was born, a third 'branch' of the JPS. It is reported that there were just four at that first meeting, of which three were already members of the JPS. The second meeting brought six new members, and the third a further three. At this juncture Mr W Mead was elected the Chairman.

While the Brighton society was responsible for its own administration, it remained a branch of the JPS until 1941 when, for financial reasons, it was decided to seek independence, but 'without any animosity'. In its early years it was customary for there to be joint displays and visits, a practice that was resumed around the time of the NPS centenary celebrations in 1999. Earlier, in 1924, a change of name occurred, to that in use today: The Brighton and Hove Philatelic Society.



Opposite page: postcard for the 1989 Philatelic Congress of GB. This page: postmarks for 1932 and 1946 Brighton Congress, and a Congress postmark designed by Ernest Hugen, member of the BHPS.

The society quickly made its mark and, as early as 1909, arranged an exhibition at Hove Town Hall. Over the years a number of similar exhibitions have been staged, although sadly the most recent was to mark the society's 75th anniversary.

Over the years, many eminent collectors have been members, with too many famous names to record them all. To select a few, sadly no longer with us: Captain B Rogers-Tillstone, President of the 'Royal' from 1964 to 1967; Ernest Hugen, who was influential in the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain (PCGB), and was frequently British commissioner to international stamp exhibitions; Herbert Grimsey, secretary of both the British Philatelic Federation and National Philatelic Society; Mary Card, a Stampex Chairman; Michael Elliot, the first Chairman of the Executive of the Association of British Philatelic Societies; Ron Shelley, a leading specialist on Spain and Chairman of the Philatelic Traders' Society (PTS) and of Stampex; and Ernest Trory, a leading Olympic Games collector. Still active are Graham Childs, head of the Stamp Department of Bonhams, who for many years worked for the auctioneers Harmers, and who also has been Chairman of both the PTS and Stampex, and yours truly.

With such influences, it was inevitable that the society would on a number of occasions host the annual Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, initially in 1932, then in 1946, 1956, under the auspices of the PCGB in 1966, and again in 1989. The 1989 Congress was privileged to be marked by a postcard produced by the National Postal Museum (shown opposite) featuring the famous Transorma sorting machine, the first used in Britain, that was based at Brighton from 1935 to 1968.

The society has also played its full part in the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies (ASPS) from its formation in 1947, and on several occasions hosted the Association's Conventions.

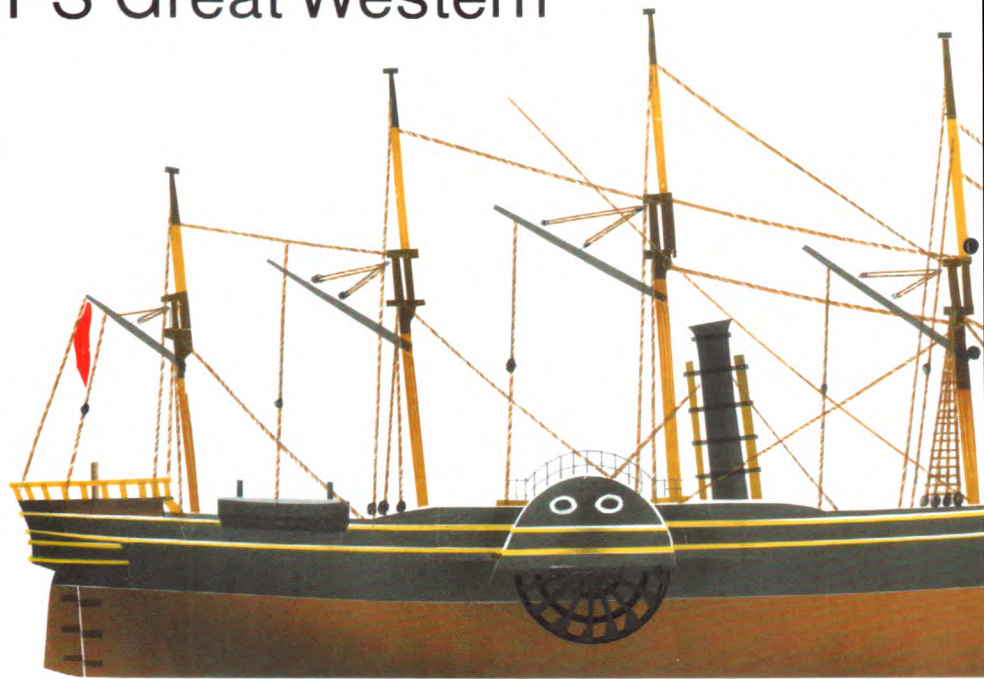
Until about two years ago the society met in Hove Town Hall, the latest in a long list of venues, including many of the leading hotels in the area, and even the Royal Pavilion and Brighton Sorting Office. Hove Town Hall proved ideal, the introduction made by the late Howard Longden, who was both the Treasurer of the Brighton society, and Chief Executive of Hove Council. The town hall was used each year for one of the ASPS Conventions, and was the venue for the ABPS biennial exhibition in 1998, an event that saw many local philatelic society members lending a hand. Sadly, following the amalgamation of Brighton and Hove, prior to being granted city status, the cost of rooms at the town hall has risen considerably, forcing the society to leave. It now meets on the outskirts of Brighton in Patcham.

