

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Bulletin

Volume 43 Number 8

APRIL 2006 £1.20

Annual poll results • Modern
Architecture • World Cup

1ST

TROOPING THE COLOUR

This month we mark two Royal philatelic occasions: Bulletin readers have chosen the Trooping the Colour 1st class for their favourite stamp of 2005, and The Queen's 80th birthday issue goes on sale on 18 April.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The 1st class Trooping the Colour stamp (issued 7 June 2005), Bulletin readers' favourite stamp of 2005. See page 246 for full coverage of our annual poll. Photograph by Geoff Dann.

Issues Some items available only from Royal Mail Tallents 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 Tallents 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

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 Stamp Expo Smilers sheet.

21 April

Issue Queen's 80th Birthday coin cover.

25 April

Issue Ingot cover: Castles No 3 (Wales) • 6 x 1st, 12 x 2nd and 12 x 1st stamp books with revised text on back cover concerning validity of stamps.

25 April

Withdrawal 35p Machin definitive: lime green printed by Enschedé.

28 April

Withdrawal *Letters by Night* prestige book.

9 May

Withdrawal England, Scotland and Wales 42p country stamps printed by Walsall (issued 5 April 2005).

16 May

Issue 1st and 2nd class business sheets (self-adhesive) with revised text concerning validity of stamps.

20 May

Withdrawal World Heritage Sites joint coin cover.

25 May

Issue Washington 2006 World Stamp Exhibition Smilers sheet (Hello stamp and exhibition labels).

30 May

Issue World Cup Winners stamp cards.

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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

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K - I would like to communicate

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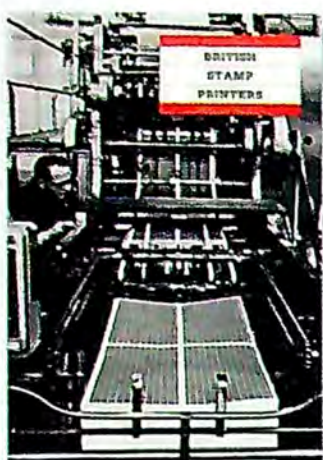
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This month The Editor previews this issue



THIS MONTH In this *Bulletin* we publish the results of our Favourite Special Stamps and Favourite Bulletin Authors polls for 2005. The favourite stamps poll is an important indicator within Royal Mail of how our stamps are viewed by collectors. Glenn Morgan, who counted up the poll, also read your comments (good and not so good) written on the poll forms, and a selection of these will be published here next month. Glenn has also been busy writing a booklet on Stamp Printers which is included in this *Bulletin* as NO 12 in our Bulletin Publications Series, which started in 1993. I am sure you will find the booklet of interest and a worthy successor to the earlier titles in this series. Our Publication next year will be on the Machin definitive, to mark the 40th anniversary of the issue of the first Machin stamps on 5 June 1967.

This month we celebrate the 80th birthday of HM The Queen, and special stamps go on sale at Post Office branches on 18 April, three days ahead of Her birthday. A coin cover will be available on the actual day and a commemorative document will be available in June to coincide with The Queen's official birthday. The Queen has almost certainly appeared on more stamps (British, Commonwealth and some foreign) than any other person. The first British stamp of Her reign is number 515 in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, that number is now 2596 (68p Animal Tales) and there are also separately numbered Machin definitive and country stamps to take into account. Quite some collection! JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

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



St Helena stamp anniversary Some of the British Library's philatelic rarities are featured on new stamps from St Helena. 150 years ago, on 1 January 1856, the remote island of St Helena issued its first postage stamp. *The St Helena Herald* announced the 6d blue stamp, which was to pay the postage for letters sent to the UK. At that time, mail was carried by Royal Mail Packet ships or other sailing ships that called at the island on an occasional basis. The new stamps were printed in England by Perkins, Bacon & Co, who at that

time were leading stamp printers. To commemorate this anniversary, a set of six stamps and a miniature sheet (shown here, at 63% actual size) were issued on 16 January. The six stamp values are: 10p, 20p, 25p, 30p, 80p and £1.20. The set was commissioned by the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau on behalf of the St Helena Post Office, and shows a selection of stamp treasures from the British Library's Philatelic Collections •

Rona stamps Local stamps (local carriage labels) have since the 1940s been issued for a number of small Scottish islands. The latest to issue stamps is Rona (sometimes called South Rona), off the east coast of Skye. This island is now being developed to attract visitors to enjoy the scenery, wildlife, and tranquility of the Hebrides. The first set of stamps was issued in 2003, featuring island views (Highland cattle, a ruined church, Church Cave, and lighthouse) with a second set in 2004 depicting popular stories/legends of Rona (shown in *Commemorative Covers Review* July 2003 and August 2004). The latest set was issued on 1 January. A limited number of the two previous issues remain. A further set featuring the Rona Lighthouse will be issued this summer. The stamps can be bought online from www.isleofrona.com (click on stamps) or e-mail enquiries@isleofrona.com or by post from Bill Cowie, Island Manager, Rona Lodge, Isle of Rona, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9RA. Mr Cowie will be pleased to supply information about visiting the island •



One of the nine colourful new stamps featuring Rona's wildlife. Price £5 postpaid UK.

Washington 2006 Royal Mail will have a stand at Washington 2006, selling the complete range of current issues and selected related products, including the special Smilers sheet produced for the exhibition (see March *Bulletin*, page 204). A Royal Mail stand cachet will be available for use in the exhibition passport produced by the exhibition organizers. Royal Mail staff look forward to meeting some of our overseas customers at the exhibition.

Among the main attractions will be an eight-frame display from the Royal Philatelic Collection, mostly of British Caribbean material. The schooboy stamp collection of John Lennon has been acquired by the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington and is on show there until 10 April. The collection will then be shown at the Washington 2006 exhibition.

The US Postal Service will issue a 40-stamp 'Wonders of America' pane and a Washington 2006 souvenir sheet featuring the Capitol and early US stamps during the exhibition.

Leading up to this major world show, we have been featuring over recent months some of the key rarities to be displayed, and continue here with the Inverted Swans of Western Australia of 1855. These four pence blue stamps from the colony of Western Australia are considered the world's first inverted errors. (Technically, the frames are upside-down, not the swans.) The 4d stamps were printed by Horace Sampson in Perth by lithography in 1854. In 1855, another printing was necessary. Two frames in the block of 60 were damaged in storage, and needed to be replaced. One was put in slightly tilted, while the other was accidentally inverted. This master was replicated four times to create each sheet of 240 stamps. 97 sheets were printed before the error was noticed and corrected, creating a total of 388 examples. Some, if not all, of the sheets were shipped and sold at post offices. Years passed before collectors noticed them. 15 used examples, and a unique strip of three, are known of this error. Other copies are in the British Library's Tapling Collection, museums in Dublin and Sydney, and elsewhere •



The famous 'Inverted Swan' error, shown on an Australian stamp of 1855.

ATA PO Box 57, Arlington, TX
76004-0057, USA, or email
americantopical@msn.com

ATA at Washington The American Topical Association will be hosting at least 16 seminars and meetings at Washington 2006, and for any exhibitor of thematic displays, this will afford a unique opportunity to find ways to improve point levels with an inside look at thematic judging rules and to meet with like-minded collectors on themes such as lighthouses and religion on stamps. Throughout the show, ATA Office Manager, Karen Cartier will relate multi-cultural stories depicted on postage stamps, to children and other interested attendees, from her newest work, *Tales by Mail* •

Thematica Enquiries and entry forms: Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0QG. Completed applications must be returned by 12 May with entries required by 2 June.

Thematica 2006 will take place at its usual venue of the Carisbrooke Hall, 63 Seymour Street, London W2 (near Marble Arch) on Saturday, 24 June and Sunday, 25 June. In addition to the dealers providing those needed items for the thematic collection, and the youth area, the Friends of Thematica will be staging the annual competitions. First there is the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy for those who have not won a thematic competition at national or international level. There are no rules – all that is needed is 16 sheets to be judged by the visitors. The British Thematic Association Trophy is for 32 sheets, judged in the same way as national thematic exhibits, with medals awarded. For this there is a £15 entrance fee. Regional federations are encouraged to enter the Inter-Federation Thematic Competition, requiring 16 sheets hopefully from a newcomer to thematics. Finally there is the Barclays Cup competition for Young Collectors, where the key requirement is originality, either of theme or method of presentation. The number of pages required, from 4 to 16, depends upon age •



British Stamp Market Values £10.99, available from stamp dealers, newsagents, or book stores.

New catalogue *British Stamp Market Values 2006*, published by IPC Media, covers all periods from the Penny Black through to Christmas 2005, including stamps, booklets, officials, country stamps, postage dues and presentation packs, year books and year packs. Curiously it omits Machin definitives after around 1990, presumably an error of proof checking which, like the many typographical errors within, will no doubt be rectified with the next issue. Generally, only one stamp from each commemorative set is illustrated and, although the other designs in the issue are described, there is nothing like seeing and comparing something. Perhaps this could be considered for next time, especially as there are so many different stamp designs to remember these days. A 'tick box' alongside each price would also enable a collector to more readily identify their holdings (or gaps!). This soft-back catalogue is illustrated in full colour throughout and in addition contains lots of useful information about where to see stamps in the UK, caring for your stamps, a philatelic glossary of terms, why stamps are worth money and other advice and tips •

Events guide Available from the BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Telephone 020 7239 2570. E-mail enquiries: info@postalheritage.org.uk

BPMA events guide The British Postal Museum and Archive has produced a six-page A5 full-colour and well illustrated guide to all their events scheduled for 2006. Most events are free to attend, and comprise exhibitions, tours and open days, lectures and talks, seminars and film screenings. Something for everyone interested in the history of our postal service •

SG Product Guide Stanley Gibbons has recently produced a 2006 edition of its product guide. Comprising 44 A5 colour pages, it is their biggest yet, as befits a company that is celebrating its 150th anniversary. If you require catalogues, albums, stock systems and accessories, or you wish to subscribe to *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, invest in the hobby or require answers to FAQs, then this free publication is for you •

SG Product Guide Stanley Gibbons, 7 Parkside, Christchurch Rd, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Telephone 01425 472 363. www.stanleygibbons.com/150 is their anniversary website.

