BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 54 NUMBER 2 | OCTOBER 2016 | £1.95

Machin movie • Post & Go Preview • Mr. Tickle Cover



Christmas 2016 stamps revealed

JOHN HOLMAN **STAMP SCENE** • COLIN BAKER **QEII STATIONERY** • YEARBOOK **2016**

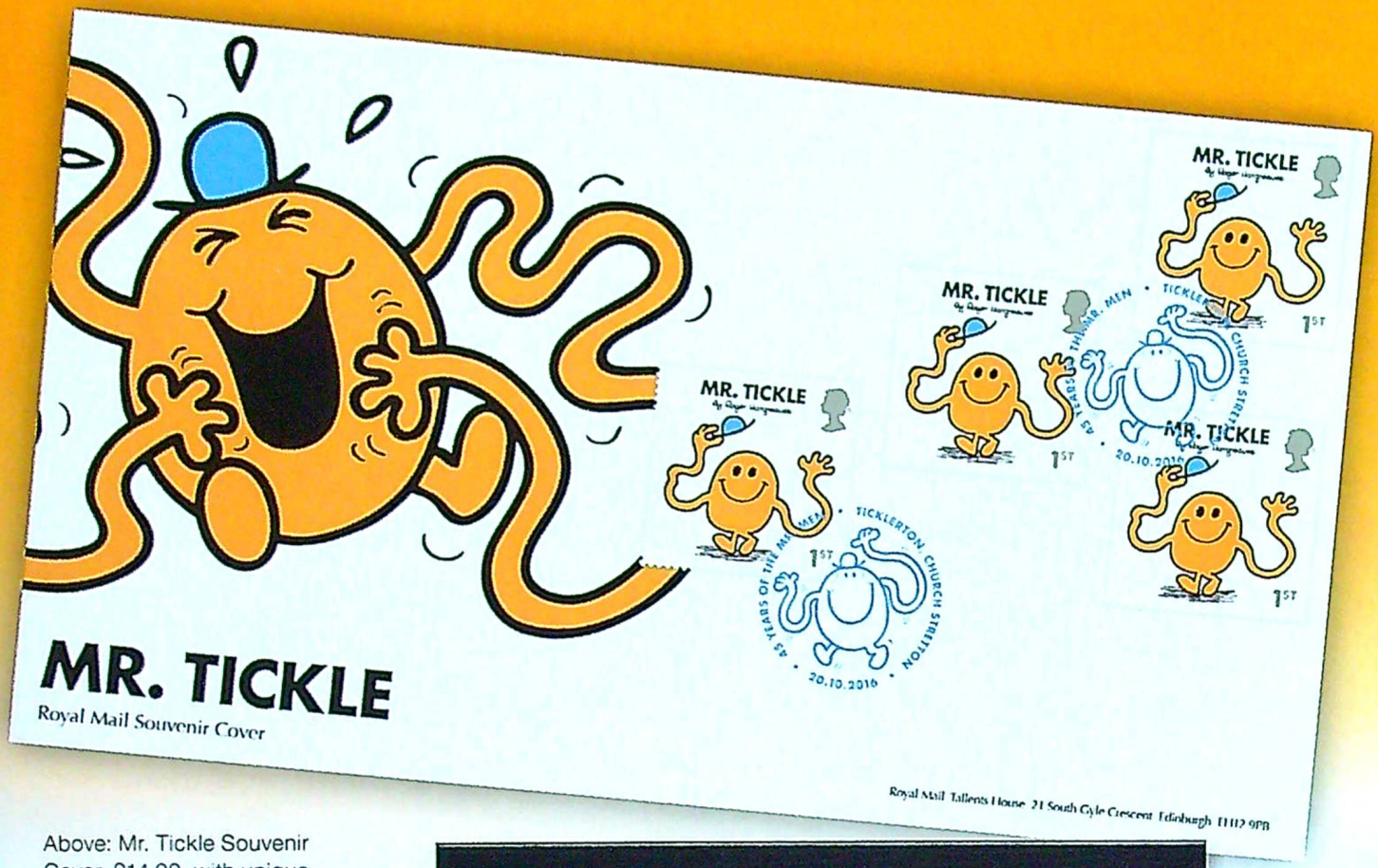
Tickle your fancy..?

On 20 October a Special Stamp issue from Royal Mail marks the 45th anniversary of the first publication in the much loved Mr. Men and Little Miss book series.

The boisterous Mr. Tickle and his exraordinarily long arms star on a cute new Souvenir Cover, available in a limited edition of 3,000.

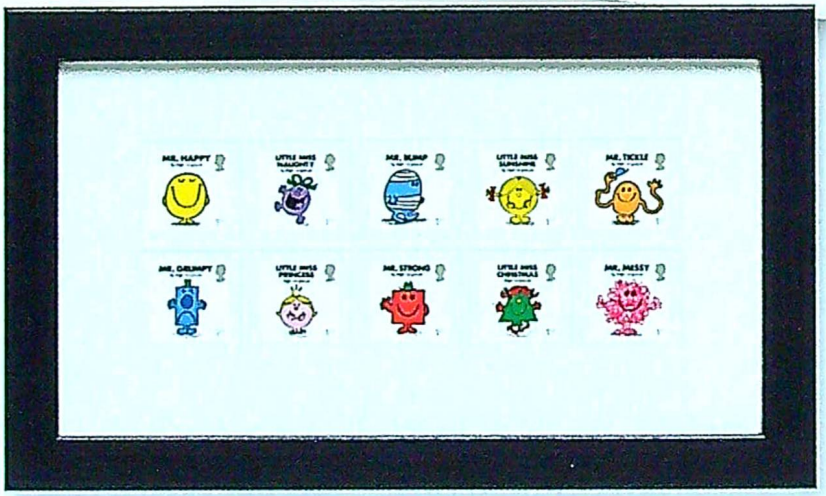
The first ever Happyland character created by Roger Hargreaves, Mr. Tickle is joined by nine more much loved characters in the stamp issue, which is also available as a framed set.

Mr. Men™ Little Miss™ ©2016 THOIP, a Sanrio company



Above: Mr. Tickle Souvenir Cover, £14.99, with unique Ticklerton postmark

Right: framed stamp set, £29.99.
Order both at www.royalmail.com/stamps quoting media code 17BUL7



For full details of the Mr. Men Little Miss Special Stamps, see the philatelic preview on page 20 of September *Bulletin*

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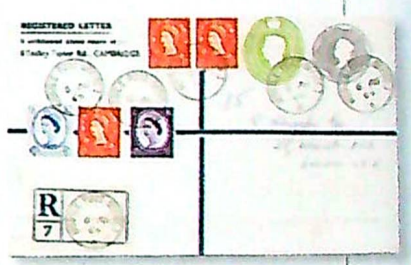


Royal Mail Editor William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, 26 Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AN ● Price £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Annual subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address above) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail publishes online the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ

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Post & doze Hibernating Animals Post & Gos explore the seasonal snooze of Britain's wildlife

Hibernating Animals is the theme for this season's Post & Go stamps out on 14 November. These four fascinating creatures curled up in perfect comfort for a winter snooze come hot on the heels of the six Post & Go Ladybirds issued in September (see page 370 of the August *Bulletin*). The animals featured are the dormouse, hedgehog, brown long-eared bat and grass snake.

While most British mammals are equipped to cope with extremely cold weather, the dormouse, hedgehog and bat species are not. They have to nap right through winter. So they build up large fat reserves and bed down for a long period of sleep, which lowers body temperature and reduces metabolic rate in periods when food is scarce. As spring arrives the animals' body clocks signal a unique wake-up call. British snakes also hibernate through the winter months. The grass snake, which features in the Royal Mail Post & Go stamp set, is the UK's largest snake and is found in a wide range of wetland habitats (though it also ventures into gardens).

Below: the Carrier Card from November's Post & Go Hibernating Animals issue



As well as the stamps with customer-specified overprinted values from Post & Go self-service machines located in main Post Offices, the Hibernating Animals set is available in First and Second Class values in the Collectors Pack with an informative illustrated insert card and stamps dated with an overprinted mark in gravure.

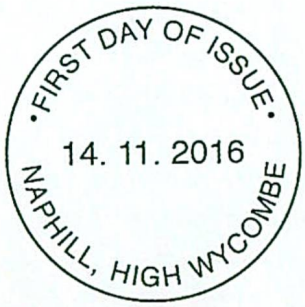
First Day Covers featuring the Tallents House pictorial, alternative pictorial and plain handstamps can be ordered by mail from Tallents House

Post & Go Hibernating Animals – Prices	
Stamp Set	£2.90
First Day Cover	£5.03
First Day Envelope	30p

Post & Go Hibernating Animals – Specifications	
Date of issue	14 November
Number of stamps	Four
Stamp design	Osborne Ross
Stamp illustration	Chris Wormell
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive



FD1624-PL



FD1624-NP



FD1624-TH



The hedgehog often chooses piles of dead leaves and vegetation in gardens as shelter for its winter sleep. As the hedgehog gets ready to hibernate, its body temperature drops down to as low as 2°C.



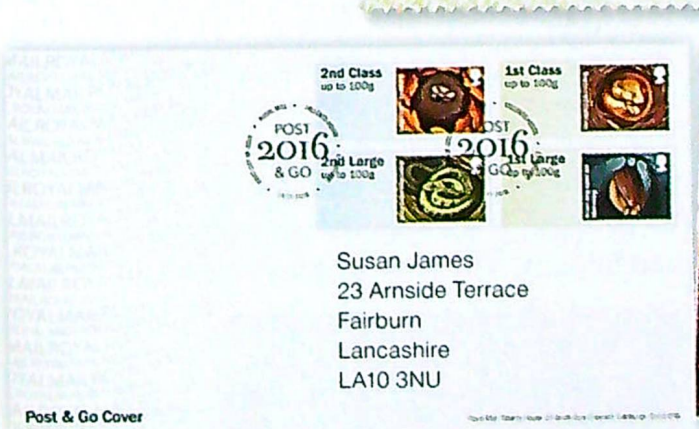
Grass snakes, like all reptiles, are cold-blooded and depend on basking in the sun to stay active. As the days get shorter there is not enough sun so they crawl into piles of vegetation and cracks in banks of earth.