For many reasons the society no longer enjoys its former glory. Over the years, other societies have grown up around Brighton, and are clearly easier for today's collectors to reach. Membership and attendance at meetings has declined, as has interest in the annual competitions and auction. The exchange packet still proves popular. But in these facts, the Brighton and Hove Philatelic Society is no different from so many others. It could once boast an impressive library, kindly housed at the public library in Brighton. When that was refurbished, the society had to remove its books. No convenient home could be found, so reluctantly, the library was sold. The society does hold a forgery collection.

But even with fewer members than in its heyday, the society prides itself on being very friendly, continuing with its band of loyal supporters. They would always welcome more to join them. The secretary, Philip Realf, can be contacted by telephoning 01273 559482: to add some names to the membership list would prove a fitting way to celebrate the centenary ●

Treasures of the BPMA Martin Robinson discovers some

PS Great Western

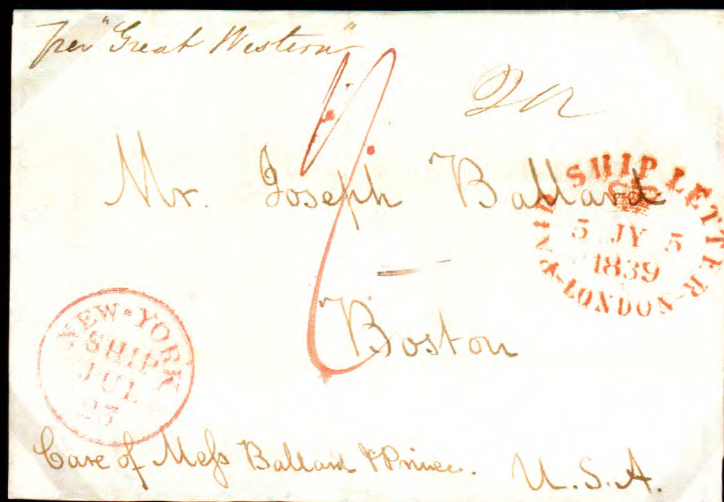


IN FEBRUARY ROYAL MAIL celebrated the 200th anniversary of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's birth with stamps depicting some of his achievements, including Paddington Station, the GWR's London terminus, and the *Great Eastern*, one of three great ships he built. Brunel became the GWR's chief engineer in 1834 at the age of 27 and, following feats of engineering including viaducts, Maidenhead Bridge (68p) and the Box Tunnel (40p), the first train, carrying the company's directors, made the journey from London to Bristol's Temple Meads Station in four hours on 30 June 1841.

Over the next 20 years the GWR's network expanded to reach Weymouth, much of Devon and Cornwall, Birmingham and South Wales. However Brunel's remarkable vision reached further: when the GWR board first discussed extending its service to Bristol, one director thought that London to Bristol was a journey too far. Brunel said,

on the contrary, it wasn't far enough and suggested that the company should extend its service to New York by means of a large steamship.

In fact Brunel went on to build three pioneering steamships: the *Great Western*, the *Great Britain* and the *Great Eastern*. The *Great Western*, the first transatlantic passenger steamship in regular service, made more than 60 return crossings in eight years. This ship, an oak-hulled paddle steamer, was launched in Bristol in 1837 and towed to London to have her engines fitted. Returning to Bristol, with Brunel and company directors on board, the ship ran aground; when fire broke out, Brunel injured himself falling off a ladder and was laid up for several weeks. These accidents and delays lost passengers, 50 of whom cancelled their tickets for the first voyage, and proved a serious setback, for there was a rival in the race to be the first steamship to make the transatlantic crossing.