Society publications *ABPS News* for February has appeared and is up to the usual high standard of production that readers have come to expect. Slimmer than normal, but no less useful, the February issue has suffered from 'a distinct lack of information sent in from local societies', according to the Editor, Richard West. He even goes so far as to ask whether the time has come for an electronic-only version of *ABPS News* to be produced, which is something for the membership to debate. There is a news round-up, an article about Graham Childs, Chairman of the Congress Committee, a conservation and preservation article from David Beech, and much more besides of interest to societies and their members •

ABPS enquiries Mike Brindle, General Secretary, ABPS, PO Box 199, Thetford IP24 3WX.

The Letter Box Study Group's *Newsletter* has not been mentioned here since it underwent a revamp a few issues back. It used to comprise loose A4 sheets with almost no illustrations, but it is now A3 folded in half, and stapled to form a 32-page magazine, with many illustrations, together with a four-page pull-out order form for various 'goodies'. It remains in black and white, so it would be nice if finances could stretch to a colour middle four pages every so often, as letter boxes are such colourful objects. The newsletter contains much information, with emphasis on British boxes, and includes details about miniature collectable boxes, stamps and covers, postcards (each issue comes with a free historical postcard) and, of course, information about Royal Mail's boxes past, present and future •

The Letterbox Study Group Membership enquiries: Val Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES. See www.lbsg.org or e-mail membership@lbsg.org

The GB Journal and *The GBPS Newsletter* for January/February contain major articles covering 'From POP to PIP', 'UK Bankers' Mail Services of the 20th Century' and 'Dividing Sheets at Somerset House' in the main publication; while the newsletter contains many smaller features covering society displays, competitions, exhibitions and other items of great interest to the collector of all periods of British philately •

GBPS Membership Secretary, Peter Tanner, Highstandings, 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7EN, e-mail peter@ltanner.freemove.co.uk or see www.gbbs.org.uk/journal.htm

The final copies of the *BDSSC News Letter* and *NewsSheet* appeared last December and comprised 28 A4 pages of information about modern British stamps. It has now merged with 'The Bookmark' *Journal* as part of the new Modern British Philatelic Circle's (MBPC) creation in January, when the BDSSC and the GB DSB SC joined forces. The Circle maintains low rates of membership subscription, currently: UK £8; Rest of the world airmail £12 or £8 surface mail. Details of recent issues and 'finds' are posted to the website www.mbp-circle.co.uk as soon as possible after issue. Catalogue details will be confirmed in the next issue of 'The Bookmark' *Journal*. New members, whether beginners or experts, are always welcome. Enquirers receive an information pack, details of membership and a sample copy of 'The Bookmark' *Journal*. The Circle year is from July to June; those joining part way through the year receive all relevant publications for that year •

MBPC enquiries Tony Wilkins, 3 Buttermere Close, Brierley Hill DY5 3SD or e-mail tony@mbp-circle.co.uk

Leamington & Warwick PS

For more details contact the secretary, Nick Bridgwater on 01926 423685, or see <http://leamphil.users.btopenworld.com>

Society news The Leamington & Warwick Philatelic Society celebrated its golden anniversary at Leamington Spa last December. Displays with the theme '50' were made by three members, and each member was given a history of the society and postcards depicting local postmarks.

Forthcoming meetings are: 5 April, Allied Occupation of Austria 1945-1955 (Paul Watkins); 19 April, Chairman's Evening (Martin Robinson); and 3 May, 50th Annual General Meeting (all members). Visitors are welcome from 19.15 (for 19.30) to approximately 21.30 every fortnight at Oddfellows Hall, Clarence Terrace, Warwick Road, Leamington Spa •

Sotheby's Telephone 020 7293 5000. Website www.sothebys.com

Auctions The next sale of the collection of the late Sir Gawaine Baillie will be sold by Sotheby's in New York next month. This will comprise the British North America section. Canada is represented by some very detailed studies from 1851-2000, including 3d 'beaver' multiples and one of the finest 12d black in existence. The 'Cents' issues include multiples and a fine range of proof and specimen stamps, often in complete sheets. The 'Queen's Head' series includes some unique multiples, and there are classic issues of British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. The reclusive Sir Gawaine Baillie (see *Bulletin* September 2004) built up one of the finest collections of all time, expected to realize over £11 million •

Cavendish Telephone 01332 250970, or see website www.cavendish-auctions.com

Cavendish's Worldwide & GB auction (20-21 April) will include Michael Salmon's 'Charles Whiting Story' collection comprising Treasury Competition essay designs, Congreve/Branston bi-colour designs of the 1820s, bank-note tax stamps c1830, etc. Cavendish is to auction the Robert Johnson collection of GB 2d Blue plate numbers on cover in their Washington 2006 auction. Viewing will be in the UK and USA and will come under the hammer in Derby on 8-9 June 2006.

The GB section of Cavendish's January sale was, as ever, very popular and collections are proving to be always in demand. A small lot of unused Mulready caricatures made £529 on a £140 estimate. With quality line-engraved in big demand it was no surprise to see the line-engraved collection (Lot 708) taken to £920 (estimated £460), and the part reconstructions of 1855 1d reds (Lots 719 & 720) taken to £2530 and £1265 respectively. In the Postal History section of GB, the Isle of Wight Ship Letter made £1150. Then there was the magnificent 'Ebor' collection of Parcel Posts. Collections like this come along very rarely, and the support for this section was impressive with the sold lots averaging almost double the pre-sale estimates. Star lot was the 1790 Coach Label on wrapper at £2070, followed by Lot 1110 – Ireland to Transvaal (spectacular franking) at £1725 and Lots 1025 (first day Parcels Post label) and Lot 1048 (Alderney parcel label), each making £1495. To tie up a fine 'sail', the Lord of The Isles Steamer cachet on cover to Burma made £552 •

Grosvenor Telephone 020 7379 8789 or see website www.grosvenorauctions.com

Grosvenor will be holding a specialized GB & All World Stamp & Postal History sale on 18-19 May. This sale will include a unique strip of four 1d Black plate 4 cancelled by the distinctive Wotton-under-Edge Maltese Cross in red •

Royal Mail news New issues and products



The eight new country stamps to go on sale from 28 March.

Definitive and country stamp changes Certain postal rates will be increased on 3 April. Four new national definitives and eight new country stamps go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House from 28 March. Details were given in an insert to February's *Bulletin* and again last month. The revised rates necessitate the withdrawal of the 35p, 42p, 46p, 47p, and 68p definitives and the 42p and 68p country stamps from general sale at Post Office branches on 1 April (or 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.

As readers may be aware from reports in the press, Royal Mail is to introduce a new system for pre-payment of mail. This will take into account the size as well as the weight of the item. Known as 'Pricing in Proportion', the new system will be introduced in August, and will be explained in the May *Bulletin*. Changes to the text in stamp books and on business sheets are being made in anticipation of the new system. Books of 6 × 1st (£1.92), 12 × 1st (£3.84), and 12 × 2nd (£2.76), will go on philatelic sale on 25 April and at PO branches and retail outlets as existing stocks are used up. The text on the back cover will read: 'Valid for items up to 60g before 21 August 2006. Under new pricing structure from 21 August 2006 – valid for postal items up to: 240mm Long; 165mm Wide; 5mm Thick; 100g Weight.'

The amended business sheets of 100 1st and 2nd class stamps (£32 and £23) will be available from 16 May •



Valid for items up to 60g before 21 August 2006.

Under new pricing structure from 21 August 2006 – valid for postal items up to: 240mm Long; 165mm Wide; 5mm Thick; 100g Weight.

08457 740 740
www.royalmail.com
08456 000 606

Text on the back cover of the 12 × 2nd book, in anticipation of the 'Pricing in Proportion' system.

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Queen's birthday cylinders and colours (all values):

E1 black • E1 turquoise • E1 grey • E1 phosphor

British Journey: England The technical details for this issue (*December Bulletin*) describe the gutter pairs as horizontal. We wish to point out that as the sheets of 60 have a horizontal gutter between the two panes of stamps, the gutter pair arrangement is better described as vertical. We regret any confusion caused.

Special issues This month's special issue is a set of eight (in four se-tenant pairs) marking the 80th birthday of HM The Queen. The stamps, which go on sale three days before Her birthday, on 18 April, were previewed here in February. There will be a coin cover (21 April, see opposite), and a commemorative document (17 June, The Queen's official birthday and the date for this year's Trooping the Colour ceremony). The commemorative document, in a stylish folder, includes the eight stamps plus a silver reproduction of the stamps by the Royal Dutch Mint. A profile of The Queen is illustrated by portraits of Her as Princess Elizabeth and throughout her long reign. Further details of the document will be given next month.

The miniature sheet for the new Wembley Stadium, scheduled for issue on 11 May, has been postponed. The miniature sheet was to be issued to coincide with the FA Cup Final at the new stadium (13 May) but owing to delays in completing the stadium, the Cup Final will now be held at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff. A new date for the miniature sheet will be announced in due course. Royal Mail regrets any disappointment and inconvenience caused by the postponement of the issue.

The generic Smilers sheet on the 1966 World Cup Final, also scheduled for 11 May, is being revised and will now feature the World Cup Winners 1st class stamp (6 June) instead of the amended 2002 World Cup (crowned lion) stamp as previously announced. The sheet will now be issued on 6 June along with the World Cup Winners set.

The National Portrait Gallery stamps (18 July) feature portraits of 10 major historical characters from the 16th to the 20th centuries: William Shakespeare, T S Eliot, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Virginia Woolf, Sir Walter Scott, Charles Darwin, Sir Winston Churchill, Mary Ann Seacole, Emmeline Pankhurst, and Dame Cicely Saunders. These stamps will appeal to all interested in portraiture as well as British history. The issue marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the National Portrait Gallery situated in central London just opposite the Trafalgar Square Post Office.

A miniature sheet on 31 August marks the 70th anniversary of 'The Year of Three Kings' – George V, who died 20 January 1936, Edward VIII, who reigned 20 January - 10 December 1936 and George VI whose reign started on 11 December 1936 following the abdication of his brother. The sheet will contain the Machin £3 stamp and reproductions of stamps from the reigns of the three Kings – grandfather, uncle, and father of The Queen •

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 Machins (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		

Coin and ingot covers The coin cover to mark HM The Queen's 80th birthday goes on sale on her actual birthday, 21 April. It depicts 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 the eight 80th Birthday stamps cancelled by a special Windsor postmark, and Royal Mint's £5 (crown) Birthday coin is encapsulated. The reverse of the coin features state trumpets and inscription '1926 VIVAT REGINA 2006'. The cover costs £17.95 (plus handling charge).



The Caernarfon Castle ingot (25 April). Shown larger than actual size.