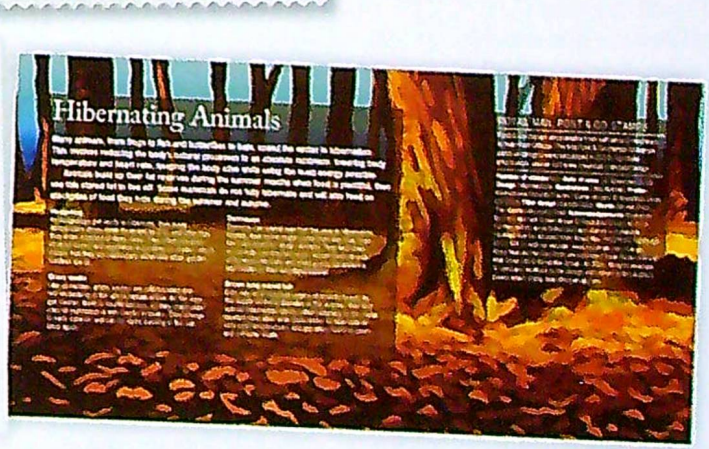


A carefully constructed woodland nest – woven from strands of honeysuckle bark and dried grass, for example – is the preferred bedding place of the dormouse, whose name may well come from the Latin word for sleep, *dormire*.



Bats are able to endure very cold temperatures when they are in hibernation and they are often to be found in caves and old mine shafts – until insects appear again to awaken their appetites in the springtime.





Above: the Collectors Pack is illustrated by Chris Wormell

(address on page 64) or from Special Handstsamp Centres in Birmingham, Cardiff, London and South Shields. All first day of issue postmarking offices will be supplied with the alternative pictorial first day of issue postmark, so all first day covers handed in at a Post Office will be cancelled with the same postmark regardless of where they are posted •



Rooster booster Have a bumper 2017 with the new Smilers® Sheet celebrating Chinese New Year

Above: the Lunar New Year of the Rooster Smilers® Sheet designed by hat-trick with background cut-out illustrations by Rebecca Sutherland

Something to crow about As the Chinese New Year approaches Royal Mail celebrates with the release of its Lunar New Year of the Rooster Smilers® Generic Sheet on 15 November. The Sheet features 20 Smilers® Fireworks stamps beside labels depicting Chinese New Year festivities in five UK cities and five related images – dragons, dumplings (common Chinese New Year food), lantern fruit, incense and parade regalia. The rooster is the twelfth in the cycle of 12 animals which 'rule' each lunar year (the new one starts on 28 January). It is associated with diligence, courage and honesty. The Generic Sheet costs £13.30 •

Lunar New Year Generic Sheet – Specifications	
Issue date	15 November
Number of stamps	20
Stamp	Smilers® Firework stamp
Sheet design	hat-trick design
Sheet format	Landscape
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive



Left: the 2015 Lunar Year of the Monkey Sheet, which comes off sale on 31 March 2017



Christmas cut-outs Special Stamps issued next month feature intricate paper sculptures showing favourite symbols of the festive season

Above: the Christmas 2016 issue out on 8 November

Royal Mail celebrates 50 festive years of creating Christmas stamps with a very special issue marking the season of goodwill. For the latest set, artist Helen Musselwhite crafted a series of beautiful paper cut-out illustrations which have been crisply photographed by leading still life photographer Jonathan Beer. The cut-outs and photos work perfectly for stamp dimensions, and lend a charming depth and detail to each of the traditional objects represented.

Released on 8 November, the set has a different design for each of six values: a carrot-nosed snowman for Second Class, a pert robin on the First Class, Christmas tree on the £1.05, a bright lantern for the £1.33, a stocking full of toys for the £1.52, and a Christmas pudding appearing on the £2.25 stamp. Completing the eight-stamp stamp issue are the First Class and Second Class images which are duplicated on the two Large values.

Royal Mail has issued Christmas stamps since 1966, and in 2005 introduced a policy of alternating secular and religious designs from year to year. 2016 is, of course, a secular year as you can see, but for those who like to have a reference to the Nativity on their stamps, the Christmas 2015 designs remain on sale until 3 November.

Accompanying the forthcoming Christmas 2016 stamp issue are a Presentation Pack, Miniature Sheet, Generic Sheet of the eight stamps, a Generic Sheet celebrating 50 years of Royal Mail Christmas Special Stamps, six Smilers® Sheets for your personalisation, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, two Stamp Books and a set of nine Stamp Cards. In addition there are special Christmas season postmarks. ▸

Christmas 2016 Stamps – Specifications

Date of issue	8 November
Number of stamps	Eight
Stamp design	The Chase
Paper-cut artwork	Helen Musselwhite
Photography	Jonathan Beer
Stamp format – standard	Portrait
Stamp format – large	Landscape
Stamp size – standard	24mm x 28mm
Stamp size – large	34mm x 28mm
Printer	De La Rue Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	50
Perforations	14.5 x 15
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive





Top: the Christmas 2016 Miniature Sheet with barcode

Above: the Presentation Pack with insert card on 50 years of Christmas stamps

Also in the issue is a brightly designed Presentation Pack written by resident *Bulletin* expert John Holman, who examines the history of Royal Mail Christmas stamps, including the pioneering work of Postmaster General Tony Benn in bringing festive issues to the public. The Pack also features images of (mainly first-class) Christmas stamps from each of the last 50 years, with details of the stamp designers or those who created the stamp images.

Christmas 2016 issue – Prices	
Presentation Pack	£9.55
Stamps	£9.05
Miniature Sheet	£9.05
First Day Cover Stamps	£11.28
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£11.28
Stamp Cards (set of 9)	£4.05
Christmas 2016 Generic Sheet	£16.21
Celebrating 50 Years of Christmas Stamps Generic Sheet	£12.40
1st Class Stamp Book	£7.68
2nd Class Stamp Book	£6.60

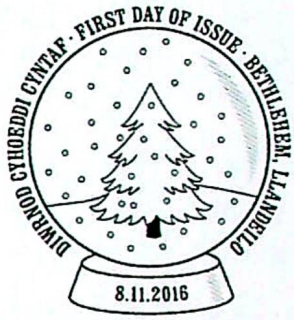
Christmas 2016 Miniature Sheet – Specifications	
Number of stamps	Eight
Design	The Chase
Stamp format – standard	Portrait
Stamp format – large	Landscape
Stamp size – standard	24mm x 28mm
Stamp size – large	34mm x 28mm
Sheet size (without barcode)	179mm x 74mm
Printer	De La Rue Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	14.5 x 15
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	PVA

Scattered across the Presentation Pack, on the flap and in the lower section where the stamps are located, are paper cut-outs specially created for the Pack by the artist Helen Musselwhite. The illustrations include a country cottage in the snow, snow flakes, holly, a bauble, Christmas trees and a post box. The Pack was designed by The Chase design agency, which worked alongside Helen Musselwhite on the stamp issue.

In addition the 50 Years of Christmas Stamps Generic Sheet contains ten of the First Class stamps and ten of the Second Class stamps, with one each of the other values. They are accompanied by labels carrying the season's greetings for sending with Christmas cards, and are presented against a background of Christmas stamps issued over the last five decades. The six Smilers® Sheets, designed for personalisation, allow you to have your favourite photos printed on peelable labels to send to friends and loved ones on envelopes. ▸



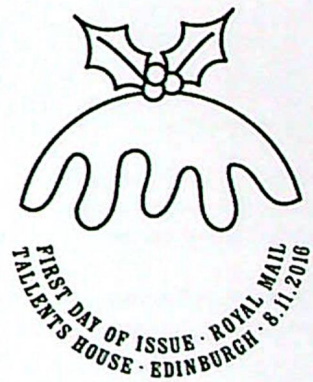




FD1623-PL



FD1623-NP

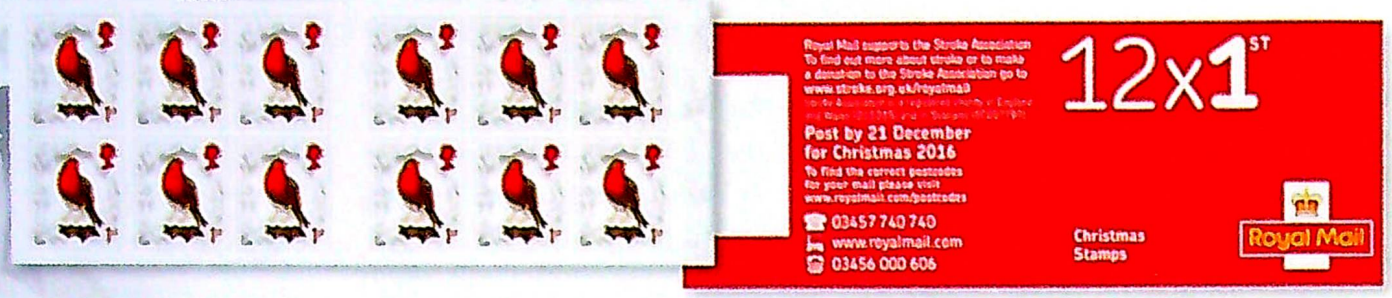


FD1623-TH

Above: the alternative pictorial, alternative non-pictorial and Tallents House postmarks

Above, left: the Christmas 2016 issue First Day Cover

Left: 50 Years of Christmas Stamps Generic Sheet





Christmas 2016 Stamp Books – Specifications	
Issue date	8 November
Book format	12 x 1st Class, 12 x 2nd Class Special Stamps
Stamp format/size	Portrait/24mm x 28mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure

Above: the Christmas First Class and Second Class Retail Stamp Books

Below: the Christmas Smilers® Sheet range

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 8 November. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (the address is on page 64 – please quote the *Bulletin* code 17BUL7) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. The Tallents House postmark features an illustration of a Christmas pudding with holly on top. The alternative postmarks, as shown on the previous page, have the location Bethlehem, Llandeilo. The pictorial version shows a picture of a snow-covered Christmas tree in a snow globe •





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



7 October Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Admission is free. Fair enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

8 October Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Stamp Fair & Convention, South of England Showground, Ardingly RH17 6TL. Fair enquiries: Jim Etherington, 01273 471897.

8 October Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair, Belmont Hall, Wellington Centre, Telford TF1 1LU, 10am to 3pm. Free entry, good range of stalls. Enquiries: B Hemmings, 01694 720192.

9 October Hinckley & District Philatelic Society Annual Fair & Exhibition, Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form College, Butt Lane, Hinckley LE10 1LE, 10am to 3pm. Refreshments, free parking. Raffle for Penny Black prize. Enquiries: Richard Flemming, 01455 613826.

14-15 October SCOTEX, Dewars Centre, Glover Street, Perth, Friday 11am to 5.30pm, Saturday 10am to 3.30pm. Organised by the Scottish Philatelic Trade Association.

