

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Bulletin

Volume 39 Number 12

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Peter Pan • London Bridges
issue • Pictorial handstamps



Spanning two thousand years of the capital's history, London's Thames bridges feature in a new set of stamps from Royal Mail, on sale from 10 September.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



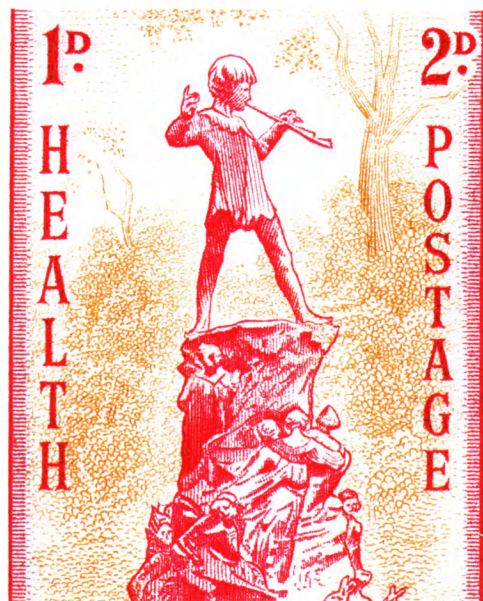
Cover London's best-known bridge, Tower Bridge was opened with great ceremony on 30 June 1894. In a photograph taken on opening day, Royal Mail's 1st class stamp shows the Thames crowded with spectators in small boats, and the procession of official vessels passing beneath the newly-opened bridge. Cover illustration: Illustrated London News Picture Library.

Issues Note some items are available only from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh 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 Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool London (Trafalgar Square and Eastcheap), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth Portsmouth, Southampton Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud Truro, Windsor and York

13 August	Issue Peter Pan stamp cards.
20 August	Issue Peter Pan stamps and presentation pack.
1 September	Withdrawal 1st and 2nd class business sheets of 100 self-adhesive stamps printed by Questa (1st) and Walsall (2nd).
1 September	Withdrawal Gummed stamp books: De La Rue 10 × 1st and 10 × 2nd (UB159, UB160), Walsall 10 × 1st (UB185), Questa 10 × 1st (UB186) and 10 × 2nd (UB187), Walsall 4 × 1st, 4 × 2nd, 4 × 40p, 4 × 65p and 4 × E (UB188, 189, 190, 191 and 193).
3 September	Issue London Bridges stamp cards.
3 September	Withdrawal Punch & Judy stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards (stamp book containing self-adhesive stamps now sold out).
10 September	Issue London Bridges stamps, presentation pack and stamp book (contains 1st definitives and 1st Bridges, all self-adhesive).
17 September	Issue Astronomy stamp cards (set of five: four stamps and miniature sheet).
24 September	Issue Astronomy miniature sheet, presentation pack and <i>Across the Universe</i> prestige stamp book.
1 October	Issue Pillar Boxes stamp cards.
1 October	Withdrawal Nobel Prizes stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

Bulletin on the move After three years at Gavrelle House in Bunhill Row, the Bulletin Editor along with the rest of Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles moves to 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ on 15 July. All correspondence should now be sent to the Old Street address.

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The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies from Post Office Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe; £13.50 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription, from Edinburgh address above: UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Design and text Consignia plc, unless attributed to a specific author. Requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Consignia plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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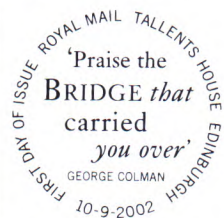
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Stamp scene UK and overseas exhibitions

• Societies news • Auctions • St Kilda book

UK exhibitions The Picture Postcard Show will be held at the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, London SW1 (28-31 August), followed by Autumn Stampex, Business Design Centre, London N1 (18-22 September); Philatex, Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, London SW1 (31 October - 2 November); and Thematica II, Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (22-23 November). Following exhibitions in Newcastle, Brighton and Glasgow (1996, 1998, and 2000), the next ABPS National Exhibition will be hosted by the North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies, in Chester (29-30 November 2002) •

Stampex opening hours

18 Sept	12.00-19.00
19-21 Sept	10.30-18.00
22 Sept	10.30-16.00

Entry will be free.

Enquiries Stampex, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. Telephone 020 7490 1005.

Autumn Stampex, organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will include the annual national competitions, displays by the Cinderella Stamp Club, and the National Youth Stamp Group activities area and Saturday auction. To mark the 150th anniversary of letter boxes, there will be displays of miniature post boxes from the collection of Robert Danzig, and of full-size letter boxes from David Harrop's collection at the Manchester Postal Museum. David's displays have proved a very popular attraction at Stampex in recent years.