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. Price £24.95 (plus handling charge). The two previous covers in this series, still available from Tallents House, feature Windsor Castle (23 September 2005), and Edinburgh Castle (17 January 2006 – shown on the back cover of January's *Bulletin*). The fourth ingot 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 •

Smilers sheets On 25 May, we will issue a generic Smilers sheet for the Washington 2006 world stamp exhibition. This sheet will contain 20 of the 1st class Hello stamp (originally 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 exhibition logo. Both sheets, printed in litho by Cartor, will cost £6.95 each. The next generic Smilers sheet, on 6 June, day of issue of the World Cup Winners set, contains 20 World Cup 1st class 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 a capacity-filled Wembley Stadium (93,000 fans) to 5.30pm when World Champion England saluted the crowd and performed a victory lap of Wembley. One of the labels shows England captain, the late Bobby Moore, receiving the World Cup from HM The Queen.

Looking ahead, a generic sheet containing 20 1st class definitive-size Smilers stamps, first issued in stamp books last October, will be available from 4 July. The stamps will be printed in litho whereas those in the book were printed in gravure.

For details of how to order customised versions of the sheets, with your own image printed on the labels, telephone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7483 (overseas customers), or see the Smilers leaflet/order form. Orders using digital photos can also be placed over the web: www.royalmail.com •

Going off sale The Royal Wedding miniature sheet goes off sale on 7 April, and the World Heritage Sites stamps, pack, stamp cards and Pacific Explorer Stamp Expo 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 *Letters by Night* (TPO) prestige book will be withdrawn on 28 April •

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.

British Postal Museum & Archive Still on show at the BPMA is the Victorian Innovations exhibition, some of the 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 – ‘Elizabeth: Queen & Icon’ – opens on 18 April, day of issue of the The Queen’s 80th birthday stamps.

The BPMA’s ‘Brunel Speeding the Mail’ exhibition, which was shown at Spring Stampex, will tour the South West and be on display at the Saltash Community Centre (17-23 April), Saltash Library (24-30 April), Porthcurno Museum (1-10 May), Newton Abbott Museum (11-31 May), and Torbay Museums (1-22 June). Later dates and venues will be published in our Events section. To check dates and for further information see the BPMA website: www.postalheritage.org.uk/exhibitions or phone 020 7239 2570 •

Airletter paper change For reasons of economy, the standard airletter (aerogramme) will in future be printed on white rather than blue paper. Supplies of the single airletter will be issued to Post Office branches as required from late April, and discount packs (with star printed on airletter flap) from mid-June. There will be no philatelic first day of availability. The Welsh airletter (single and discount versions) will be on white paper when next reprinted. Airletters are printed by Mail Solutions Ltd of Telford •

Further details of Mr Walker’s talk are given on the Westpex website: www.westpex.com

GB in SF Machin collector Tony Walker was asked by the President of the GBCC (Great Britain Collectors Club) of America if his pre-decimal Machin display (F1P gold medal) could be shown at the Westpex exhibition. This was agreed, and Tony will be taking it to the exhibition in April. There are many GB collectors in the USA, and the GBCC is one of two ‘Host Societies’ for this major show. Several of their members are also members of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, and were aware that Tony is a member of Royal Mail’s Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC). As a result Tony has been asked to give a talk, with display material from the SAC archives, on the Committee’s work. It is scheduled for 10.00am on Saturday 29 April at the Westpex Exhibition at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel. A profile of Tony Walker was published here in December 2003 and articles on his pre-decimal Machin stamp collection in March and April 2000 •

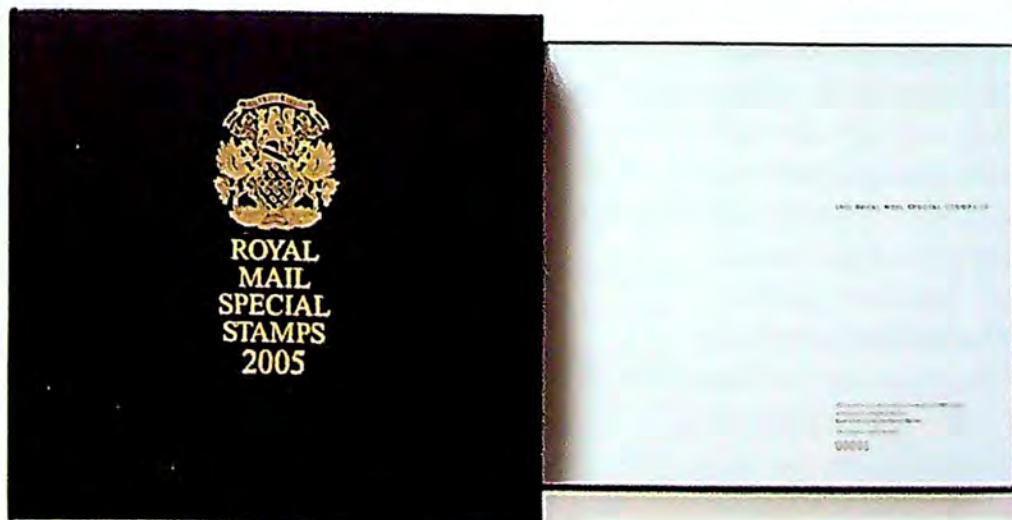
Graves at Kensal Green Harry Reeves, who used to work at the National Postal Museum, has sent us photographs of three graves at Kensal Green cemetery in London – those of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, William Mulready (famous for his envelope and lettersheet design), and Anthony Trollope, the novelist and postal official who introduced the letter box in the UK. We feature here Harry's photograph of Brunel's grave, and will show those of Mulready and Trollope in future issues. Brunel's headstone includes the names of his parents (Sir Marc and Dame Sophie Brunel), his wife (Mary Elizabeth), sons Isambard (a lawyer) and Henry (civil engineer), and Isambard's widow and niece. Kensal Green cemetery was the first of the great commercial cemeteries to be opened in London in the 1830s. The burial there of two children of George III in the 1840s granted social acceptance to the 'gardens for the deceased'. Other notables buried there include Leigh Hunt, Thackeray, and Wilkie Collins •



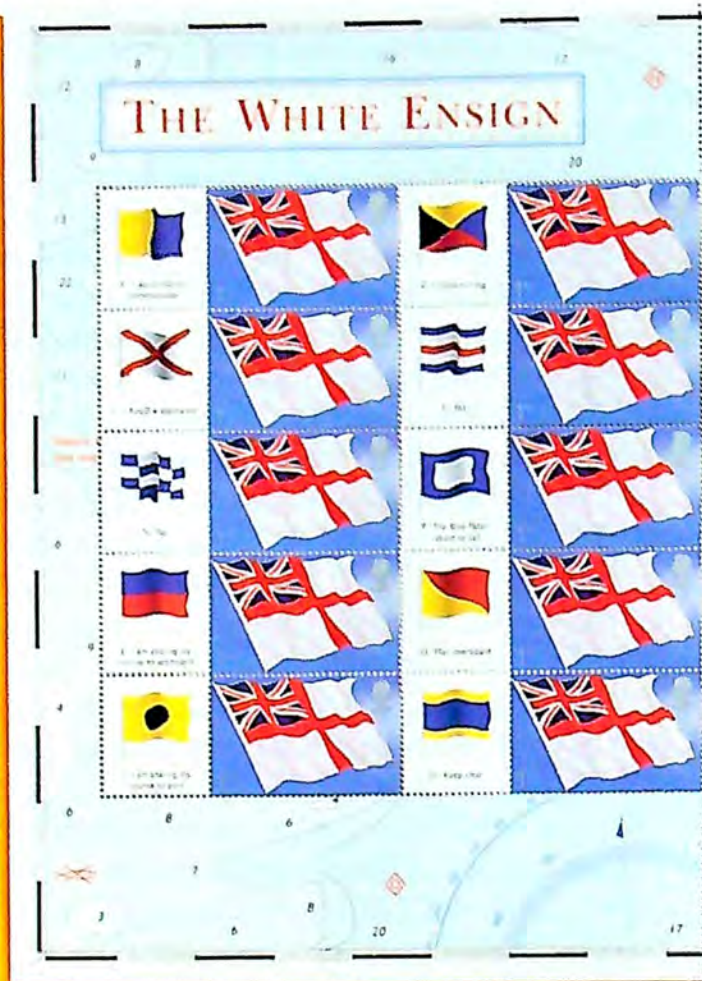
Bulletin back issues John McGordon has for sale a run of the *Bulletin* from January 1974 to December 1996, also free a run of *Stamp Preview* for 1997-2005. Contact Mr McGordon on 01946 814983. Mr H Gadd has for sale *Bulletins* September 1965 to December 1990 (in binders) and January 1991 to July 1994 (loose). Contact him on 01952 461011 •

Special draw Win 2005 De Luxe Yearbook

FOR THIS MONTH'S draw we have a leather-bound de luxe 2005 Royal Mail Yearbook with serial number 00001 for the sender of the first card drawn on 28 April. Five runners-up will receive packs and stamp cards of The Queen's 80th Birthday stamps. Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: De Luxe Yearbook Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. •



Generic Smilers sheets A complete list, by Glenn Morgan



LAST AUGUST, my article and listing of Business Customised Stamp sheets led several readers to request an update to the Generic Smilers sheets listing published in the *Bulletin* in April 2002. As some readers will not have seen the original article, our Editor has agreed to the complete listing from 2000 appearing here.

This series of sheets exists to enable philatelic customers to acquire the stamps which appear alongside the photographs used for personalised Smilers, but without needing to pay for the premium photographic service. Instead, the labels are pre-printed with an appropriate image, and have attractive marginal designs. Sheets currently sell for 55p above face value of the stamps included.

These sheets have proved extremely popular with collectors and, since Royal Mail produced their Smilers album, the prices of obsolete sheets have risen substantially as collectors attempt to fill their gaps. The star items are the pair of 2001 Christmas Robin and Christmas Cracker design

sheets (numbered 2a and 3a opposite) with the short-lived 'Consignia' copyright imprint. These were missed by many collectors, probably because outwardly they resembled the previously issued version with an imprint of 'The Post Office'.

The decorative margin, stamps and labels are all printed by a Royal Mail security stamp printer. Completeness is achievable, collectors usually favouring to retain full or half sheets, although some collect just singles of each possible stamp and label combination.

Further sheets have been announced for 4 July (small-size Greetings stamps, as in stamp book October 2005), and 7 November (Christmas) •

Another article by Mr Morgan on Business Customised sheets will be published shortly.