14-16 October Stampa (Irish national stamp exhibition), Griffith Conference Centre, South Circular Road, Dublin 8, 11am to 6pm. Exhibits, dealers, souvenirs and special postmarks. Enquiries: Stampa, PO Box 12624, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, info@stampa.ie.

15 October Hampex, Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, Fareham PO17 5AL, 10am to 4.30pm. Inter-society exhibits, junior workshop, 20 dealers. Admission £1, accompanied children free. Enquiries: 01794 514902, www.hantsfederation.org.uk.

21-26 October Philataipei international stamp exhibition, World Trade Centre, Taipei, Taiwan.

22 October Cornex, Liskeard Community College, Greenbank Road, Addington, Liskeard PL14 3EA, 10am to 4pm.

29 October Bolton Society Stamp Fair and NW Federation Convention, St Joseph's RC High School, Chorley New Road, Horwich, Bolton BL6 6HW, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: 01942 813386.

29 October Solihull Philatelic Society Stamp Fair, Arden School, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull B93 0PT, 10am to 4.30pm.

29 October Surrey Federation of Philatelic Societies Annual Event (hosted by Kingston & District Philatelic Society), Claygate Village Hall, Claygate KT10 0JP. Enquiries: brian.sole@btinternet.com.

29 October Autumn Stamp Essex, Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford CM2 9FH.

29 October GB Philatelic Society meeting at Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. GB Stamps and Postal History from the Late 17th Century to 1900 by Ken Burr (11am), Standing in the SPECIMEN Footsteps of Marcus Samuel by David Leathart (2.15pm). Details: Peter Tanner, 01753 887755. ▸

4 November The Stuart Rossiter Trust Memorial Lecture: Challenges and Opportunities of Researching Online: Napoleonic Denmark, a Case Study, by Chris King. Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, 5pm. Free admission by non-transferable ticket on application to: Rex Dixon at rexdixon@btinternet.com.

11 November Strand Stamp Fair: see 7 October for details.

26 November GB Philatelic Society meeting at Grosvenor Auctions, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LT: British Printed Papers by Post 1836-76 by Gavin Fryer (11am), Leeds Postal History by Richard Wheatley (2.15pm). Enquiries: Peter Tanner, 01753 887755 •

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1890

Forthcoming exhibitions

The popular SCOTEX – the annual Scottish Stamp & Postcard Fair organised by the Scottish Philatelic Trade Association – takes place at the Dewars Centre, Perth on 14 and 15 October. About 30 dealers will participate. The Dewars Centre is about five minutes' walk from Perth's rail and bus stations. It has disabled access, bar, café and free car parking This will be the 11th SCOTEX held at the Centre, which is also home to the Scottish Philatelic Congress. Enquiries to Gareth Burgess on 01368 860365.



Photograph: Griffith College

Stampa – the Irish national stamp exhibition – will be held from 14 to 16 October at a new location at Griffith Conference Centre, Dublin. The Centre has a modern auditorium, free car parking, Wi-Fi and good catering. The bright exhibition space has natural light and offers a more comfortable environment for both dealers and collectors. Stampa 2016 will include a special display relating to the centenary of the Easter Rising. Competitive entries will be judged for the David Feldman Trophy (for best overall exhibit) and eight other trophies. There will also be a 1916 Centenary Trophy for a one-frame display, this trophy being awarded just this year.

The Stampa souvenir on sale at the exhibition comprises a Centenary of Easter Rising miniature sheet with exhibition overprint. Special handstamps will be used each day of the exhibition on these themes: Lighthouses (14 October), Easter Rising (15th), and Dogs (16th). For further details see the newly improved Stampa website at www.stampa.ie.

The next major international exhibition of 2016 will be held in Taipei, Taiwan, from 21 to 26 October. Each day of the Philataipei 2016 exhibition has a theme – 21 October: Post Day (open 11am to 6pm), 22nd: Designers' Day (10am to 8pm), 23rd: Comics & Animation Day (10am to 8pm), 24th: Charity Day (10am to 6pm), 25th: Environment/FIP Day (10am to 6pm), and 26th: Formosa Day (10am to 3pm). The Taiwan Post Office will be issuing a number of stamps, miniature sheets, mini-panes and a postage label from 21 to 24 October. Details can be found on the exhibition's website, taipei2016.post.gov.tw, which includes a listing of exhibits. Nine UK collectors are exhibiting stamps, postal history or philatelic literature. Chris King, former President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, is the UK Commissioner for this exhibition.



Photograph: Roberto Saba

Next year international exhibitions are to be held in Melbourne, Australia (30 March to 2 April) and Tampere, Finland (24 to 28 May) to mark the centenary of independence of the Republic of Finland. See www.finlandia2017.fi for further information about the Finnish show •

The Postal Museum

The Postal Museum (formerly the BPMA), currently located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London, is open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on the second Saturday of each month (10am to 5pm). The Freeling House Search Room closes at 5pm on 11 November and reopens next spring in the museum's new premises nearby. The closure will support the move of the archive to the new museum building. During the closure period, detailed research will not be possible in person or via the museum's enquiries team, but email and phone enquiries will be responded to where possible. Until 11 November the Post & Go machine at the Museum will dispense stamps with a 'King Edward VIII 1936' inscription marking the 80th anniversary of his short reign. The Friends of The Postal Museum organise visits and events and publish *Cross Post* magazine. To join go to www.postalmuseum.org/friends. You can sponsor a sleeper to help support the Mail Rail attraction that is part of the new Postal Museum (go to www.sponsorasleeper.org). The *Bulletin* is looking for expressions of interest from readers who would like to co-sponsor, with the magazine, sleepers featuring an engraved inlay of their favourite British stamps. If you are interested, email *Bulletin* Publishing Editor Kate Shaw: rmbulletin@rocketmail.com •

Forthcoming auction

The December sale of Cavendish Philatelic Auctions will include GB Queen Victoria stamps and 19th and 20th century postal history. For further information on the sale go to www.cavendish-auctions.com or call 001332 250970 •

Society news

The East Grinstead Stamp & Postcard Club has organised an exhibition on the town's postal history. This can be seen at the East Grinstead Museum, Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead until the end of October. The Museum, a few minutes' walk from the High Street and ten to 15 minutes from East Grinstead railway station, is open Wednesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm, and Sunday 1pm to 4pm.

The Scarborough Philatelic Society, now in its 78th year, welcomes new members. On 4 October Chris Phillips will give a talk on the Newlands Road Philatelic Society, the only all-junior stamp club. Competition Night takes place on 1 November followed by a Christmas Social on 6 December. Contact Mr Phillips at chris@philatelic.org.uk or on 01723 368475 for full details.



The June 2016 edition of the *CSC Newsletter*, journal of the Concorde Study Group, includes a tribute to Concorde test pilot André Turcat (1921-2016) as well as reports of new stamps, postmarks, covers, postcards and other collectables relating to this iconic aircraft. Some 13 years after Concorde went out of service there is still much to collect and interest seems undiminished. The front cover features a commemorative cover flown on the first commercial supersonic flight – Paris-Dakar-Rio-Dakar-Paris – on 21 to 22 January 1976. For information about the Concorde Study Group contact Brian Asquith: Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches SM5 4PQ, brianasquith@talktalk.net.



The July/August 2016 issue of the GB Philatelic Society's *The GB Journal* includes a lengthy article by Ian Harvey, George V Perforations on Photogravure Definitive Counter Sheets, and Robin Restall's study, A Close Look at Cylinder 4 of the 1937 Coronation Stamp with enlarged illustrations of the constant varieties, to look out for. Other shorter features cover the 'Bornefeld Block' of the 1d red-brown plate 75 containing the 'Union Jack' re-entry, a kiss print on ▸

George V De La Rue 2s 6d Seahorse, and Uniform Penny Post – Brighton Re-Rated Letters. The July/August *GBPS Newsletter*, despatched with the *Journal*, includes useful illustrated reports on GBPS displays, a look at the London Postal History Group Archive on the GBPS website and the GBPS Trading Forums for online direct private treaty sales. There are also short reports on a flaw on the 1929 Postal Union Congress 1½d stamp, unusual London cancellation of Seahorse high values, and £3 Carrickfergus Castle stamp, Enschede printing, with missing Queen's head. The GBPS, formed in 1955, caters for collectors of all reigns, but *Journal* and *Newsletter* content suggests members' interests seem to be principally Queen Victoria to George V. For GBPS details contact Peter Tanner on 01753 887755 or visit www.gbps.org.uk •

New publications

Stanley Gibbons has recently published a new 6th edition of its Canada & Provinces catalogue (£25.95), available from the Stanley Gibbons shop at 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX and by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Donnington Priory, Oxford Road, Newbury RG14 2JE, or call 01425 472363 •

Stamp-related exhibitions

Stamps commemorating The Queen's 90th birthday were issued in April. An exhibition, Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style From The Queen's Wardrobe, is on at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh until 16 October, and at Windsor Castle until 8 January 2017.

Stamps commemorating First World War centenaries went on sale on 21 June. An exhibition entitled Real to Reel: A Century of War Movies, marking the centenary of the iconic film *The Battle of the Somme*, is on view at the Imperial War Museum in London until 8 January 2017.

Stamps celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter went on sale on 28 July. An exhibition, Romance & Realism, is on at the Beatrix Potter Gallery, Hawkshead until 30 October (daily 11am to 4.30pm). The show includes original watercolours by Beatrix Potter. Visit www.lakesculture.co.uk for details.

An issue released on 2 September marked the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London. The Fire! Fire! exhibition can be seen at the Museum of London until April 2017. Visit www.museumoflondon.org for information and tickets •

News from the Islands

Jersey Post will issue a set entitled Jersey Myths and Legends on 6 October, followed by Jersey Seasons: Winter on 4 November and Father Christmas in Jersey on 25 November. Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, www.jerseystamps.com.



Guernsey's next issues will be Christmas and Centenary of the First World War on 8 and 11 November respectively. New Christmas stamps for Alderney go on sale on 8 November. Enquiries: www.guernseystamps.com, 01481 716486.

The Isle of Man will be releasing a five-stamp issue on 7 October, as a contribution to the 2016 Europa project 'Ecology in Europe – Think Green', and to celebrate achieving UNESCO status as a world biosphere region. Enquiries: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, 01624 698430 •



The year to cheer Royal Mail marks its 500th anniversary with some very special annual products

A fantastic philatelic year Celebrate all the special issues of the last 12 months with the new collection of annual products – the 2016 Yearbooks, Yearpack, Year of Presentation Packs and Year of Miniature Sheets.