The national competitions cover the following classes: Aerophilately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Revenue, Special Studies, Social Philately, Thematic, Traditional (GB, Commonwealth, Foreign), and Literature. Over 20 trophies and special awards will be competed for, including the Silver Mailcoach for the best exhibit, the National Philatelic Society Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee trophy for an outstanding exhibit from a first time entrant, and the Royal Mail trophy for a GB exhibit from the Traditional Class. Last year's winner of the Silver Mailcoach was Annabel Todd for her display of the Egyptian first issues.

There will be about 100 dealers' stands, including many from overseas, satisfying all requirements for stamps, covers, accessories or literature. The new Royal Mail stand will offer the full range of current GB stamps and collectibles. A posting box will be provided at the stand for visitors to post mail to receive the special Stampex handstamp.

A number of societies will hold meetings at Stampex at the weekend; these include the Great Britain Philatelic Society, Concorde Study Circle, Ceylon Study Circle, Wreck & Crash Mail Society, Bird Stamp Society, British Decimal Stamp Study Circle, and American Airmail Society •

Overseas exhibitions Royal Mail will be represented at the PhilaKorea 2002 international exhibition at the Ocean Hall of the Convention & Exhibition Center (COEX) in Seoul, South Korea, 2-11 August. Held under FIP patronage, the exhibition will include displays in the following competitive classes: FIP Championship, Traditional Philately, Revenue, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematics, Maximaphily, Youth, Literature, Modern (material since late 1940s), and Open •

Amphilex 2002, a major international exhibition, is being held at the RAI Exhibition Centre, Amsterdam, to mark the 150th anniversary of the issue of the first Dutch stamps. The exhibition, jointly organised by TPG Post and the Philatelic Federation, takes place 30 August - 3 September. Attractions will cater for collectors young and old, and will include a display from the Royal Collection, painting a stamp, and sending mail by pneumatic dispatch. There will be attractions aimed specifically at children, with a special Youth Day on 31 August. Thanks to the European Space Agency, visitors can become an astronaut for a few minutes, watch a 3D film, and admire space miniatures and a collection of stamps relating to space travel. In a collection of large Arabian tents, visitors can make their own paper, decipher secret codes and read hieroglyphics. Collectors will be able to take a look behind the scenes of stamp production thanks to Joh Enschedé Security Printers. The first Dutch stamp is now being engraved once again and exclusive stamp sheetlets designed by Enschedé will be perforated at the exhibition on a special machine. The theme of Amphilex is 'The Netherlands as a land of commerce – then and now' with focus on the 400th anniversary of the Dutch East India Company and postal delivery through the ages. TPG Post and some 30 postal administrations will have stands selling current issues and numerous dealers will cater for all philatelic tastes. Some of the stands will be in the style of canal-side houses with a traditional Dutch facade. Amongst the postal administrations present will be Royal Mail, and the Argentina, Canada, China, Croatia, Lithuania, and Vatican City Post Offices. Souvenirs of the exhibition will include a passport and a variety of special cancellations •

Amphilex will be open 10.00-17.00. Admission is 5 Euros, children under 13 free.

Societies news The June issue of *Stamp Lover*, journal of the National Philatelic Society, features the Airliners stamps on the front cover. There are features on Greek island postmarks, the Victorian stamp collector, advertising pages in GB stitched booklets, the useful checklist of articles in the British philatelic press, a report on Spring Stampex, and the latest in Editor Michael Furnell's researches into the varied career of the NPS founder Frederick J Melville. There are the usual book reviews, news of the Society's activities and events in the philatelic world, and letters from readers, one of which puts forward ways we might attract more people to the hobby. As always, an interesting read. For further details of *Stamp Lover* and the NPS write to the address opposite. For details of the NPS Library, see Richard West's article in the November 1999 *Bulletin* •

National Philatelic Society
107 Charterhouse Street,
London EC1M 6PT.

The June issue of *Britannia News*, published by the Studiegroep Britannia in the Netherlands, includes features on Victorian stamped-to-order stationery and Victorian postmarks, as well as an update on new British and Irish issues. Some interesting mis-cut self-adhesive stamp books are illustrated •

Studiegroep Britannia P S
Gimberg, Duivesteijnstraat
16, 2272 AN Voorburg,
Netherlands.