Smilers album order codes and prices (plus handling fees)

Album to 2002 PA668	£16.50	2004 pages PA694	£5.99
Slipcase PA676	£ 7.50	5 blank pages PA633	£2.99
2003 pages PA684	£ 5.99		

Generic Smilers sheets catalogue listing

Year	No	Date	Issue details	Format	Printer/process	Gum	Price
2000	1	22.05	'The Stamp Show 2000' (Smiles stamps) (51,724 sold)	10 P	Questa G	WA	£ 25
	2	03.10	Christmas (Robin in post-box stamp), Post Office © imprint	20 L	Questa G	WA	£130
	3	03.10	Christmas (Cracker stamp), Post Office © imprint	10 L	Questa G	WA	£110
2001	4	01.05	Occasions (mock-hallmark stamps)	20 L	Questa L	WA	£ 75
	5	03.06	Smiles (as 1, but Royal Mail cruciform logo in margin)	10 P	Questa L	WA	£ 95
	2a	09.10	Christmas (Robin in post-box stamp), Consignia © imprint	20 L	Questa G	WA	£425
	3a	09.10	Christmas (Cracker stamp), Consignia © imprint	10 L	Questa G	WA	£425
	6	18.12	Cartoons (Cartoons stamps)	10 P	Questa L	WA	£ 35
2002	7	23.04	Occasions (Hello, Moving, Best Wishes, Love, New Baby)	20 L	Questa L	WA	£ 35
	8	21.05	World Cup Football Championships (World Cup stamp)	20 L	Walsall L	WA	£ 20
	9	01.10	Knock, Knock! (10 Bear & 10 Dennis the Menace stamps)	20 L	Questa L	WA	£ 20
	10	01.10	Christmas (Cracker stamp), new marginal design	20 L	Questa L	WA	£ 15
2003	11	21.01	Flower Paintings (Flower stamps)	20 L	Questa L	WA	£ 17
	12	04.02	Occasions (multiple choice tick boxes stamps)	20 L	Questa L	WA	£ 17
	13	29.07	Crosswords (Cartoons stamps)	20 L	Questa L	WA	£ 15
	14	30.09	Christmas (Winter Robins stamp)	20 L	De La Rue L	SA	£ 15
	15	04.11	Christmas (Ice Sculptures 1st class spiral stamp)	20 L	De La Rue L	SA	£ 15
	16	04.11	Christmas (Ice Sculptures 2nd class star stamp)	20 L	De La Rue L	SA	£ 15
2004	17	30.01	'Hong Kong 2004' Stamp Expo (Hello stamp)	20 L	De La Rue L	WA	£ 12
	18	03.02	Occasions (Entertaining Envelopes stamps)	20 L	De La Rue L	WA	£ 12
	19	25.05	Royal Horticultural Society Bicentenary (Dahlia stamp)	20 L	Enschede G	WA	£ 12
	20	27.07	'Rule Britannia!' (Union Flag stamp)	20 L	Walsall L	WA	£ 10
	21	02.11	Christmas Delivery (10 1st & 10 2nd class Santa stamps)	20 L	De La Rue L	SA	£ 10
2005	22	11.01	Farm Animals (Farm Animals stamps)	20 L	Walsall L	WA	£ 10
	23	15.03	Magic! (Heads and Tails Magic stamp)	20 L	Walsall L	WA	£ 10
	24	21.04	'Pacific Explorer '05' Stamp Exhibition (Hello stamp)	20 L	Walsall L	WA	TH
	25	21.06	White Ensign (White Ensign stamp)	20 L	Cartor L	WA	TH
	26	15.09	'Classic ITV' 1955-2005 (Emmerdale stamp)	20 L	Walsall L	WA	TH
	27	01.11	Christmas (1st & 2nd class Winter Robin stamps)	20 L	Cartor L	SA	TH
2006	28	10.01	A Bear Called Paddington (1st class Paddington stamp)	20 L	Cartor L	SA	TH
	29	07.03	'Fun Fruit and Veg' (Fruit and Vegetable stamps)	20 L	Cartor L	SA	TH
	30	25.05	Washington 2006 exhibition (Hello stamp)	20 L	Cartor L	WA	TH
	31	06.06	'England's Finest Hour' (1st class World Cup Winners stamp)	20 L	Cartor L	WA	TH

Format Number of stamps per sheet (10 or 20), in portrait (P) or landscape (L) sheet layout

Gumming Water activated (WA) or self-adhesive (SA)

Printing process G (photo)gravure or L (offset) lithography

Price Approximate current price: substantial discrepancies may be found, as prices are extremely volatile at present

TH Item still available at the original new issue price from Royal Mail Tallents House

World Cup The winning teams, 1934-2002



World Cup Winners stamps
Design by Madeleine Bennett, images by Getty Images. The Queen's silhouette is top right with the value at bottom right, and the flag of the relevant country at right with the years they won below. The football takes the form of a globe.

THE 2006 WORLD CUP FINALS will be held in Germany, 9 June - 9 July. Stamps featuring players from countries that have won the Cup from 1934 to 2002 go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 6 June. The stamps feature: 1st class England; 42p Italy; 44p Argentina, 50p Germany; 64p France; and 72p Brazil.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25. However sheets of 50 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Printers

Process Lithography

Stamp size 35mm square

Sheets 25 and 50

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Plate numbers and colours

All values W1 lemon • W1 grey • W1 yellow • W1 magenta • W1 blue • W1 black • W1 phosphor

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 6 June, price 25p. The cover features a specially designed football badge. Orders for FDCs with stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Balls Park, Hertford must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £3.99 UK, £3.40 overseas. The cover and pictorial postmarks were designed by True North design group of Manchester.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to a Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres (Balls Park postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FDO621' (Tallents House), or 'FDO622' (for Balls Park). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for a Balls Park postmark. A non-pictorial Balls Park postmark is available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FDO622 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 6 June will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere).



Wembley Stadium, London, July 30 1966. A venue and a date that shines bright in English sporting history, the day when England became the football champions of the world. As Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth presented the Jules Rimet Trophy to Captain Bobby Moore, the 11 victorious players could hardly have imagined how their names would become part of World Cup legend for decades.

Now, 40 years on, England are again competing in the World Cup Finals, where the favourites will be the hosts, Germany, the champions, Brazil, and the usual suspects, Argentina, Italy and France.



England

Hosts 1966
Champions 1966
Runners-up 1990
Total goals scored in tournament 68
Top scorer Gary Lineker 10
Most appearances Peter Shilton 17

Brazil

Hosts 1950
Champions 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002
Runners-up 1950, 1998
Total goals scored in tournament 99
Top scorer Pelé, Ronaldo, 12
Most appearances Dunga, Taffarel, 16

Geoff Hurst scored the first, and still the only, hat-trick in a World Cup Final when England defeated West Germany 4-2 at London's Wembley Stadium. Though Hurst's first goal, a headed equaliser from Captain Bobby Moore's free-kick, was the best of the three, the others will live longer in the memory. At 2-2 in extra-time Hurst's shot hit the underside of the bar and bounced down. Was it over the line?

Russian fireman Tofik Bakhtamov thought it was and awarded one of the World Cup tournament's most famous goals. Then, in stoppage time, Hurst ran from halfway on to a Moore pass and thumped the ball into the back of the German net with the very last kick of this dramatic match. Kenneth Wolstenholme's TV match commentary was to become a legend. "Some people are on the pitch. They think it's all over. It's not!"

Brazil have won 5 of the 17 World Cup Final tournaments. When Cafu, in 2002, lifted the trophy in Japan, it laid to rest the ghost of the 1950 Final when they were such a disappointment against France. This time Ronaldo showed his true form, scoring both goals as Brazil beat Germany 2-0. Ronaldo finished top marksman in the tournament with 8 goals out of Brazil's tally of 18. Cafu, the Brazil Captain, became the first to play in three World Cup Finals. In the USA in 1994, Brazil finished on top of the world, but following the first goalless final they triumphed only when Roberto Baggio of Italy placed over the bar to end the penalty shoot-out. Mexico 1970 saw Brazil at their best with Pelé, the game's greatest player, in his full pomp. Pelé scored the first goal - unusually for him with a header - and laid on a spectacular fourth for Carlos Alberto as Brazil outplayed Italy 4-1 in the final.



Mrs J Robinson
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PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £3.55) and stamp cards (£1.80 set) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House. The pack, written by Ian Cole, was designed by True North and features players from countries that have won the World Cup. It includes some interesting facts - buy one to find out who has captained more matches than anyone else in World Cup history, and how much Geoff Hurst's 1966 England team shirt sold for in 2002! A World Cup medal cover will also be available, price £14.95; details to follow •

The presentation pack (top of page) shows Diego Maradona of Argentina (winners in 1978 and 1986), Paolo Rossi, Italy (1934, 1938, 1982), Zinedine Zidane, France (1998), Geoff Hurst, England (1966); Pelé, Brazil (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002) and Franz Beckenbauer, W Germany (1954, 1974, 1990)



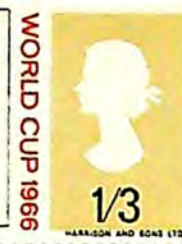
The year of issue is printed at the base of the figure 1 on the 1st class World Cup Winners stamp. Shown 1500% actual size. See also p250 for more on 'hidden' dates.

World Cup stamps This is the third Royal Mail issue marking the World Cup. Three stamps were issued on 1 June to mark the 1966 finals, staged in England (11-30 July). The stamps featured players with ball (4d stamp designed by David Gentleman), goalmouth melee (6d, William Kempster), and goalkeeper saving goal (1s3d, David Caplan). The 4d stamp was reissued with the additional caption 'ENGLAND/WINNERS' positioned above the players on 18 August. This proved enormously popular, the entire printing of 12.5 million stamps selling out almost overnight, with queues at the Philatelic Bureau, then in London, and at the Trafalgar Square Post Office. Bobby Moore, the captain of the England team, featured on stamps in 1996 (Football Legends, below, top right) and in 1999 (Millennium Entertainers' Tale set, below, bottom centre). Sadly, Moore is no longer around to celebrate the 40th anniversary of England's win this July.

The second World Cup issue was in 2002, when the finals were held in Japan and Korea. There was a single 1st class stamp showing the Crowned Lion with Shield of St George, an adapted version of the 1st class English country stamp, plus a miniature sheet containing four stamps with composite design making up the English (St George) flag. A Smilers sheet contained one of the miniature sheet stamps and 20 labels showing supporters or match scenes. Two of the stamps were also issued in self-adhesive format in a stamp book.