The sumptuous 64-page, fully illustrated Yearbook features all the 2016 sets in exquisite detail. And as Royal Mail marks its 500th anniversary this year, the Yearbook's theme is the writing and receiving of letters. For example, in reference to the Shakespeare issue, the Yearbook explores the role of the letter in the Bard's work. In addition, each chapter is written by an expert: a chapter on the Beatrix Potter set is written by historian and Potter biographer Linda Lear and features letters penned by the author.

The Yearbook comes in a limited edition of 10,000 and costs £140. The leatherbound version, costing £190, is available in a limited edition of 170. The Yearpack, priced £120, showcases all the 2016 Special Stamps in a neat protective folder. The £36 Year of Miniature Sheets comprises eight Sheets, including Pink Floyd and The Tale of Peter Rabbit. The Year of Presentation Packs, displayed in a leather effect gift box, contains the Special Stamps and Miniature Sheets from 2016 and costs £123 •

Above: (clockwise from left) the 2016 Royal Mail Yearpack, Yearbook, Year of Miniature Sheets and Year of Presentation Packs

Below: a stamp from the 2015 Christmas issue



Christmas choices Royal Mail alternates religious and secular themes on the annual Christmas stamps. This year's Christmas issue (see page 39) features festive emblems such as the snowman and robin. But for those who prefer Biblical sets, the 2015 Nativity stamps are available until 3 November. The 2013 Madonna stamps are also available in first- and second-class values •



Machin history

Arnold Machin reveals the secrets behind his ground-breaking definitive design in a historic documentary film discovered by an expert from the Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles team



While investigating the history of the Machin design for its 50th anniversary next year, Editorial Research Manager Eliza Marciniak of Stamps and Collectibles came across film footage guaranteed to fascinate UK stamp collectors. In the 1966 documentary *Picture to Post* sculptor Arnold Machin (left) is shown creating the clay mould and plaster cast of The Queen's head for the definitive stamp, discussing shadow on her face in the photographic studio, suggesting colours for the stamp background, and watching the first trials of stamps running off the press. Machin explains his methods, his love of detail, and the influence of the Penny Black on his work for the definitive.

These are scenes that all collectors of Machin stamps must have imagined, and now you can see them! For *Picture to Post* is included in a compilation of documentary films available from the British Film Institute.



Also appearing in the 23-minute GPO-commissioned colour film are the leading stamp designers David Gentleman and Jeffery Matthews. They too are filmed working. Gentleman is seen developing on the Concorde issue of 1969 and there is a focus on his 1966 England Winners stamp following the legendary World Cup victory. Matthews is shown working on his 1968 British Bridges set.

Machin confesses his previous lack of interest in stamps, but explains how the definitive project fired his enthusiasm and that the world's first stamp was his creative inspiration: 'Before I was asked to design the new definitive issue I had not been very interested in stamps,' he says. 'But now I began to look at them rather more critically. I think it is generally accepted, at least by connoisseurs, that the Penny Black is probably the finest stamp ever ▸

Beginner's guide to Machins

What? The standard British postage stamp created by Arnold Machin OBE RA in 1966. Machin's design for The Queen's head comes from a bas-relief bust of Elizabeth he crafted. He was originally inspired by the design of the Penny Black.



When? The stamp first came out on 5 June 1967 and since then Machin's timeless, iconic design has featured on more than 200 billion stamps. The Queen herself called Machin's design 'admirable'.

Why collect? The simple design belies a huge variety of Machin specifications over the years to excite the collector's enduring interest – including numerous colour palettes, printing processes, printers and adhesive methods.

Find out more Visit The Postal Museum site www.postalheritage.org.uk and search under 'machins'.

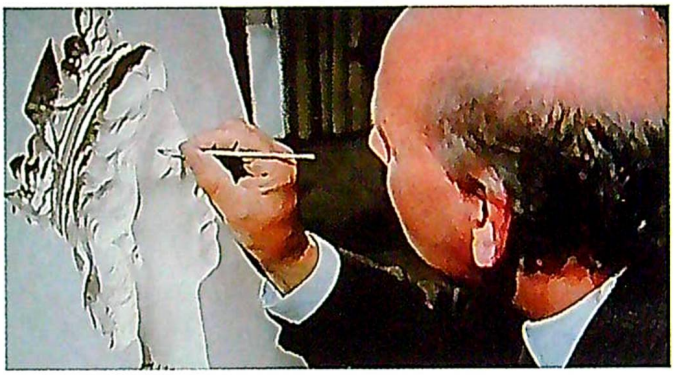
designed. And I decided to create the same kind of effect – with a light image on a dark background.'

In *Picture to Post* Machin argues the case for detailed design, even on tiny canvasses like the stamp: 'The belief that a diminutive design such as a stamp does not require detail I think is very much mistaken. In fact, I would say that the reverse is true. If one thinks of miniatures, the finest are very detailed indeed, and I think more interesting and more beautiful because of it.' Machin also talks us through his creative process for the definitive: 'I decided to create a new design from a relief portrait. I already had many studies which I had made when I designed the new decimal coinage.'

Working like Wedgwood

Machin adds: 'Because I am a sculptor it was simple for me to work on the basis of a cameo, rather like the early Wedgwood. The model was first made in clay, then it was moulded in plaster, and this process makes it possible to refine the details, by engraving into the mould before the final cast is taken. I do a lot of work both ways on the mould and on the cast. And if I'm not satisfied I can remould and start the whole process again.'

In the film Machin says he is anxious that the







Gentleman has a ball

Picture to Post **opens with a shot of a red felt tip pen sketching the preliminary concept of the iconic World Cup 4d stamp of 1966 – the year that England hosted the World Cup and won the Jules Rimet trophy in a thrilling Wembley final with West Germany.**

The designer holding the pen is, of course, David Gentleman, sporting fashionably long Sixties sideburns. 'A stamp is so tiny yet it must be tightly packed with meaning,' he says. 'In a way it is like looking at the world through the wrong end of a telescope.'

He recalls using amateur models to represent players on the stamp: 'I got a photographer to get friends who play football and told him the precise shots I wanted.'

There on film we see the pals playing, one in a red shirt and one in blue, as briefed by Gentleman. They were to become the first living people other than the Royal Family represented on a British stamp •



Night Mail inspired director

Director Sarah Erulkar won her first Best Short Film BAFTA with *Picture to Post*. But the film was just one of over 80 she directed in a career spanning more than 40 years. As a schoolgirl she was inspired to become a filmmaker after seeing the classic 1936 GPO documentary *Night Mail*. Her career began with the Shell Film Unit in 1947 when she directed documentary *Lord Siva Danced*, a piece about classical Indian dance. Indian-born Erulkar also directed films for the Central Office of Information, the Gas Council and the National Coal Board Film Unit.

Commentators have praised Erulkar's resilience as much as her directing skills. As a woman and an Indian Jew, Erulkar was a clear outsider in the British filmmaking world at that time. Her determination paid off, however, and her career flourished.

Picture to Post was chosen by MGM as the supporting film for the 1969 movie *Alfred the Great* starring David Hemmings and Michael York. The documentary was narrated by actor Roy Dotrice, father of Michele Dotrice of *Some Mothers Do Have 'Em* fame.

As a support film for *Alfred the Great* it achieved worldwide distribution, and was dubbed into German, Japanese, Italian and Spanish.

Picture to Post won Erulkar a BAFTA in 1970. She earned her second BAFTA for the 1977 film *The Living City* about Calcutta, where she was born. After retiring from documentary making Erulkar dealt in antiques. She died last year aged 92 •



relief effect of the cast head is preserved, and meticulously adjusts the lighting in the photographic studio to ensure perfection when his piece is photographed. He also suggests sombre background colours would also help make the relief stand out. While Machin advocates detail in design, he admits that his final version for the stamp was the simplest of a series of attempts that became less elaborate as he progressed: 'When I first began to design for the stamp, I tended to use rather elaborate frames surrounding the portrait, but gradually by eliminating and eliminating reached very much simpler statements.'

He adds: 'For the definitive issue the first trials were made without lettering or frames, and it looked so marvellous, just the head with the background, so the GPO agreed to leave out the words 'postage' and 'revenue'. Although he was creating a new design for modern times, in the documentary Machin acknowledges the influence of the past, saying: 'It's interesting that my first heads were based on designs I had done for the coinage, and the Penny Black was based on an engraving done in 1837 from the Wyon Medal.' Indeed, he asks this wistful question at the end of the film: 'I wonder what Rowland Hill, the founder of the Penny Post, would have to say about stamp design today.' •

'Picture to Post' forms part of the 'Shadows of Progress' DVD compilation, available at www.bfi.com/shop. On the Christmas gift pages next month we will be offering the DVD at a special price to Bulletin readers.



Above: Eliza Marciniak, who discovered *Picture to Post* while researching for Royal Mail's celebration of 50 years of Machin stamps in 2017