Above: this cover, endorsed 'per Great Western' carries London Ship Letter and New York Ship marks. Left: unused artwork by David Gentleman for the British Ships issue of 1969. This set featured the SS *Great Britain*, and unused artwork also includes the *Sirius*.

The British Postal Museum & Archive Open Monday to Friday and selected Saturdays 10.00-17.00, Thursdays until 19.00. Call 020 7239 2570 or see www.postalheritage.org.uk for more details. To make an appointment to view philatelic material call the Curator of Philately, Douglas Muir, on 020 7239 2565.

Friends of Postal Heritage For details write to Mrs Avis Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX.

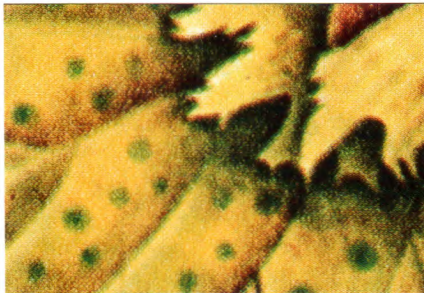
This was the British & American Steam Navigation Company, which was building its own ship, the *Royal Victoria*. When construction was delayed the company chartered the steamer *Sirius*, a much smaller ship used for the route between London and Cork. *Sirius* left London for New York on 29 March 1838, stopping at Queenstown to recoal. The ship was not built for transatlantic service, and every available space was used to store fuel. She continued her voyage on 4 April; the *Great Western*, still making final preparations in Bristol, was not to set out until 8 April. *Sirius* was slowed by a storm which increased her fuel consumption; when she ran out of coal, the crew burnt doors, furniture, and any other wooden fittings to keep the engines going. *Sirius* arrived in New York on 22 April, four hours ahead of the *Great Western*. *Sirius* had won, but the *Great Western*'s time of 14 days and 12 hours was four days quicker.

In 1842 the *Great Western* was transferred to the Liverpool-New York run, then laid-up in 1846. After nine years with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co, she was used as a troopship in the Crimean War, and subsequently scrapped in 1856.

The Frank Staff Transatlantic collection at the BPMA contains covers carried on the *Great Western* (above) and the *Sirius* (endorsed 'per steamer Sirius via New York' from a return journey in July 1838) – a historic pair of items. Also in the Museum's collection is artwork by David Gentleman for the British Ships issue of 1969 (above) A painting by Joseph Walter of the *Great Western* was used for the 68p Ocean Liners stamp of April 2004, and BPMA has an unused piece of artwork in the form of another contemporary painting of this ship, which is more detailed, if less dramatic.

BPMA's Stampex exhibition on the Brunel issue will travel through the South West from April •

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



December identify The detail was from the Ice Age Animals 42p stamp. The winner was N Foley-Fisher, Co Westmeath.

December knowledge The answers: 1) Stephanie Nash; 2) 1986 Sports; 3) Adrian Bradbury. The winner was C Waite of Devon.

Ten runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to March *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to March *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 What colour was the George VI 8d definitive?
- 2 Which Millennium stamp issue features a harp?
- 3 Which famous stamp firm celebrates its 150th anniversary this year?

Send your answer (addressed to either the March *Identify* competition or the March *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 14 April will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

Until 23 April Art for Mailing: Wildlife Stamp Designs by Ian Loe exhibition at Octagon Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Sketches & artwork for over 500 stamps designed by Ian Loe. Supported by BPT, British Library Philatelic Collections & Crown Agents.

11 March - 2 April STAMP Lincs (annual exhibition by Lincoln PS) at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Boston Road, Lincoln. Thematic displays. **Enquiries** P Wain 01522 525984.

25 March Spring meeting of Letter Box Study Group, Sherborne School, Dorset, 10.00-15.00. **Enquiries** Helen Crabtree, 01536 762127 or e-mail publicity@lbg.org

1 April North of Ireland PS Annual Exhibition & Fair at St Nicholas Church Hall, Cadogan Park, off Lisburn Road, Belfast, 10.00-16.30. Admission free. Dealers (stamps, postal history, postcards, accessories). **Enquiries** N Scott, 028 90 795530.

7-9 April Railway Philatelic Group Convention, Liverpool University Carnatic Conference Park. **Enquiries** T Goodbody, Hawthorn House, Waddington Rd, Clitheroe BB7 2JE.

8 April Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair, Grove Green Community Centre, Maidstone, 10.00-16.00. **Enquiries** Mrs E Gardner, 01622 762740.

21-22 April Scottish Philatelic Congress at Dewar's Centre, Perth.