A stamp was designed in preparation for Scotland winning the World Cup in 1978; sadly it wasn't needed, but the design (shown here in August 1998, page 360) created considerable interest when displayed at the Glasgow 2000 stamp exhibition in 2000.

Other football stamps are the 1988 34p Sports Organizations (Centenary of Football League, below, bottom left), 1996 Football Legends issue, and 2000 1st class Millennium Body & Bone (Hampden Park, Glasgow, below, bottom right) •



Modern architecture Our changing skyline



SIX STAMPS featuring prominent modern British buildings go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 20 June. The stamps are: 1st class, 30 St Mary Axe, London EC3, popularly known as 'the Gherkin' (architect Foster and Partners, 1997-2004); 42p, Maggie's Centre, Dundee (Frank Gehry, 1996-2003); 44p, Selfridges, Birmingham (Future Systems, 1999-2003); 50p, Downland Gridshell, Chichester, Sussex (Edward Cullinan, 1995-2002); 64p An Turas, Isle of Tiree (Sutherland Hussey, 2000-2003); and 72p, The Deep, Hull (Terry Farrell & Partners, 1998-2002).

The stamps were designed by London design group Roundel, with images by Richard Bryant, Harriet Logan, Rolf Gobbitz, Peter MacKinven, and Anthony Weller. The Queen's silhouette is at top right, with value or service indicator below. The building name is shown along the left side of the stamp, reading upwards. Roundel designed the 1993 £10 Britannia stamp, and the 1998 Speed, 2002 Airliners, and 2004 Classic Locomotives issues.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25. However sheets of 50 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 20 June, priced 25p. The cover shows the glass dome of the bar and hospitality suite at the crown of 30 St Mary Axe. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or London EC3 must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £3.99 UK or £3.40 overseas.

Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Print

Process Gravure

Stamp size 35 mm square

Sheets 25 and 50

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

The year of issue '2006' is incorporated within the phosphor bands, similar to the 2005 Christmas and Queen's Birthday stamps.



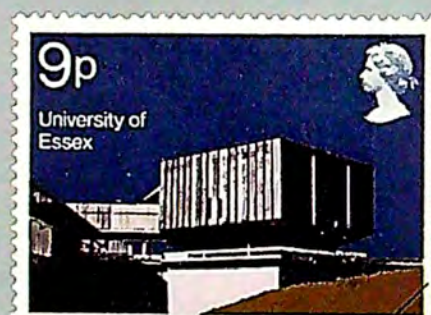
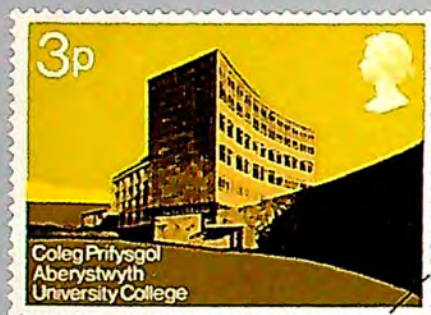
The first day cover, right, and pictorial postmarks were designed by Roundel.



Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of the Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres (London EC3 postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FDO623' (Tallents House), or 'FDO624' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London postmark. A non-pictorial London postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FD 0624 NP'. Details of sponsored handstamps for 20 June will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (opposite, price £3.55) and stamp cards (£1.80 set) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House. The pack was written by Maev Kennedy and designed by Roundel •

Modern architecture on stamps This is the third issue devoted to modern British buildings, following the University Buildings set of 1971 and the British Architects in Europe issue of 1987. Other stamps featuring modern architecture include: National Theatre, London (1975 European Architectural Heritage Year 12p); London skyscrapers (1985 Royal Mail 17p); Princess of Wales Conservatory (1990 Kew Gardens 29p); Lloyd's Building (1999 Millennium Workers' Tale 64p); and Bankside Galleries, Tate Modern (2000 Millennium 1st class) •



The domes of the Eden Project are like angelically familiar aliens: they borrow the hexagonal facets of honeycombs or the facets of an insect's compound eye.



The sharp prow of The Deep was initially conceived as a geological metaphor, part of a crystalline rock structure that might have been formed at the dawn of Earth.



The Selfridges building in Birmingham flows like water, the corners have been dissolved, while the roof curls and blends seamlessly into the walls.



Number of stamps: 10
Date of issue: 2006
Design: [illegible]
Photography: [illegible]
Printer: [illegible]
Project: [illegible]
Stamp design: [illegible]
Format: [illegible]
Size: [illegible]
Number of sheets: [illegible]
Number of stamps: [illegible]
Pack number: [illegible]
Pack design: [illegible]
Pack layout: [illegible]
Printer: [illegible]

'Buildings are no longer earthbound: they can rise like a fountain or swell like a soap bubble. Anything that can be imagined can be built.'

The presentation pack, above, features The Deep, Hull; The Eden Centre in Cornwall; and the new Selfridges building in Birmingham.



Results of 2005 Bulletin readers poll by Glenn Morgan

IN DECEMBER you were invited to vote for your favourite set of special stamps of 2005, and your favourite individual stamp and *Bulletin* author. This was the 20th annual readers poll and, as in previous years, a good response was received from 1100 readers in many parts of the world, marginally down on last year. British stamps continue to be a talking point among collectors, and it seems that no-one is without an opinion, which is how it should be.

I spent several evenings this past winter entering the votes for the 2005 stamp poll into my laptop, but in many ways this was not necessary. If I asked you to jot down your favourite and least well-liked stamp set of the year, there is a good chance that you would be correct on both counts! Trafalgar was easily the winner in the Battle of the Stamps and the Changing Tastes in Britain issue was found to be completely unpalatable to almost every reader of the *Bulletin* who voted.

It is a shame that the Castles MS did not qualify for voting (they are high value definitives, not special stamps, after all), as it was bound to have polled very highly due its use of intaglio printing – always a favourite printing process with stamp collectors. The employment of two other previously utilised designs in miniature sheet formats – ie the End of the Second World War and London 2012 Games – also precluded their inclusion.

Next month I will report on some of the views expressed by voters, for although they were not solicited, they do provide a flavour of the average collector's feelings about special stamps. 'They're all horrid!' was fortunately not a typical response, but it does make me question why this particular reader collects modern British stamps, and how he still felt able to recommend his favourite set of the year (Magic!).

Favourite set As always, points were allocated for each vote for the set: three points for first choice, two points for second and one point for the third. This enabled me to get a clear picture of the relative popularity of each issue. Voting was as shown opposite.

As already mentioned, the Trafalgar issue was the outright winner (with 1743 votes) – by a factor of approaching two-to-one, Trooping the Colour came second (919) and in third place was the British Journey: South West England issue (642).

For interest, past winners were: 1987 Flowers, 1988 Linnean Society, 1989 Birds, 1990 the Queen Mother, 1991 Maps, 1992 Wintertime, 1993 Autumn, 1994 Age of Steam, 1995 Christmas, 1996 Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, 1997 Great Tudor (Henry VIII), 1998 Lighthouses, 1999 Scientists' Tale, 2000 Tree and Leaf, 2001 Weather, 2002 London Bridges, 2003 Extreme Endeavours, and 2004 Woodland Animals.

Favourite stamps The Trooping the Colour 1st class stamp was your favourite stamp by a mile, with the British Journey: South West England 2nd class (Studland Bay) coming second with just over half the number of votes. The Royal Wedding 30p value, with its design showing the happy couple, was in third place. The future of the Monarchy appears safe, with two out of the three favourite stamps being royalty related!

54 of the 77 individual stamp designs attracted 10 or fewer votes each (including 15 stamps with zero points – up from six last year), and 62 out of the 77 designs received under 20 votes each.

Previous favourite individual stamps were: 1996 Wildfowl & Wetlands 19p, 1997 The Great Tudor (Henry VIII) 26p; 1998 Endangered Species 20p; 1999 Scientists' Tale 64p, 2000 Above and Beyond 19p; 2001 Flags Union Jack; 2002 London Bridges 1st class; 2003 Coronation 1st class (Cecil Beaton Coronation portrait of The Queen), and in 2004 the Woodland Animals 1st class (Red squirrel).

When the single stamps are put back into their sets and votes re-counted, three of the 13 stamp issues received 20 or fewer votes for the entire set. These were Magic! (20 votes), Jane Eyre (6) and Changing Tastes in Britain (2). The top four sets were Trooping the Colour (177), British Journey: South West England (127), Christmas (112) and Trafalgar (108). Quite a different result from when you chose your favourite sets.



Favourite stamps and sets The number following each value is as shown in the December *Bulletin*.

Trooping the Colour 1st 39	115	Trooping the Colour 68p 42	8	Farm Animals 1st 04	0
SW England 2nd 11	61	Trooping the Colour 60p 41	7	Farm Animals 1st 06	0
Royal Wedding 30p 28	58	Trafalgar 68p 71	7	Farm Animals 1st 09	0
Christmas 1st 73	46	Christmas 60p 75	7	Jane Eyre 40p 19	0
Christmas 42p 74	35	Christmas £1.12 77	7	Jane Eyre 57p 20	0
SW England 40p 13	34	SW England 1st 12	6	Jane Eyre £1.12 22	0
The Ashes 1st 62	32	World Heritage Sites 68p 37	6	Magic! 68p 26	0
The Ashes 1st 63	32	Motorcycles 1st 44	6	World Heritage Sites 1st 33	0
Trafalgar 68p 70	31	Magic! 40p 24	5	Changing Tastes 1st 51	0
Trafalgar 1st 67	30	Magic! 47p 25	5	Changing Tastes 42p 52	0
Classic ITV 1st 57	29	Royal Wedding 68p 29	5	Changing Tastes 47p 53	0
World Heritage Sites 68p 36	28	Motorcycles 42p 46	5	Changing Tastes 60p 54	0
Classic ITV 2nd 56	28	SW England 57p 15	4	Changing Tastes 68p 55	0
The Ashes 68p 65	27	Jane Eyre 2nd 17	4	Classic ITV 42p 58	0
Trooping the Colour £1.12 43	23	World Heritage Sites 47p 35	4	The Ashes 63p 64	0
World Heritage Sites 2nd 31	19	Christmas 68p 76	4	FAVOURITE SETS	
Trafalgar 1st 66	16	Farm Animals 1st 03	3	Trafalgar	1743
World Heritage Sites 1st 32	15	Motorcycles 40p 45	3	Trooping the Colour	919
Trooping the Colour 2nd 38	15	Motorcycles 60p 48	3	British Journey: SW England	642
Trafalgar 42p 69	15	Classic ITV 68p 61	3	Motorcycles	585
Farm Animals 1st 05	14	Farm Animals 1st 01	2	World Heritage Sites	574
SW England 43p 14	13	Farm Animals 1st 02	2	Christmas	458
Christmas 2nd 72	13	Farm Animals 1st 10	2	The Ashes	340
World Heritage Sites 2nd 30	10	Magic! £1.12 27	2	Farm Animals	305
Farm Animals 1st 08	9	Motorcycles 68p 49	2	Royal Wedding	194
SW England 68p 16	9	Changing Tastes 2nd 50	2	Classic ITV	189
Trooping the Colour 42p 40	9	Classic ITV 68p 60	2	Magic!	149
Motorcycles 47p 47	9	Farm Animals 1st 07	1	Jane Eyre	119
Trafalgar 42p 68	9	Jane Eyre 1st 18	1	Changing Tastes in Britain	65
Magic! 1st 23	8	Jane Eyre 68p 21	1		
World Heritage Sites 47p 34	8	Classic ITV 47p 59	1		

Favourite Bulletin authors This was the 10th year that this poll has been conducted. Douglas Myall (Mainly Machins articles) was once again voted your favourite *Bulletin* author, narrowly beating his nearest rival, Nigel Fordham, with his fascinating Trafalgar-based series, by a mere 41 votes. Nigel's articles were considered by one reader as 'very well researched articles, written in a very readable style. Much appreciated by an ex-Navy man'. Ron Negus and Dorothy Martin were third and fourth respectively.