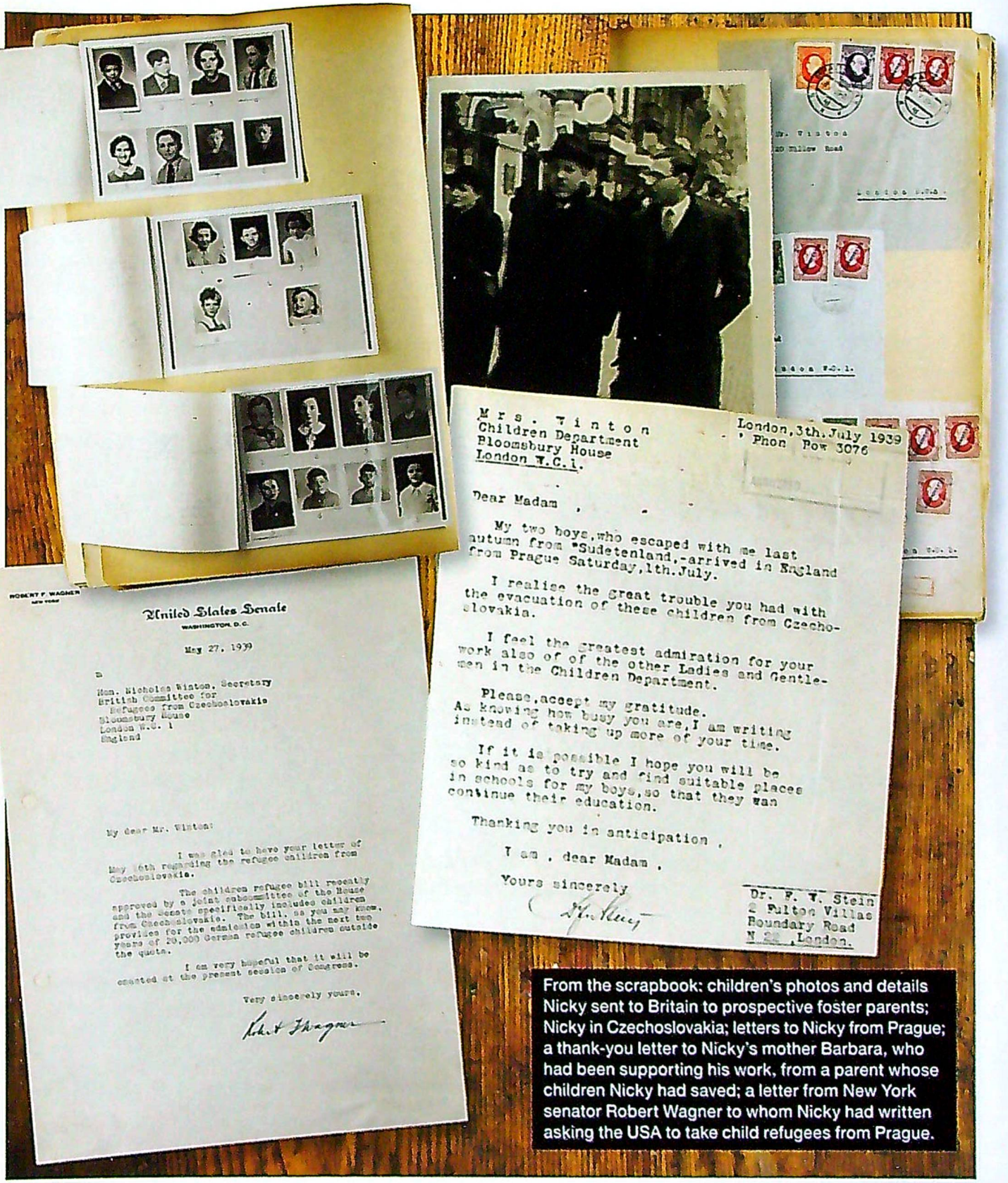
Saint Nicholas

The inspiring story of Nicholas Winton – a hero of the British Humanitarians stamp issue who saved hundreds of Jewish children from Hitler

In December 1938, Nicholas Winton was a young London stockbroker with the world at his feet, looking forward to a Christmas skiing holiday in Switzerland with his close friend Martin Blake. But around 22 December Blake changed Nicholas's life forever with a phone call. Blake rang to say the skiing was off. He was actually in Prague, carrying out vital refugee work as thousands of Jews and others considered undesirable by Adolf Hitler fled into Czechoslovakia from Sudetenland after he had annexed the region. Nicholas

The British Humanitarians issue...





From the scrapbook: children's photos and details Nicky sent to Britain to prospective foster parents; Nicky in Czechoslovakia; letters to Nicky from Prague; a thank-you letter to Nicky's mother Barbara, who had been supporting his work, from a parent whose children Nicky had saved; a letter from New York senator Robert Wagner to whom Nicky had written asking the USA to take child refugees from Prague.

was persuaded to join him. Soon Nicholas – 'Nicky' to friends and family – was rolling his sleeves up, arranging transport to Britain for Czech children whose parents were desperately trying to keep them out of Nazi hands. German agents were on the prowl in Prague. It was a tense and dangerous city. But for nine months Nicholas carried on his work, in Prague and in London, putting youngsters on train after train, arranging foster parents in ▸

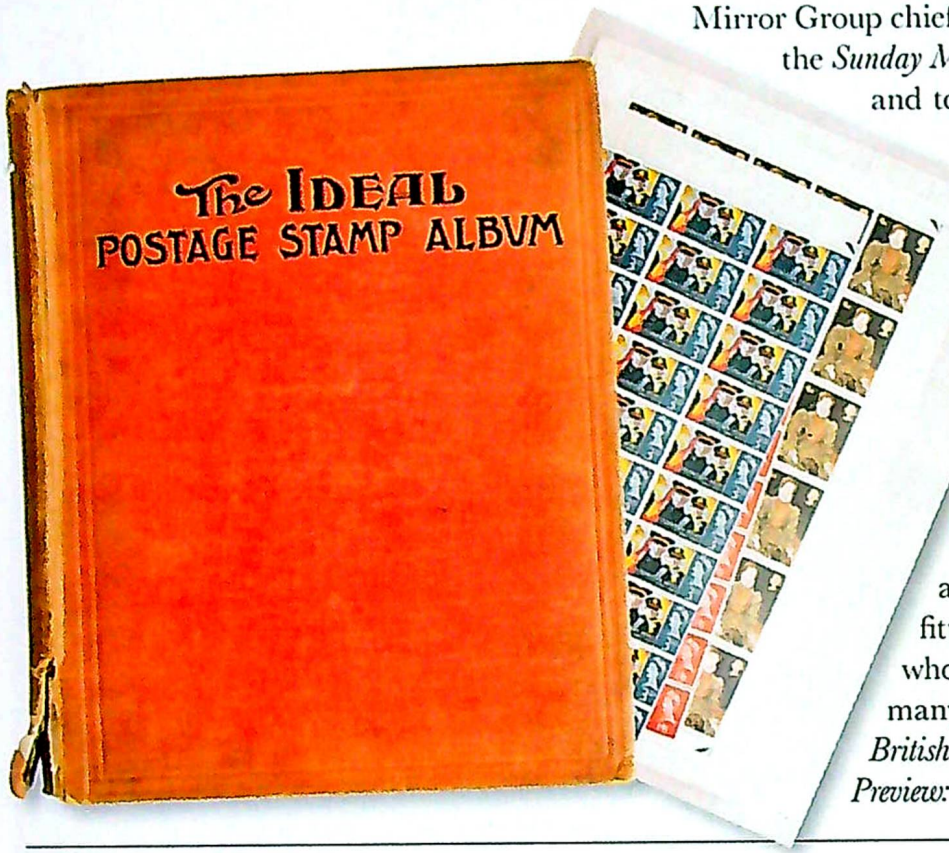
Britain, lobbying the Home Office for help. He saved a total of 669 children, mostly Jewish, from death in the concentration camps of the Third Reich.

Nicky Winton, often dubbed the 'British Schindler', appeared in March's British Humanitarians issue for his rescue work. But modest Nicky, who died last year aged 105, kept quiet about his time in Prague for 50 years, and had no contact with the youngsters he had rescued from the Nazi killing machine. It was only by chance that his heroism was revealed and those he had saved, now adults, discovered the identity of the man who had given them life and freedom. And it was all due to an old book of mementoes from those nine extraordinary months.

After Nicky had left Prague, a fellow rescue volunteer presented him with a scrapbook. It was full of letters to and from Nicky, notes from parents thanking him for his efforts, and records of the rescue operations. In the 1980s Nicky sought a home for the scrapbook because of its historical interest. It finally came to Holocaust historian Elisabeth Maxwell, the wife of Mirror Group chief Robert. This led to an article in the *Sunday Mirror* about the rescued children, and to many of them being traced. It also led to the now-famous episode of the BBC show *That's Life* where Esther Rantzen lured Nicky to the studio. She had filled the audience with his 'children', now middle-aged. Rantzen asked if anyone present had been saved by him. Five rows of rescued children stood up. It was a tearful, joyful reunion. And a fitting tribute to the kind man whose generous heart had given so many people a future •

British Humanitarians Special Stamps Preview: February Bulletin, page 164

Below: Nicky was also a stamp fan – here is his album and some of the GB stamps he collected



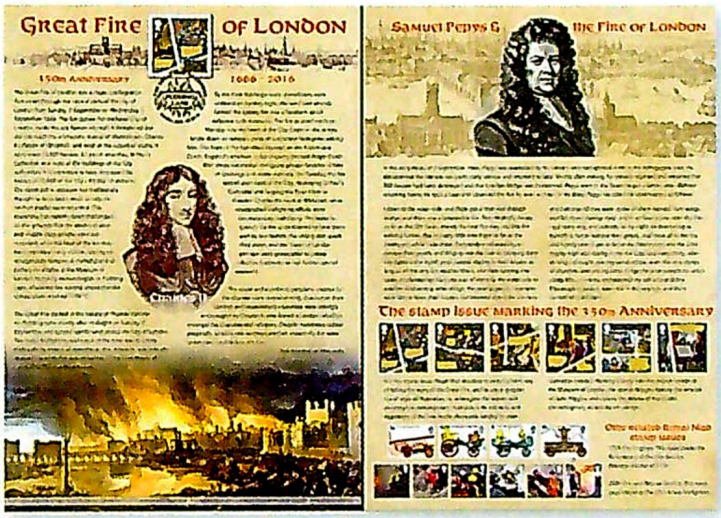
Album photograph: Greg Smith

War memorials
Two poppy stamps commemorating the fallen are being reintroduced on 24 October, in advance of Remembrance Sunday on 13 November. For details, see Royal Mail issues and withdrawals list on page 64.



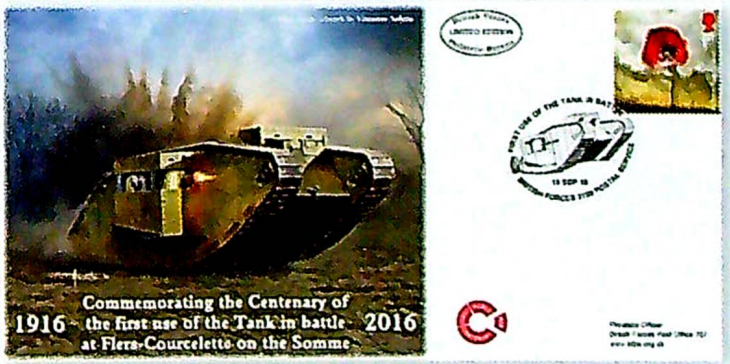
Making history Kate Shaw selects a historical card and a cover featuring momentous events

This dramatic commemorative stamp card from BFDC features the Great Fire of London stamp issue and tells the story of the blaze that swept the capital 350 years ago. It reveals the extent of the damage but also focuses on the misfortunes suffered by Dutch and French communities in the city who were blamed for the fire and attacked. In addition, the card has an excerpt from the famous diaries of Samuel Pepys, who writes of the terror of Londoners as they flee the flames with possessions they have saved. Also shown on the card are the 1974 Fire Engines set and the Fire and Rescue Service stamp issue of 2009. The card is £19.75 inc p&p •