The April issue of the *Perfin Society Bulletin* includes numerous reports of new findings and useful information of value to specialist collectors of perfin stamps. A cover bearing a 'SM & Co' perfin postmarked 5 January 1869 is recorded – the earliest known perfin on cover. Only one item has

The Perfin Society Secretary
Dave Hill, Wheal Florence,
Helston Road, Rosudgeon,
Penzance TR20 9PA.

been found with 1868 date – a single 6d stamp with the same perfin. There are also notes on security underprints and overprints, including a recently discovered 'F H Wenman/& co., London' overprint on a Victorian 1d stamp. The company was a ship and insurance brokers. There is also an intriguing feature on a GB booklet machine of the 1891, with information taken from the *Philatelic Bulletin* of October 1970 as well as from an article in *Gibbons' Monthly Journal* of May 1891. The booklet contained a 1d lilac with 'SDC' (Stamp Distribution Syndicate) perfin. For details of the Perfin Society write to the Secretary, Dave Hill, at the address given on p353 •

Postal Stationery Society

Monographs and details are available from: Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veny, Warminster BA12 7AY.

The Postal Stationery Society will hold a meeting in London on 19 October. The Society has published three monographs: *Great Britain: Victorian Private Stationery Impressed With Embossed Stamps*; *Great Britain: The Mulready Postal Stationery*; and *The Real Cost of the Penny Post*. These are available, priced £2.75, £4, and £2.50 respectively, from Colin Baker at the address opposite, from whom details of the Society are also available •

BTA Membership Secretary, Ian Paton, 15 Humberstone Road, Cambridge CB4 1JD.
Website: www.brit-thematic-assoc.com

The latest magazines of the British Thematic Association (BTA) and American Topical Association (ATA) arrived at the Bulletin office on the same day. The June issue of the BTA's *Themescene* contains articles on Canada's first postage stamp (3d Beaver), the Perry Brothers and their place in American history, and a useful history of thematic collecting in the UK by Brian Sole. There are the usual details of BTA activities and letters to the editor concerning so-called UPU illegal issues which some collectors abhor whilst others are happy to add to their collections. The debate over this is likely to run and run... For details of the BTA contact the Membership Secretary, Ian Paton, at the address opposite •

ATA Central Office PO Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87181-0820, USA.

Website: <http://home.prcn.org/~pauld/ata/>

The May/June edition of *Topical Time*, journal of the ATA, contains features on the artist Raymond Peynet (works shown on French stamps); Cave-Dwelling Bees; The Atomic Bomb; and Tragedy in Pompeii, as well as notes on postmarks, meters, and postal stationery of interest to thematic collectors. There are useful publication reviews of thematic articles in leading philatelic magazines, including this *Bulletin*, and pages from an award-winning collection based on the works of engineer John Augustus Roebling are shown in colour. For details of membership, contact the ATA Central Office at the address opposite •

Astro Space Stamp Society

Contact Brian Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE, or see the Society's website: www.asss.utvinternet.com

On 24 September Royal Mail will issue a miniature sheet and prestige book on the theme of Astronomy. If you are thinking of collecting stamps on this fascinating theme, or have already started and would like support and contact with other collectors, the Astro Space Stamp Society will meet those needs. The Society's award-winning quarterly magazine, *Orbit*, contains features on all aspects of astrophilately from manned space flight to constellations. A sample copy is available on request. The annual UK subscription is £10 (£6.50 under 21). For further information on the Society, contact Brian Lockyer at the address opposite. A new ASSS airmail label features the Moon; sheets are available for £1 (or four 1st class stamps) from Jeff Dugdale, c/o Elgin High School, Elgin, Moray IV30 6UD. Remittances payable to Jeff Dugdale. (Other ASSS airmail labels were shown here in August 2001, p359.) •

Auction news The Harmers' All-World sale on 8 May realised over £421,500 (including buyers premium). A Bonelli's Electric Telegraph Co 3d stamp of 1862 realised £850 (estimate £500). As usual, GB attracted many bids and strong prices. In particular lot 673, a valuable collection in five albums, realised £7000 (est £5000) and lot 677, a collection in two F G 'Warwick' albums with issues to 1982, achieved £3800 (£1200) •

Cavendish's 26 May sale was their biggest ever. One-country collections were sold out – such is the demand for single-country lots, particularly those containing George VI material. GB postal history continues to attract a strong following, with £6900 being a very impressive result for the 1684 Government 'Dockwra' cover. Future sales will include specialised GB on 6-7 September and 'John Gunn' worldwide Maritime Collection on 26 September •

Harmers No 11, 111 Power Road, Chiswick, London W4 5PY. Telephone 020 8747 6100.

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY. Telephone 01332 250970.