Disappointingly, 190 readers failed to complete this section of the form, although this is probably due to the high editorial standards set by our Editor, thereby making a decision difficult, rather than indifference on the part of voters. Indeed,

one reader mentioned that 'it is difficult to state a favourite article, as all are of the greatest interest' while another stated that the *Bulletin* was a 'monthly gem' – so while the stamps come in for criticism, the *Bulletin* continues to find favour with its audience.

Draw winners All the voting forms went into two draws. The four winners of £50 each in the Favourite Stamps draw were Robert W Reid (Glasgow), G van Cleave (Japan), Peter D Chamberlain (Rushden) and Tim Wells (Wootton Bassett). The winners of £50 each in the Favourite Bulletin Author draw were Mrs A Willis (Great Bookham) and P J Smith (Stroud) •

Text © Glenn Morgan 2006

Treasures of the BPMA Martin Robinson looks at designs for the proposed Edward VIII Coronation stamps of 1936

SOON AFTER George V died on 20 January 1936, the Post Office took in hand the matter of stamps for the new King's reign. We are all familiar with the four definitive or 'accession' stamps that were issued in September of that year – ½d green, 1d red, 1½d brown and 2½d blue – but what is less well known is that plans for coronation stamps to be issued in May 1937 had reached an advanced stage before they were abandoned when the King signed the instrument of abdication, on 10 December. Had they come to fruition, the intention was that these stamps would replace definitives for three months from the date of the coronation. The British Postal Museum and Archive holds a large range of essays associated with this issue, dated from July 1936 right through to a final version of 8 December.

When the designs for the new definitive stamps had been finalised in June, there was time to concentrate on coronation stamps. An early suggestion was that there might be a set of five stamps, consisting of three low values showing the King wearing the uniforms of the Army, Navy and Air Force respectively, together with two higher value pictorials featuring royal castles. There was much

discussion of the size of the pictorial stamps: the definitive size would be too restrictive for pictorial designs, but choosing another size would involve the printers, Harrison & Sons, in modifying their perforating machines, or even buying new ones. George V Jubilee stamps had been twice the size of definitives, ie 1.6 × 0.95 inches, which was handy for accounting purposes as it gave sheets of 120 stamps, but there was support for slightly smaller landscape format stamps, which would give sheets of 144 or 160 stamps. The latter, at 1.2 × 0.8 inches, was known as 'Australian' size.

Photographs already existed of the King in the uniforms of the Seaforth Highlanders, the Welsh Guards and as an Admiral of the Fleet, but there were none of him in RAF uniform. The naval uniform photograph had to be discarded as being insufficiently clear, so essays were produced using the two other portraits in various frames in green, red, brown and blue. When these were shown to the Postmaster General, Major Tryon, he doubted the King would approve the use of a portrait showing him in military uniform, and suggested a simpler design, using the Hugh Cecil portrait which had been used for the accession stamps.



However, later in September the Post Office also received from the Royal Mint artwork based on an engraving by Humphrey Paget of an effigy to be used for the official medals, so there was another portrait to consider.

The definitive stamps had by now been issued and there was a public row about the design. One criticism was that no recognised artistic advice had been sought (the Stamp Advisory Committee was not to be set up until 1947), so the Royal Fine Arts Commission was hastily consulted on 23 September, and was strongly of the view that the Cecil head should not be used for the coronation stamps, but criticised the Paget head (as reworked by Harrison's staff artists) which had a small crown floating above the King's head, and thought that the lettering and numerals were poor and should be revised by a professional typographer. These opinions were accepted, and the typographer and designer Eric Gill, who had been one of those involved in the controversy about the accession stamps, was asked to develop further designs based on the Paget head. This he did, and essays exist in various oval and rectangular frames. It was then reported that the King had expressed a preference for a crowned head, and the Royal Mint was able to supply one produced by Percy Metcalfe for coronation medals, which Gill incorporated into an unframed design in later essays (above). This design, of classic simplicity, would almost certainly have been the one used had the stamps been issued.

As for the pictorial stamps, rough drawings were submitted by Harrison and Sons on 29 July, one of which, showing a view of Windsor Castle, was essayed in colour on 8 September. Later, further photographs of royal palaces were obtained from the GPO Film Unit, and the first to be essayed on 23 October showed St James's Palace, but it was agreed to be unsuitable. Further pictorial essays, showing near and distant views of Windsor Castle, Tower Bridge and the Tower of London were prepared on 12 November. None were fully satisfactory and other subjects and photographs were sought, but in the event no further pictorial essays were produced because of the abdication.

The illustrations above are of three of the pictorial designs essayed for a one shilling value on 12 November 1936 – Windsor Castle near view, Tower Bridge and the Tower of London – and the final essay of the Eric Gill design using Percy Metcalfe's crowned head of the King, produced on 8 December, two days before he abdicated.

A fuller account of these stamps can be found in Alan Griffiths's booklet *Proposed Edward VIII Coronation Issue*, published by the National Postal Museum in 1989 •

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.

Mainly Machins Specialist collectors report by D G A Myall



Hidden dates on NI pictorial definitives (at 25x actual size)

Hidden dates In my last article I mentioned the microscopic dates to be found on the figures of value on Northern Ireland pictorial definitives. Now they have been found in some of the designs as well as the values. In the October 1998 *Bulletin* I described Questa's Superlitho technology which had been used to include the year '1988' as a security device on certain special issues. It is possible that De La Rue acquired this technology with the Questa business, but Walsall and Enschedé have also printed microscopic dates. They are difficult to find, but using a x20 glass and a lot of patience here is what I have discovered so far. If you can add to this list please write to me c/o the Editor.

1st Walsall, the borderless design: in the hedge leading from the figure 1 (Thirkell position finder F4). I haven't yet found it on the Enschedé or DLR stamps (apart from on the values).

2nd Walsall, borderless design: at the base of the stone on which the head is placed (Thirkell E6/7). Enschedé, in a similar position. Not yet found on the DLR stamp.

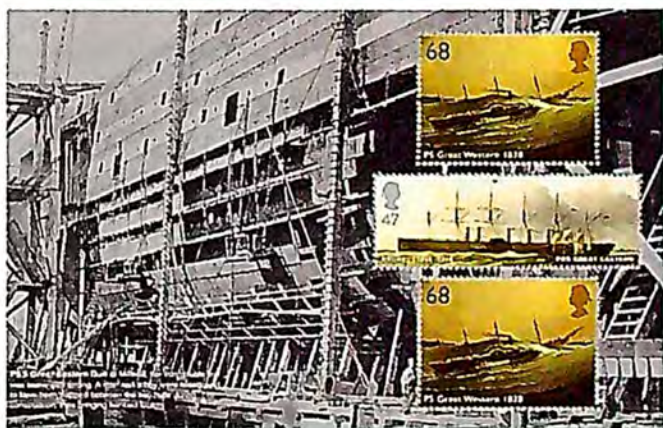
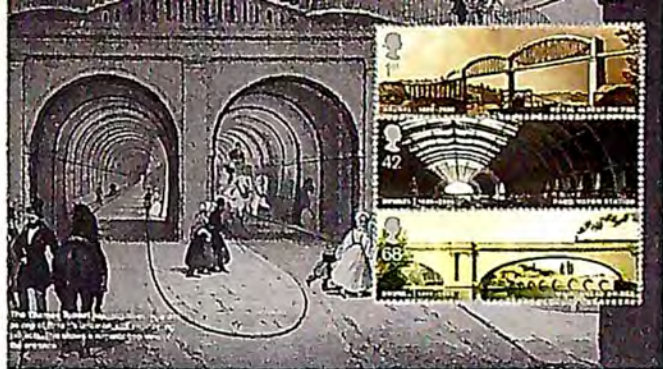
The Parian china design: the date can be found at Thirkell position B1 on all three of these issues, although its exact location varies. On the Walsall 65p it is on the first strand of the basket at the top left; on the De La Rue borderless 68p it is on the second strand; and on the De La Rue 68p with borders it is positioned at the base of the third strand.

I understand that on the new 44p and 72p lithographed stamps the date will appear only in the value only, not elsewhere in the design.

The Thirkell position finder is a plastic grid useful for locating varieties on stamps. It is sold by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. ED

Brunel PSB This is one of the best prestige books ever. Apart from the stamps, I was particularly impressed by the informative and well-written text. Brunel must have been the greatest civil engineer this country has ever known. He was a visionary who had the skills, tenacity and fundraising ability to see his revolutionary ideas realised. Tunnels, viaducts, bridges, railway stations, railway lines, ships; he was successful with all of them. I have heard him likened to Leonardo da Vinci. One difference is that most of his ideas were put into effect and his creations are still with us and in daily use. Only his ships are no longer in service, but one is on display at Bristol, having been rescued in near-derelict condition from the Falkland Islands and restored. For me, one of the most evocative images of recent times is the sight of Concorde on its last flight to Filton flying over the Clifton suspension bridge. What a pity Brunel never saw his bridge. I bet he would have made a big contribution to aeronautics had he lived.