BFDC Ltd
3 Link Road
Leicester LE2 3RA
www.bfdc.co.uk/new

The first use of the tank in battle, against the German defences along the Somme on 15 September 1916, is remembered in this very powerful stamp cover produced by the British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS). It shows a British Mark I tank – 36 vehicles of this type took part in the Battle of the Somme at Flers-Courcelette. The cover comes with a poppy stamp from the First World War 1916 set and a finely drawn pictorial handstamp showing the tank. The cover costs £7.50 inc p&p (UK/BFPO) •



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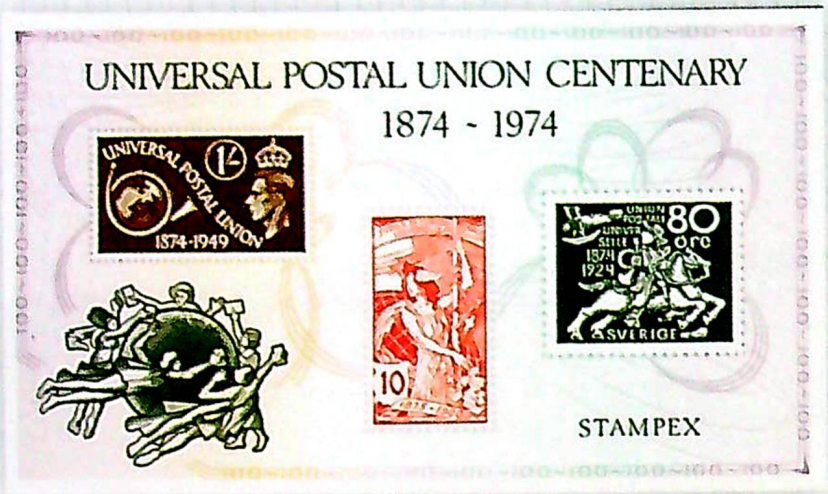
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This Month in History

John Holman examines a stylish stamp set from 1949 that marked the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union

IN THE 15 YEARS OF GEORGE VI'S REIGN (December 1936 to February 1952) there were just eight issues of commemorative stamps, making a total of 23 individual stamps. The penultimate issue was in October 1949 to mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Special stamps were issued by most countries, including an impressive Colonial omnibus series. The initial idea was to issue stamps in the same design by all countries, but this proved impractical.





Top: the 1974 Stampex souvenir card showed a Swiss UPU stamp from 1900 and a Swedish one dating from 1924

Above: the 1949 Universal Postal Union stamps on a plain first day cover

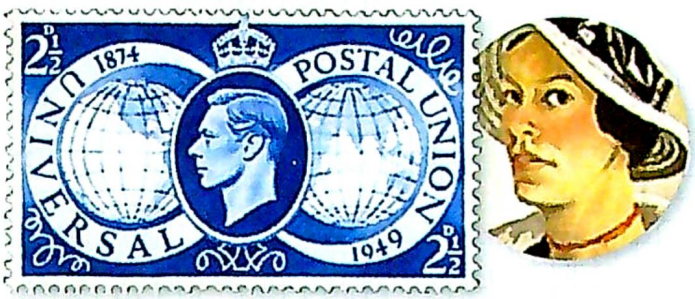
The British Post Office considered no fewer than 47 stamp designs submitted by 20 artists, some of whom worked for the main stamp printers of the day. The artists were: Mary Adshead, George Bellew, Douglas Blake of Harrisons, Edmund Dulac, Ronald Ferns, Hugo Fleury and L D Fryer from Waterlows, Abram Games, Florence Gorniot, W Harlow (Harrisons), Joan Hassall, Blair Hughes-Stanton, E J Jackman of Bradbury Wilkinson, Lynton Lamb (Harrisons), W S Matthews (Bradbury Wilkinson), Percy Metcalfe, H L Palmer (Harrisons), Victor Reinganum, Stanley D Scott (Waterlows), and Reynolds Stone. Some of these names will be well-known to collectors as they designed issued stamps, whereas others are unknown to the philatelic community.

On 28 October 1948 the Stamp Selection Committee chose designs by Adshead, Bellew, Fleury and Metcalfe, with two reserves by Games and Metcalfe. These six designs were then essayed by Harrisons and submitted to George VI. In December of that year The King approved the four designs selected by the Committee.

Mary Adshead's design for the 2½d (basic UK letter rate) stamp featured the two hemispheres of the globe separated by The King's head in the centre of the stamp. The value was positioned at the top left and at bottom right, balanced by the flourishes of scroll-work in the other corners and below the royal portrait.

Percy Metcalfe's 3d stamp design depicts the UPU monument at Berne in Switzerland, which was erected in 1909 and is a recognised symbol of the organisation. The King's portrait is set in an oval frame at the right with the value in the bottom right corner. Hugo Fleury's 6d stamp is a somewhat complex design involving the goddess Concordia, globe and points of compass with the value at bottom left and The King's head in octagonal frame at right.

George Bellew's one shilling stamp has a posthorn and globe at left balanced by The King's head at right with the value, larger than on the other stamps,



Mary Adshead and her 2½d design complete with scroll-work



Percy Metcalfe's work shows the UPU monument in Berne



Hugo Fleury featured the goddess Concordia on his 6d stamp



George Bellew's design incorporated the posthorn and globe

encircled alongside the crown surmounting The King at upper right. All four stamps carry the caption 'UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION' and the dates '1874-1949'.

Metcalfe's reserve design was rather similar to, and arguably slightly better than, Adshead's design, showing the hemisphere. The reserve design by Abram Games was rather intriguing, featuring a stamp incorporating hemisphere and compass points in the perforation. All the 47 designs are to be found at www.postalheritage.org.uk. While most designers took a rather symbolic approach, as was customary at the time, others were more adventurous and showed aspects of the postal service including trains, ships and planes, representing the carriage of mail by land, sea and air (Bellew and Ferns), and slightly more bizarre mail carried by hare (land), fish (sea) and bird (air) – also by Ferns. I rather liked Victor Reinganum's designs of a map of the earth laid over an image of a sheet of stamps and of a hemisphere protruding from an open envelope, as well as his land, sea and air design.



Umber essay, mounted on card and marked "E" was included in the submission to the Palace and rejected by the King on the 15th December.



23rd November 1948. Essay of Abram Games design No. 13. Selected as a reserve at a meeting on the 28th October.

Top: the four stamp designs approved by King George VI

Above: the unadopted design created by Abram Games

The stamps were printed by Harrisons in the colours of the corresponding definitive stamps – 2½d ultramarine, 3d violet, 6d bright purple and 1s brown. Three cylinders were used for the 2½d stamp, numbered 2, 3 and 5; cylinder blocks of 3 and 5 are worth considerably more than 2. The other values were printed from single cylinders, each numbered 2. Minor shade differences are noted on the 2½d and 3d stamps, though of insufficient significance for catalogue listing.

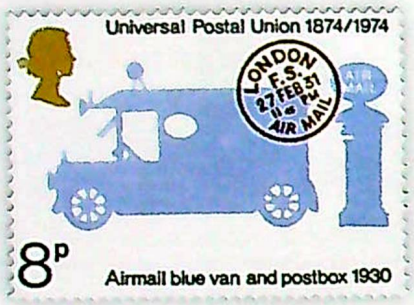
The set went on sale on 10 October, the day after the UPU anniversary, which was a Sunday. The only major error of printing recorded in the *Gibbons GB Specialised Catalogue* is imperf between stamp and top margin on the 2½d value. Both the *GB Concise* and *GB Specialised* catalogues list 'Lake in Asia' and 'Lake in India' constant varieties on the 2½d and a retouched background to the ▸

value on the 1s. The *GB Specialised* catalogue also lists a major retouch on the western hemisphere on the 2½d. All four stamps are also listed with 'SPECIMEN' overprint but no prices are quoted for these. Many retouches are known on the 2½d, recorded in articles by Niall Fair and Andrew Whitworth in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* of October 1953 and September 1954, and reprinted in March 1983 and December 1984 respectively.

The face value of the set came to just short of two shillings, almost the cost of sending ten UK letters at that time. Today this represents approximately £5.50 or £6.40 (ten 55p second-class or ten 64p first-class). The two shillings was much less painful to collectors in 1949 than the cost of the stamps for the Ninth UPU Congress held in London in 1929. As well as four basic rate stamps, that set included a £1 stamp which was the equivalent of sending 160 UK letters at 1½d each. At current postal rates that £1 stamp would now cost £88 or £102.40!



No Post Office first day cover was produced, though some were prepared by stamp dealers and others. Many collectors simply affixed stamps to plain covers for posting on the first day. No special postmarks were used, but collectors like covers with the London Chief Post Office handstamp; the Chief Post Office – which closed in 1994 – was opposite what was then GPO headquarters and so appropriate to this stamp issue. Stamps are known used on postcards of the UPU monument cancelled on the day of issue.



Top: a card issued by the National Postal Museum for its 1984 UPU show reproduced the 1949 3d stamp