St Kilda book The remote island group of St Kilda, 45 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, is well-known to collectors of Scottish postmarks and postal history. A post office operated on the island from 1900 until St Kilda was evacuated in the 1930s. Examples of the handstamp used are now keenly sought. In 1957 the Army set up a radar tracking station on the island, and from 1959 to 1961 one of the soldiers stationed there was leading philatelic writer and *Bulletin* contributor James Mackay. It was while stationed there that Dr Mackay became interested in the postal history of the islands. Later he built up a large collection of island postmarks, the subject of 11 books, published in 1978-80. He returned to St Kilda for the first time in 2001, landing 40 years to the day after he left in 1961. This visit spurred him to write a book about his two years on the island. The book, published in May, is an entertaining read, not least for stories about some of the many characters he encountered and Army life on a remote island. There are some fine photographs taken at the time and sections on the postal arrangements for mail to the island. There are illustrations of covers from St Kilda, the launching of a St Kilda 'mailboat' (sometimes called tin can mail) in 1896, and of a spoof most westerly pillar box in the British Isles set up on St Kilda in 1972. Whilst there, as Education Officer, Lieutenant Mackay also acted as Postmaster and introduced the St Kilda 'puffin' cachet which has remained in use (various formats) ever since. Amongst the many photographs are ones of Lieutenant Mackay assisting with sheep shearing on the island, and over 40 years later inspecting a naval gun on his sentimental return. *Soldiering on St Kilda* will appeal to anyone with an interest in National Service, the Royal Artillery, military history, or St Kilda itself •

Soldiering on St Kilda by Dr James Mackay, available from Token Publishing Ltd, Orchard House, Duchy Road, Heathpark, Honiton, Devon EX14 1YD. Price £29.95 plus £5 postage and packing.

New RDPs The following will sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the 84th Philatelic Congress of GB at Dawlish in September: Salih Kuyas of Turkey, a collector of postal stationery of the Ottoman Empire; Zbigniew Mikulski, resident of Switzerland (ex Poland), who collects stamps of Russia and immediate neighbours; and James Francois Van der Linden of Belgium, a noted postal historian •

Royal Mail news New miniature sheet and PSB • New definitive and country packs

Opposite The front cover and the four panes from the new prestige stamp book *Across the Universe*. The front cover features Halley's comet; one of the Magellanic Clouds is shown on the back cover.

Astronomy miniature sheet and prestige stamp book A miniature sheet and prestige book on the theme of Astronomy go on general and philatelic sale from 24 September. The sheet contains four 1st class stamps showing: Planetary Nebula in Aquila; Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Pegasus; Planetary Nebula in Norma; and Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Circinus. The Queen's silhouette and 1st class indicator are positioned at top left with caption reading upwards on the right-hand side of each stamp. The sheet, price £1.08, was designed by Rose Design using imagery from NASA and The Hubble Heritage Team amongst others. The sheet was printed by Questa in gravure, sheet size 120 x 90mm. The stamps measure 41 x 30mm, perf 15 x 14, two phosphor bands, PVA gum.

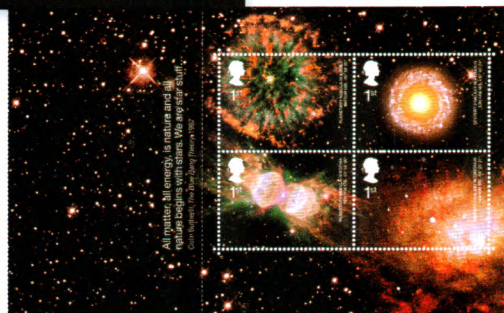
The new prestige book, entitled *Across the Universe*, costs £6.83. It contains Astronomy, other special, definitive, and country stamps in four panes as shown opposite. The book will be printed by Questa, the stamp panes in gravure, other pages in litho. This will be the first time Questa have printed the English country stamps, indeed the first time English country stamps have appeared in a prestige book. The book has been written by John and Mary Gribbin and designed by CDT Design Ltd. The stamp pane illustrations are by Andrew Davidson.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches, Royal Mail Tallents House, and Post Office philatelic outlets about a week before 24 September, price 25p. The cover can be used for both the miniature sheet and the book panes.

Orders for serviced Royal Mail covers must reach Tallents House by 24 September. Price £1.69 UK / £1.44 overseas with miniature sheet; £3.19 UK / £2.72 overseas with Jodrell Bank label pane. State whether Tallents House or Star postmarks required. Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Tallents House or Star, Glenrothes postmarks to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9BP, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Rutherglen DO, Duchess Place, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1BT. The outer envelope should be marked 'FDO2 19' (Tallents House), or 'FDO2 20' (Star).