As stated in my previous article, the 40p is new for specialists, being the first Enschedé printing of it. You can distinguish it from the DLR printing because the value is much lower in the frame. (Previous issues of this value are a different colour.) The pane yields eight se-tenant pairs, four horizontal and four vertical, counting the label as a unit. This features a bust of Brunel, but he doesn't look the same without his stovepipe hat.



Twelve new definitives To meet the needs of the tariff changes of 3 April, 12 new definitives were issued on 28 March. There are four Machins and eight country pictorials. They were all printed by De La Rue in sheets. As usual, the Northern Ireland stamps are printed in lithography; the others are in gravure.

The lowest of the new Machin values is 37p in olive green. This replaces the 35p second weight step for 2nd class mail and, like that stamp, has a single central phosphor bar. It is the fourth colour used on this value, all of them taken from the Jeffery Matthews palette established by 1988. The first 37p was issued in red on 26 September 1989. It was in use for about two years, during which time it had several duties, including the second weight step for 1st class letters until 16 September 1990. A rhododendron stamp was issued on 26 September 1996 to pre-pay the worldwide airmail postcard rate. The third issue, in dark grey, paid the worldwide rate for letters and postcards by surface mail until 31 March 2004.

The first 44p Machin was coloured stone, and was issued to pay the 10g worldwide airmail letter rate from 26 April 1999 to 27 April 2000. The new stamp, in ultramarine, will pre-pay the basic rate for letters to Europe. There used to be an NVI (Non-Value Indicator) stamp for this service with 'E' (Europe), in place of a value; these ceased to be issued from 1 April 2004, supposedly because

the public thought the 'E' stood for Euro. There is an NVI for letters to Europe up to 40g; this uses the word Europe to avoid confusion. The Machin head on this stamp is also ultramarine.

The 49p stamp is the first at this value. It is in a colour called rust, and pays the second weight step for letters sent by the 1st class service. Rust was last used for the 26p of 1996 when it pre-paid the basic rate for such letters until 26 April 2000.

The new 72p is also the first at this value. It is in red and pays the second weight step (20g) for worldwide airmail letters. There is an existing NVI to pay the rate for such letters up to 40g. The head on this is also red. This NVI will now cost £1.19, which is the new rate for letters to zone 2 (Australasia and the far east except Hong Kong). The new 40g rate to zone 1 (America and the Middle East) is £1.12 but there is no single stamp for it.

The 44p and 72p values are issued as country pictorial definitives for each of the four countries concerned. They are the same designs as the 42p and 68p stamps which they replace. This is the fourth time the same design has been utilised in Scotland for different values. These designs were chosen by popular vote from those shown on BBC Scotland television. At the time it was announced that they would be replaced by new designs when the Scottish Parliament building was completed. The Queen opened it on 5 October 2004, but so far there is no sign of new stamps.

New stamp paper New printings of Machins on RMS paper continue to appear. The gold 26p and gold 1st-class NVI have always been printed on it but, as I mentioned in my last article, it is now the standard paper for the complete range. The dates of first printing of the 46p and 47p given there need to be revised, as printings on the dates I gave are believed to have been on the brighter TR3 paper. These, and the additional values are given below. Printing dates can be found in sheet margins, and many collectors prefer blocks large enough to show this and the cylinder number.

Value	Cylinders	Printing date
9p	D1 / D1	20/07/05
10p	D1 / D1	09/11/05
20p	D3 / D3	01/06/05
40p	D2 / D2	03/06/05
42p	D1 / D1	20/07/05
46p	D1 / D1	06/06/05
47p	D1 / D1	24/07/05, 11/11/05

Still to come at the time of writing are the 68p and 2nd NVI.

Wales MS The miniature sheet marking the establishment of the National Assembly for Wales was issued on 1 March. The five se-tenant Welsh pictorial definitives are very similar to the normal sheet stamps printed by De La Rue. Both 2nd class issues have 4.5mm central bars. The two-bar stamps from both issues are made from graduated phosphor bands which total 13mm. These are made up of sections of fine and coarse screen. For the specialists, the width of the coarse screen when viewed under a uv lamp is 2mm on each side of the normal sheet issue, and on the left-hand pair on the miniature sheet. On the right-hand pair however, the left bar has a coarse screen measuring only 1.5mm. This is not the result of any error in registration. Apart from a complete sheetlet, the best way to be certain of their origin is to collect the stamps in se-tenant pairs, of which there are four. You will need two sheets for this. The 68p + 1st is then quite clearly different from the 1st + 68p, regardless of the make up of the phosphor bars •

Cover corner

THIS MONTH we feature a cover, submitted by D Cohen, sent from Jersey to Chile on 16 February 1931. It carries 8s6½d (43p) worth of stamps – 2½d postage (rate to 1oz) plus the air fee of 8s4d (4s2d per half ounce). The separate air fees were replaced by inclusive airmail rates shortly after, on 23 February 1931. Stamps include 2s6d and 5s 'Seahorses' (Bradbury Wilkinson die 1), which are quite scarce when postally and properly used on cover. Mr Cohen points out that the routing to Chile in those days was interesting. Apparently the cover would almost certainly have been taken from Jersey to London (although no backstamp), by rail to Toulouse, France (backstamp Toulouse Gare, 21 February), then on to Dakar, Senegal by air (no backstamp), then onwards by fast despatch boat to Natal, in Brazil (again no backstamp), as direct flights to South America were few and far between at that time. Finally, delivery was completed by air via Buenos Aires, Argentina to Santiago, Chile. Quite a journey! •



Philately online Ron Negus reviews a publishing milestone



THE LONDON PHILATELIST is the magazine of the Royal Philatelic Society London. It is regarded as the primary journal of record for the hobby, and has appeared continuously since inception in 1892. It has retained its status by publishing significant study articles about the stamps and postal history of almost every stamp issuing country in the world.

Fellows and members of the Society receive the magazine as part of their subscription. Complete runs are also housed in the libraries of the major societies worldwide. Despite this, access to issues of the journal has been difficult for many since it needed a journey to the nearest philatelic library.

The RPSL has now overcome this limitation by producing a digitised version of the whole publication on CD. Entitled 'The London Philatelist – Archival Edition', the set of twelve discs provides indexed access to 32,000 or more pages covering the editorial text of the 114 volumes from 1892 to 2005 inclusive. Advertisements have not been included. Pages have been scanned so that their reproduction on a computer screen is as close to the original as possible, in black and white or colour as appropriate.

A key requirement of this project was to provide rapid access to any information the journal had published, via a powerful search facility. The last printed cumulative index to *The London Philatelist* only included issues up to 1968, and since then annual indexes have been published. With this new electronic version, various alternative search strategies can be adopted. Full details of the operation of each of these are described in the program's Help pages.

The set of twelve CDs, housed in two protective binders, is priced at £180, plus postage. Orders should be sent to The Secretary, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Any enquiries can be e-mailed to secretary@rpsl.org.uk

In addition to the facsimile copies of each original page, the discs contain the same information in text format, created using optical character recognition. The resulting articles can be searched to find required items by title, author or keywords in the body of the article. Facilities are provided in the program to save search results for future reference.

The unit of data storage within the CD set is a single issue of *The London Philatelist*. Each unit is stored as a separate PDF (portable document format) file, so that pages can be displayed using the Adobe Acrobat Reader program. The installation disc contains the software for this program, for users who do not already have it on their computers. Descriptions of all these aspects of the project are given in the Introduction, which is to be found under the heading 'The RPSL' on the opening screen.

This initial section also contains a general description of the services which are available to the members of the Royal Philatelic Society London, an application form to join the Society, and the outline story of *The London Philatelist* and its nine editors. For its 50th anniversary (in 1919) and its centenary (1969), the Royal produced publications outlining its history up to that point in time. These two volumes are scarce now, but have been reproduced in full on this CD set, which adds even more to its usefulness.

Serious collectors everywhere will welcome the appearance of this archival edition of such an important philatelic publication. The information contained within the pages of this famous journal can now be searched at leisure without visiting a philatelic library. The Archive Editor, Dr Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye, FRPSL must be complimented on the efforts he has made to bring this major philatelic publishing event to a successful conclusion •

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



January identify The detail was from the Gibraltar 38p Trafalgar Anniversary stamp. The winner was R Lacasse of New Hampshire, USA.

January knowledge Answers: 1) sand (or ochre); 2) People & Places; 3) Brian Sanders. The winner was B Finch of Surrey.

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

- 1 Which famous husband and wife actor and actress featured on a 25p stamp in 1996?
- 2 What colour was the George VI 7d stamp?
- 3 Where is an international stamp exhibition to be held next month?

Send your answer (addressed to either the April *Identify* competition or the April *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 12 May will receive £100. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, FDCs or stamp cards will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

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

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

1 April North of Ireland PS Annual Exhibition & Fair, 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 Road, Clitheroe BB7 2JE.

8 April Maidstone and Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair at Grove Green Community Centre, Maidstone (close to Junction 7, M20), 10.00-16.00. **Enquiries** Mrs E Gardner, 01622 762740.

21-22 April Scottish Philatelic Congress at Dewar's Centre, Perth. **Enquiries** A Watson 01324 415558.

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, refreshments, free car parking nearby. **Enquiries** J Bradley, 01709 837073.

6 May Federation of South Wales Phil Socs Annual Convention Stamp & postcard Fair at Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. 15 dealers, Kids activity area. Light refreshments. Souvenir postcard. **Enquiries** G Prior 01656 740520 •

Late news

Definitives The cylinder numbers of the new definitive stamps are: 37p D2, 44p, 49p and 72p D1; England 44p & 72p D1 D1; Scotland 44p D1 x 3, 72p D1 x 5; Wales 44p D1 x 3, 72p D1 x 4; N Ireland 44p D1a x 3, 72p D1a D1a D1a D2a. The phosphor number is D1 on all, except N Ireland - D1a •

Rowland Hill Awards 2005 The Awards for 2005 were presented by Julietta Edgar, Head of Royal Mail Philatelic Sector, at a ceremony held at Claridge's London on 21 March.

BRITISH PHILATELIC TRUST Initiative Awards • *Young Collector*: winner Bertie Brown, runner-up Simon Moorcroft • *Authorship & Research*: winner Eddie Bridges, runner-up Brian Cartwright • *Society Work and Federation*: joint winners Tony Hall and Ian Harvey.

PHILATELIC TRADERS' SOCIETY Enterprise Award • *Personal Contribution*: Nigel Haworth.