Above: one of four 1974 stamps marking the centenary of the UPU

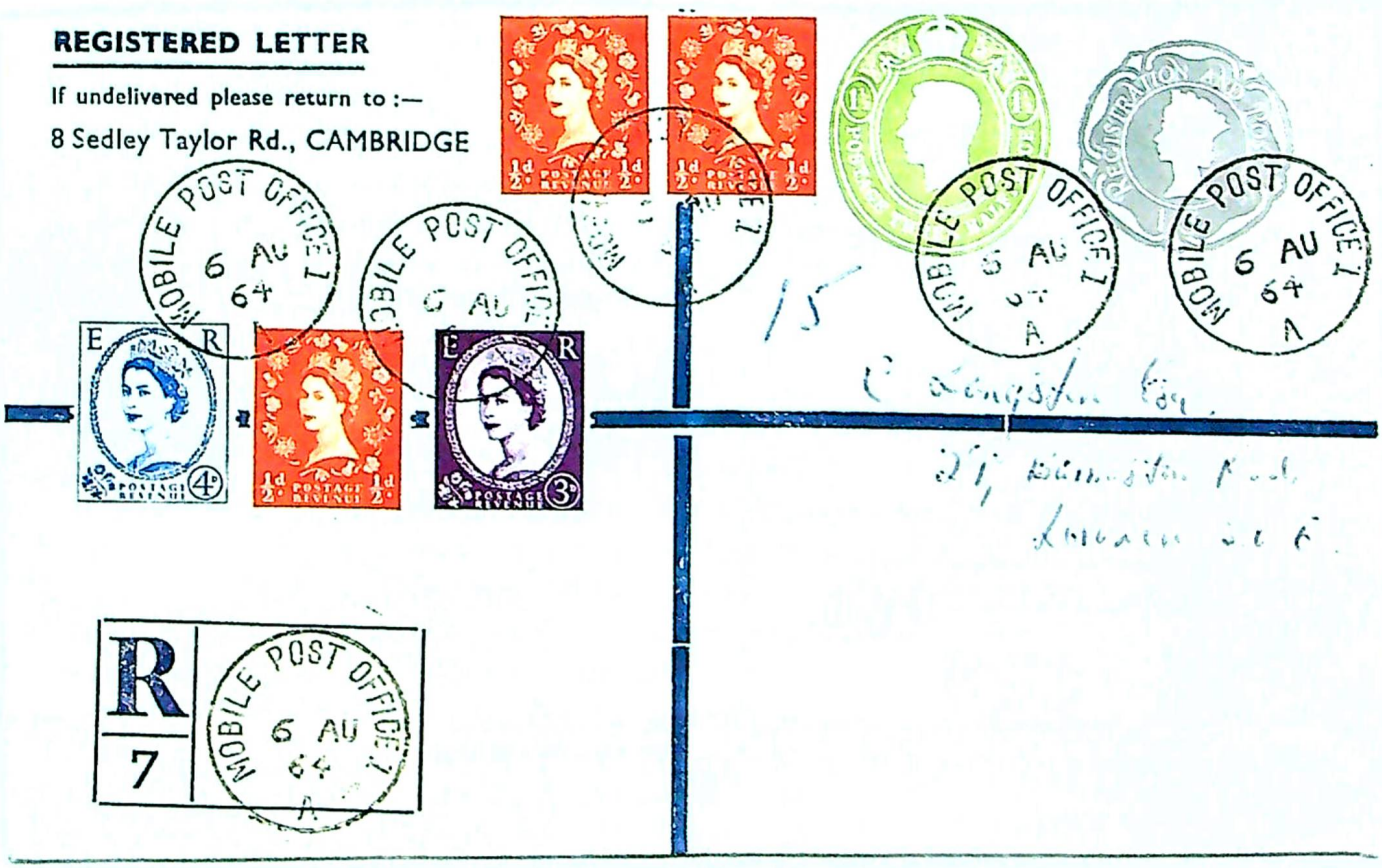
I cannot trace a reference to the date of withdrawal but I imagine the stamps stayed on sale at post offices until the end of 1949. Numbers sold are recorded as: 2½d, 155.3 million; 3d, 32.5 million; 6d, 24.3 million; 1s, 32.1 million. The stamps remained valid for use until 29 February 1972. In addition the British UPU stamps were overprinted/surcharged for use at British postal agencies overseas in Bahrain, Eastern Arabia (Dubai, Muscat and Sharjah), Kuwait and Tangier.

The centenary of the UPU in 1974 was marked by four British stamps and by issues worldwide. This time the designs were more relevant to postal services than the symbolic designs of 1949. The four British stamps featured mail planes, ships, vans and a blue-painted airmail postbox. A souvenir card produced for Stampex 1974 featured the 1949 1s stamp as well as UPU stamps from Switzerland (1900) and Sweden (1924). Some 12,500 of these cards were printed by Bradbury Wilkinson. There were, of course, no stamp (PHQ) cards in 1949, but the 3d stamp showing the Berne monument was reproduced on a card issued by the National Postal Museum and sold during its UPU Exhibition from 5 June to 27 July 1984 (NPM reference SS/24). Some 13,000 of these cards were printed.

The UPU, now a United Nations organisation, co-ordinates the work of national postal services, mainly through decisions taken at its congresses. Some of these important decisions, and stamps issued for UPU congresses, were the subject of an article by the late James Mackay in the *Bulletin* of February 1994. It will be interesting to see how the 150th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union is commemorated in eight years' time •

Q … is for Queen Elizabeth II stationery

The Queen's ascent to the throne in February 1952 prompted a programme of new postal stationery still treasured by collectors today



Above: a privately produced registered envelope with stamps from two reigns

On 9 September last year, Queen Elizabeth II became the longest reigning monarch in history. She ascended the throne on 6 February 1952 on the death of her father, King George VI. Plans were immediately put in place to design and issue new postal stationery. Nearly all the postal stationery stamps issued previously had individual borders, as well as different colours to help distinguish one value from another in poorly lit sorting offices.

With the development of modern lighting this was no longer a problem, and the decision was taken to have a single design for the complete range of QEII stationery stamps. The different values would be identified by their colour alone, though the colours of some values varied from time to time. The design chosen for stamps used on both ordinary and registration envelopes was based upon the Tudor rose and was retained for 15 years, being replaced in 1969 with a ▸



Fig 1



Fig 2

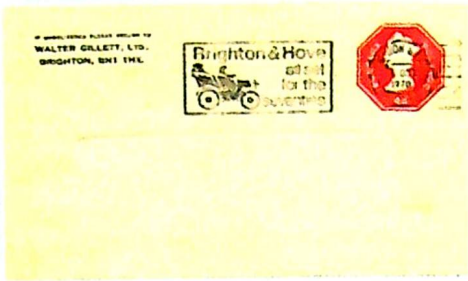


Fig 3

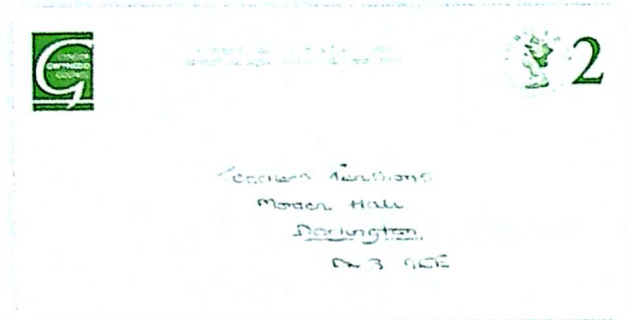


Fig 6

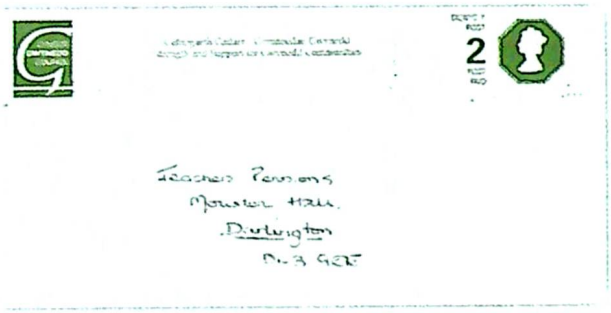


Fig 5



Fig 4

Fig 1 3d Tudor Rose design
Fig 2 Machin octagonal stamp with bundle wrapper showing the selling price
Fig 3 A commercially used 2½p STO envelope
Fig 4 Self-adhesive stamps produced by one dealer were a novelty
Fig 5 STO envelope with octagonal Machin stamp and symbol
Fig 6 STO envelope with Machin stamp and symbol

simpler octagonal design. From 1983 first-class and second-class envelopes used an octagonal stamp with a service symbol. Since then other designs have come and gone. (The design being used today features the Machin head, which is surrounded by 'Royal Mail Postage Paid' alongside either first-class or second-class symbols.) Meanwhile registration envelopes have carried different NVI stamps, often showing the type of service paid for.

There is a similar story with other types of postal stationery used during The Queen's reign. Postcards and letter cards started with a rectangular stamp based on a portrait taken by society photographer Dorothy Wilding. This changed to a rectangular Machin design, which then changed to the octagonal Machin stamp that was also used on envelopes. All of these changes give

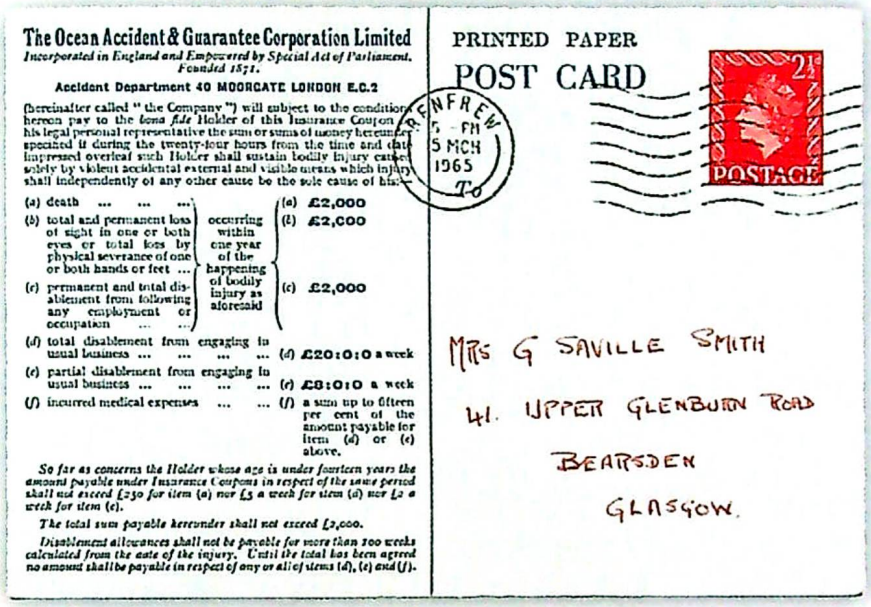


Fig 7

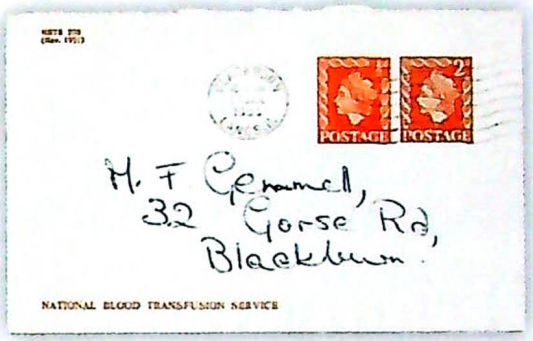


Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 12

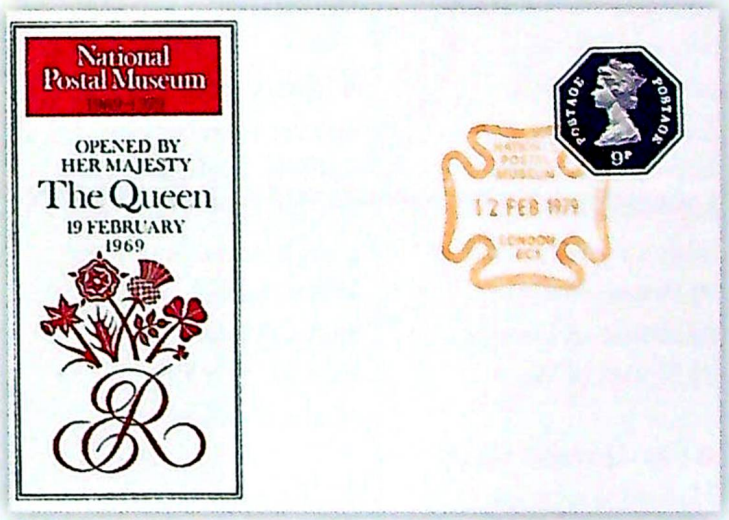


Fig 10



Fig 11

collectors a rich field to choose from. There were other designs of stamps used in this period, and many have been covered in previous articles in this series.