22 April Rotherham Stamp & Postcard Club Open Day at Broom Valley Club Room, Brunswick Road, Broom Valley, Rotherham, 10.00-16.00. Dealer present, displays. **Enquiries** J Bradley, 01709 837073.

13 May Worpex 2006, Oldbury Park Primary School, Oldbury Rd, Worcester, 10.30-16.30. Specialist societies, 30 dealers. Organised by Worcester & District Philatelic & Postcard Society. www.worpex.com ●

Late news

Hidden dates In the February *Bulletin*, Douglas Myall recorded hidden dates found on the four Northern Ireland country stamps. Further hidden dates have since been noted and Douglas will be writing about these in his ever-popular 'Mainly Machins' column in next month's *Bulletin*. He will also be recording further values of Machin definitives found on the new RMS paper.

Royal Mail are now including the year on all special stamps, sometimes in the caption (ITV, Trafalgar, Brunel), or in the values (Animal Tales and Ice Age Animals) or in the phosphor (Christmas and forthcoming Queen's 80th Birthday). This innovation started with the Changing Tastes in Britain issue, where the year was shown in the bottom right-hand corner of each stamp •

Corrections The Animal Tales stamps, both from normal and Smilers sheets, were printed in litho. We regret that in February (page 169) the normal sheet stamps were stated as printed in gravure. In the January issue (page 155) the e-mail address for John Deering should have been: machins@johndeering.demon.co.uk •

The London Philatelist CD The Royal Philatelic Society London has recently produced a 12 disc 'Archival Edition' of its journal, *The London Philatelist*. This includes over 32,000 pages of editorial text (adverts excluded) from 1892 to 2005. Price £180 plus postage from Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Ron Negus reviews this in next month's *Bulletin* •

Auctions Cavendish's Worldwide & GB auction on 26 January included the 'Ebor' Collection of GB Parcel Post, 1708-c1980. A rare Alderney parcel label bearing 2d, 5d, 1s, 2s6d and £1 stamps with GUERNSEY parcel cancellation made £1300 (estimate £800) and a pair of Buckingham Palace parcel labels (1917) went for £400 (£150). A three-volume set of 2002 World Cup covers, with some autographed by Sir Tom Finney, Jack Charlton and others made £300 (£180), and 11 Royal Mail

Yearbooks (4 × 1985, 2 × 1986, and 5 × 1989) went for just £70 (£75). A large stock of 1856-1900 surface-printed issues (300 plus stamps) made £1000 (£600). For details of future auctions call 01332 250970 or see www.cavendish-auctions.com •

Future Spink auctions include Australian States & Commonwealth (6 April), Stamps & Covers of the World (27 April), and GB and British Empire Stamps & Postal History (14-15 June). Enquiries: Spink 020 7563 4000, or see www.spink.com •

Washington 2006 The exhibition organisers are seeking volunteers to help welcome the public to the world of stamp collecting, especially to work in the youth area. Training will be available for all volunteers, and seasoned youth workers will be on hand to help the volunteers throughout the show. Enthusiasm, a positive attitude, and a willingness to share are all that is required! Volunteers may sign-up on the exhibition website, at <http://www.washington-2006.org> or by writing to: Washington 2006, PO Box 2006, Ashburn VA 20146-2006 •

Castles challenge The contestants on the BBC TV programme *University Challenge* (23 January) were asked to identify the castles on the stamps from the 2005 miniature sheet. They correctly identified three but thought Carrickfergus was Conwy (Conway) castle •

Obituary We regret to report the death in February of Keith Fitton, Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society London. A profile of Mr Fitton was published in the *Bulletin* in July 2003 •

Bulletin back issues Mrs Sandford offers a run of the *Bulletin* 1968-99 (some in binders) to anyone willing to collect from her in south-east Kent: phone 01304 852158. Sqn Ldr J Witherow offers copies from September 1987 to December 2004 (some in binders) to anyone willing to collect or pay despatch costs. Enquiries: 22 Money Hill Rd, Rickmansworth WD3 7EQ or telephone 01923-770355 •

New Royal Mail prestige stamp books album



Now available is this smart new album to house your collection of prestige stamp books. The album has 10 leaves into which to slot the prestige books so that the front and back covers can be easily examined. Slots at the top and bottom of each leaf allow you to add notes about the books – date of issue, contents, catalogue number etc.

Price £15.50, handling charge £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 rest of world. Order code PA708.

Order from Royal Mail as shown at right, or see www.royalmail.com/stamps

Royal Mail

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



5 014721 103112



Royal Mail