ROYAL MAIL INNOVATION AWARDS • *Journalistic Excellence - Print & Broadcast Media*: winner Radio 2, Steve Wright ('The Big Quiz' & 'On the Day') Olympics, runners-up Salisbury Journal, Georgina Pownall - World Heritage and Eastern Eye, Amit Roy - Christmas • *Journalistic Excellence - Philatelic Writing*: winner Ray Simpson & Peter Sargent, ('Why Wing Margins Deserve a Second Look', Gibbons Stamp Monthly, November/December 2005), runner-up Glenn Morgan ('Business Customised Stamps') British Philatelic Bulletin, August 2005).

POST OFFICE EXCELLENCE • winner Oswestry, Shropshire Post Office Branch, runners-up Meliden Road, Prestatyn, Denbighshire and Bristnall Fields, Oldbury, West Midlands PO Branches.

Royal birthday stamp issues The Crown Agents will issue The Queen's 80th Birthday stamps for the following territories on 21 April: Ascension Island, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Antarctic Territory, Cayman Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Pitcairn Islands, St Helena, Samoa, Solomon Islands, South Georgia, Tokelau, Tristan da Cunha, and Vanuatu. Each

will issue four stamps (sheets of 50) and a miniature sheet containing two further stamps, all designed by CASB Studios using photographs of The Queen from the Alpha, Camera Press, and Tim Graham Picture Library agencies, and printed in litho by BDT International. Enquiries: Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, St Nicholas House, St Nicholas Road, Sutton SM1 1EL or see www.casb.co.uk •



Jersey Post issue A new £5 stamp to mark The Queen's birthday will replace the existing £5 definitive. It features a photograph of The Queen by Julian Calder, and is printed by Cartor using embossed 99.9% pure silver to accentuate the frame around the portrait. It has been printed in sheets of four and as a joint issue in a miniature sheet with a \$5 New Zealand stamp. Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Postal Headquarters, Jersey JE1 1AB, or www.jerseystamps.com •



The definitive stamp collection



This gatefold folder has been specifically designed to house six presentation packs containing national and country definitives: Low Values (1p-£1 plus NVI stamps), High Values (£1.50-£5), England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, plus the 2005 42p country stamps – some 43 stamps in total. The front cover of the folder bears the famous Machin head, which features on all national definitives.

Price: £28.95 (order code DY002). Empty folder to hold your packs: price £6.99 (order code PA657). Handling charge: £1.30 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 Rest of World

Royal Mail

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



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Review

The information service for
collectors and cover producers

APRIL 2006

Special announcement to cover producers The number of requests for announcements in this Review has grown rapidly in recent months. Regrettably we must now restrict announcements to one cover per producer per month •

Cambridge Stamp Centre To mark the 30th anniversary of Concorde, covers carried on the first flights from London-Washington and Washington-London (24 and 25 May 1976) will be double postmarked with special handstamps for 24 & 25 May 2006. They will be signed by Capt Mike Bannister, who commanded the last commercial flight by Concorde in 2003. Limited editions •

Orders and enquiries Cambridge Stamp Centre, 9 Sussex Street, Cambridge CB1 1PA. Telephone 01223 363980.



M Tanner offers a full colour cover, limited to just 20 numbered copies of the pss *Great Eastern* designed by I K Brunel and built at John Scott Russell's yard at Millwall, London and launched on 31 January 1858. Artist Kevin Mitchell portrays the iron hulled ship at sea during the 1860s. (The cover is shown at mock-up stage, subject to slight change). The 47p Great Eastern stamp from the Brunel set is cancelled by a Great Eastern/Millwall pictorial handstamp of 23 February. Price £14.99 postpaid UK, £15.99 overseas. Also available Great Western ship cover (same price) and other ships. Just £2 extra Brunel pictorial locomotive/TPO colour cover including six Brunel stamps and two different Clifton Suspension Bridge maximum cards at £8 UK or £9 overseas each. The Great Eastern cover comes with a free colour postcard of the cover image; this and similar postcards price 60p each plus 60p UK postage per order. For photocopy illustrations/prices, send three 1st class stamps or value. Sterling UK cheques, Mastercard and Visa accepted •

Orders and enquiries M Tanner, 180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon CR0 2LA. Fax/answerphone 020 8684 9757 (credit card orders only).





GB Covers Very small limited editions of official double-dated FDCs (two full sets of stamps on one envelope with appropriate postmarks) are produced by the founder and Life President of GBFDC (the Association of Collectors of GB First Day Covers) for Association members. The cover illustrated combines the Northern Ireland and Wales sets from the British Journey series. It was an issue of 30; two are now available to the public, price £22.50 including post and packing •

Orders and enquiries GB Covers, 102 Regal Way, Kenton, Harrow HA3 0RY. E-mail derek@gbcovers.co.uk



A G Bradbury Royal Mail issued five stamps featuring Ice Age Mammals. To coincide with this issue, Adrian Bradbury has designed a limited edition of 500 FDCs featuring a small herd of Woolly Mammoth in a Siberian landscape. The stamps are cancelled with a specially sponsored handstamp, also depicting a Woolly Mammoth. Price £15 or £25 signed by the Director of the Natural History Museum. Order online at www.bfde.co.uk by typing 19765 in the Quick Search Box •

Orders and enquiries A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Leicester LE2 3RA. Telephone 0116 2705367.



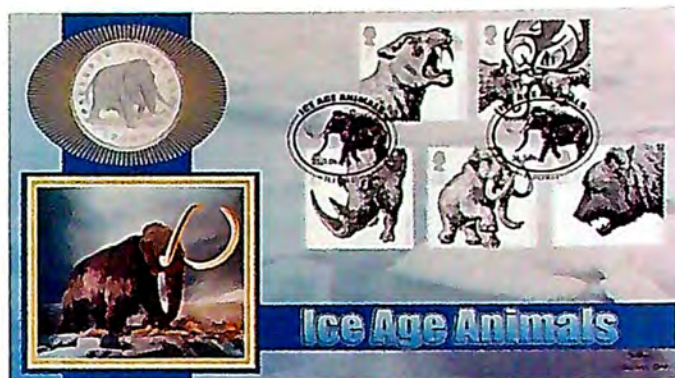
Royal Naval Philatelic Society produced a cover to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the funeral of Lord Nelson on 9 January. The cover features Nelson's column and his tomb, and contains a facsimile copy of the order of service, as well as a set of photocards reproducing paintings of Nelson, the funeral, etc. Six versions of the cover are available: plain at £7.75, special at £10.75, quad signed at £20.75, multi signed at £30.75, extra special/triple signed £12.75, and double signed £9.75. Full details available from the address below. The GB Trafalgar stamps are cancelled by a special Forces postmark applied in silver ink. Some covers bear the Nelson stamp from the 1982 Maritime Heritage issue and Gibraltar's 38p stamp showing a marine guarding Nelson's body. Reduced prices for some covers for members of the RNPS •

Orders and enquiries Royal Naval Philatelic Society, 19 College Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LJ.

Benham The Ice Age Animals issue continued a theme which has recently included Cats & Dogs, Woodland Animals, and Farm Animals. Five animals are depicted, and this coin cover features the woolly mammoth, probably one of the best-known Ice Age animals. The coin – a Gibraltar ‘Preserve Planet Earth’ crown – also features the mammoth and the stamps bear an Ilford cancellation – a location in England where mammoth remains have been found. Price £14.95 plus £1.95 postage and packing. Please quote the media code BPE0604A, product code c06178 and mention the *Bulletin* when ordering •

Orders Benham Covers Ltd, Kelvedon Park, Rivenhall End, Witham CM8 3HB. Telephone 08708 500 654.

Enquiries Benham Group, Unit K Concept Court, Shearway Business Park, Folkestone CT19 4RG. Telephone 08708 500 654. E-mail benham@benham.co.uk



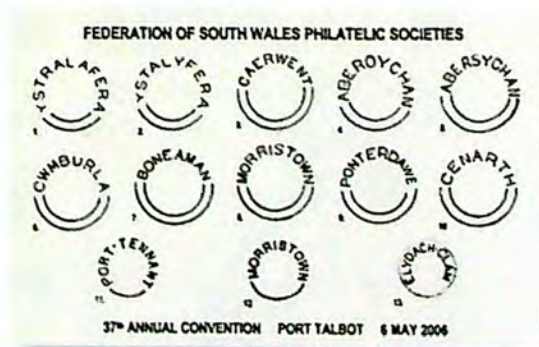
Island of Pabay To mark World Local Post Day (observed by the Local Post Collector Society of the USA), the Island of Pabay has issued a smaller version of its £2 pillar box stamp (October 2002) overprinted 'World Local/Post Day' on 30 January. Mint stamps available at face value, postage £1 UK/Europe, £1.50 elsewhere. First day covers were serviced with the Pabay local stamp cancelled with the island's First Day of Issue postmark and Royal Mail postage paid by SmartStamp showing the island's otter logo in slogan section. Price £5, postage £1.50/£2.50 •

Orders and enquiries Island of Pabay (Stamps), Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9BP. E-mail stampsales@pabay.org



South Wales Philatelic Societies The Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies will hold its annual convention at the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot on 6 May. There will be a souvenir postcard (No 14 in the series), which this year illustrates 13 scarce or rare South Wales undated circular handstamps of the 1840s and 50s. Price 40p unserviced or £1 serviced with appropriate operational datestamp. Please enclose a stiffened SAE measuring at least 7.5 x 5 inches. Remittances payable to South Wales Federation Convention •

Orders and enquiries G N Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY.





Bletchley Park Post Office serviced covers from all five test match grounds for the Ashes stamp issue. Cover featured is Edgbaston, the scene of the most exciting match of the series. On the reverse are the scores for both the Men's and Women's Ashes series. Special permission from the MCC was granted to feature the famous little urn on the cover and as the cancel. Little wonder their mailbag looked like a Who's Who of the cricket world. Complete same number sets are sold out but a few singletons and 'specials' are still in stock ●

Orders and enquiries Bletchley Park Post Office, The Mansion, Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes MK3 6EB. Telephone 01908 631797.

Cover producers wishing to announce a **recent** or **forthcoming** cover should submit typed copy of up to 100 words. Please follow the style above: the text should give a brief description of the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear and give retail price and address to which collectors should send orders or write for further information. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis, and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Copy for consideration for the June 2006 *Review* should be sent to The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ by 7 April. Copy for July should arrive by 8 May. The Editor regrets he cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations with collectors or cover producers concerning covers announced in this *Review*.