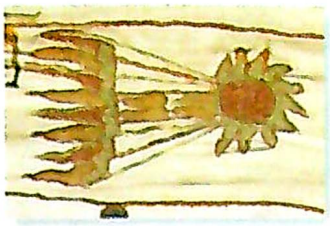
Although postal stationery remained popular at the beginning of The Queen's reign, the spread of the telephone service and more recently the development of the internet has of course reduced the need for people to write letters. In 1973 the stamped to order service ended. It restarted a few years later, but only accepted minimum orders of thousands of envelopes or cards, so that it was only used by large businesses. From 1991 Post Office prepaid stationery was gradually withdrawn from high street post offices. From then on envelopes had to be ordered in boxes of 100 from Post Office Stores, while other items such as special delivery envelopes were only sold in multiple packs •

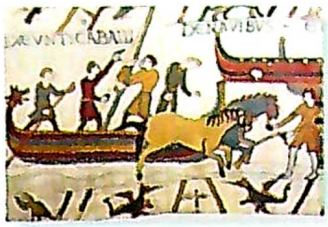
Fig 7 A machine-vended insurance card
Fig 8 National Blood Transfusion card
Fig 9 A Christmas envelope for sending a letter to Santa
Fig 10 Commemorative envelope for the opening of the National Postal Museum in 1969
Fig 11 A stamped to order envelope with three Machin stamps
Fig 12 Postcard with the rectangular Machin stamp


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Triumph in this battle of wits to win Hastings Sheet goodies

To mark the release of the Battle of Hastings Commemorative Sheet on 14 October we have created a fun 1066 quiz. The labels, numbered to correspond with the relevant questions, are all from the Sheet. Three winners of the quiz and Name That Stamp receive the Battle of Hastings Sheet and Coin Cover. See the preview of the Sheet on page 3 of September *Bulletin*

1 This label shows Edward the Confessor, whom Harold succeeded to the English throne. Edward was the last king in the line of which royal house?
a) House of Fraser
b) House of Wessex
c) House of Wax

2 On this label King Harold is seen on a journey to meet William of Normandy in 1064. What is he holding in his hand?
a) A budgie **b)** A hawk
c) A cool puppet he made himself

3 The Normans claimed that William, featured on this label, had been promised something rather special by Edward the Confessor. What was it?
a) The English throne
b) A solid-gold loo
c) A kiss

4 Something weird appeared in the sky in early 1066, as shown in this label, and it was considered a bad omen. What was it?
a) A sunflower
b) A garden fork
c) Halley's Comet

5 The long-haired, bearded Anglo-Saxons thought that the Normans' clean-shaven faces made them look like… what?
a) Priests **b)** Girls
c) Rubbish fighters

6 In this label the Battle of Hastings is in full flow. On what hill did the historic engagement take place?
a) Senlac Hill
b) Blueberry Hill
c) Rowland Hill

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'Hastings Quiz' and/or 'Name That Stamp', to Bulletin Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or email answers to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.

Closing date
30 November 2016.

July solution and winners
Solution Postcard.
Winner J Wong.
Runners-up E Andersen; L Bowater; P Bowater; L Bowry; A Downey; A Harker; T Larkins; G Mapp; B Meek; A Pennington; C Salt; A Tooze; J Wykes.

NAME THAT STAMP

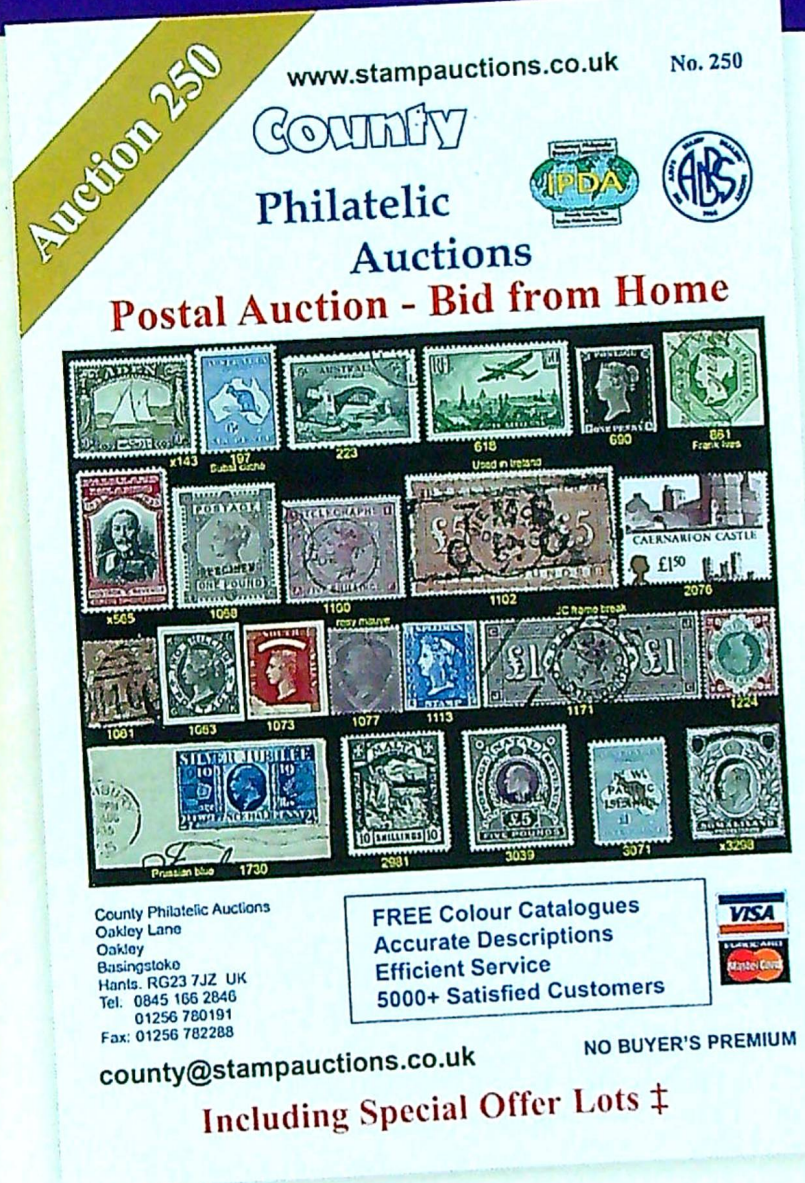
From the detail of the stamp under the magnifying glass identify the year the issue was released and the person who designed it.



Rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

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Royal Mail stamp issues and withdrawals

7 October	**Withdrawal** Pink Floyd: Stamp Souvenir, Miniature Sheet Souvenir Cover.
14 October	**Issue** Battle of Hastings Commemorative Sheet: 10 x 1st Class Union Flag Smilers® with illustrated labels.
14 October	**Issue** Battle of Hastings Coin Cover, with Brilliant Uncirculated 50p coin.
20 October	**Issue** Mr. Men Little Miss: 10 x 1st Class Stamps (2 x se-tenant strips of 5), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (10 in set), Stamp Book, Stamp Souvenir Cover, Mr. Tickle Souvenir Cover, 6 x Smilers® Sheets of 10 Smilers® Stamps and labels (Mr. Bump, Mr. Grumpy, Mr. Happy, Mr. Messy, Little Miss Princess, Little Miss Sunshine), Framed Mint Stamps.
20 October	**Change of font** on Business Sheets: Chevin on 100 x 1st Class, 100 x 2nd Class, 50 x 1st Class LL, 50 x 2nd Class LL. On Stamp Books: Chevin – 6 x 1st, 4 x 1st LL, 4 x 2nd LL, 12 x 1st, 12 x 2nd. **Change of colour** Darker red on 4 x 1st LL and 12 x 1st Stamp Books.
24 October	**Reintroduction** Lest We Forget: definitive-size 1st Class Poppy Stamp, self-adhesive sheets of 50. POL only.
24 October	**Reintroduction** Post & Go Symbolic Flowers: 1st Class Poppy Stamp at selected Post & Go sites.
28 October	**Withdrawal** Beatrix Potter: Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir.
3 November	**Withdrawal** Christmas 2015: Stamps (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class Large, 1 x 2nd Class Large, 1 x £1, 1 x £1.33, 1 x £1.52, 1 x £2.25), Miniature Sheet, Generic Sheet (8 x 1st Class, 8 x 2nd Class, 1 x £1, 1 x £1.33, 1 x £1.52, 1 x £2.25), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (9 in set).
8 November	**Issue** 2016 Annual Collections: Yearbook, Leatherbound Yearbook, Yearpack, Year of Miniature Sheets, Year of Presentation Packs.
8 November	**Issue** Christmas 2016: Stamps (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 75p, 1 x 96p, 1 x £1.05, 1 x £1.33, 1 x £1.52, 1 x £2.25), Miniature Sheet (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 75p, 1 x 96p, 1 x £1.05, 1 x £1.33, 1 x £1.52, 1 x £2.25), Generic Sheet (8 x 1st Class, 8 x 2nd Class, 1 x £1.05, 1 x £1.33, 1 x £1.52, 1 x £2.25), Generic Sheet (10 x 1st Class, 10 x 2nd Class), Stamp Book (12 x 1st Class), Stamp Book (12 x 2nd Class), Smilers®, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (9 in set).
14 November	**Issue** Hibernating Animals: Stamps (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 1st Class Large, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 2nd Class Large).
15 November	**Issue** Lunar New Year – Year of the Rooster: Generic Sheet (20 x 1st Class).
16 November	**Withdrawal** Post & Go Winter Fur and Feathers: Stamps (4 designs).
16 November	**Withdrawal** Landscape Gardens: Stamp Souvenir.

Order philatelic items, including all the stamp products listed above, at www.royalmail.com/stamps or from Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. We would advise you to quote **17BUL7**, the *Bulletin* media code. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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Royal Mail

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