Covers can be posted or handed in at most main Post Office branches for the Star postmark. Sponsored special handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*. Any of the stamps in the miniature sheet and prestige book can be used, singly or in combination for all first day, philatelic and sponsored handstamps in use on 24 September.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A presentation pack containing the miniature sheet will be available, price £1.45; also five stamp cards (25p each) showing the sheet and each of the four stamps.



Astronomy The Universe is made up of billions of stars. The Sun, our nearest, is a stable star in the middle of its lifetime. Many stars are similar, producing a constant flux of heat and light for billions of years. Younger stars have only recently been formed from collapsing clouds of gas and dust. Older stars eject their outer layers as they begin to die. The expelled gas of these planetary nebulae form colourful and dramatic shapes as they expand violently into space. Beyond our own spiral-shaped Milky Way Galaxy are billions more galaxies, every one a collection of billions of stars ●

Across the Universe The prestige book contains Astronomy, other special, definitive, and country stamps as follows:

Pane 1 Top and bottom rows: 1st class English stamp, 2nd class English stamp, 1st class English stamp. Middle row: 2nd class English, 1st class Scottish, 2nd class English. The pane margin shows the sign of the constellation Leo (lion).

Pane 2 Four 1st class National Space Centre Leicester stamps (as in stamp book issued May 2000). Pane margin shows sign of constellation Scorpius (scorpion).

Pane 3 Top and bottom rows: Machin definitives 1st (gold), E (European rate), 1st (gold). Middle row E stamp, label Jodrell Bank, E stamp. Pane margin constellation Cygnus (swan).

Pane 4 The four Astronomy stamps as in miniature sheet. Pane margin shows continuation of designs.

2003 stamp programme**January** Birds (10 1st class)**February** Occasions and
Medical Science**March** Children's set**May** Extreme Endeavours**June** Coronation Anniversary**July** Scotland**August** Pub Signs**September** Transport/Toys**October** British Museum**November** Christmas**December** Months of the year.....
The Medical Science and
Coronation Anniversary issues
include prestige stamp books.

Future issues To mark the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the first roadside pillar boxes, five colourful stamps go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 8 October. The stamps feature: 2nd class 1857 highly decorative box designed for use in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh; 1st class 1874 early mainland box of an 1856 design, but with horizontal aperture adopted in 1857, shown in the red livery adopted in 1874; E (European rate) 1934 airmail box with dual notice plate (special blue-painted boxes for airmail postings were in use 1930-38); 47p 1939 oval, dual-aperture version of cylindrical design of 1879 painted in wartime livery; and 68p new-style box in use 1980-2001. The stamps were designed by Silk Pearce with the boxes engraved by Czesław Slania – his fifth set of engravings for Royal Mail special stamps. A preview feature on this issue will be published in next month's *Bulletin*.

The 2002 programme of special stamps will conclude on 5 November with the annual Christmas issue, this year featuring holly, ivy, mistletoe and other Christmas plants. The values will be: 2nd class, 1st class, E (European rate), 47p and 68p. As last year, the stamps will be printed in self-adhesive format in sheets of 50 by De La Rue. The stamps were designed by Rose Design using photography by Carol Sharp. The 2nd and 1st class stamps will also be available in books of 24 and 12 respectively. Two versions of the Christmas airletter (aerogramme) will be available from 5 November – in English, and bilingual (Welsh/English).

On 5 December a Wilding miniature sheet will go on sale containing nine stamps in Wilding designs; values are expected to be: 1p, 2p, 5p, 2nd, 1st, 33p, 37p, 47p and 50p.

The 2003 stamp programme begins in January with a set of 10 1st class Birds stamps, followed by the issues shown left ●

.....
Special stamps criteria Royal Mail has recently revised the criteria (and associated conventions) for the issue of special stamps. The new criteria are to: 1) commemorate important anniversaries; 2) commemorate events of national importance, as well as major contemporary UK successes on the international stage; 3) reflect the contribution of the UK to world affairs in the broadest range of activities, from the arts and humanities to science and technology; 4) explore 'the British way of life', celebrating the diversity of cultures and interest within the UK; 5) contribute to the cultural life of the UK through the patronage of art and design, and thereby act as a showcase for the best of contemporary British creative talent; and 6) to meet Consignia's commercial target for philately.

The conventions relating to special issues are as follows. 1) Subject matter which may be construed as controversial or liable to cause offence to individuals or communities in the UK or internationally is to be avoided such as propaganda, unbalanced political references and insensitive consideration of religious beliefs. 2) Members of the Royal family are the only identifiable living people who may be the 'hero image' on a stamp. Others may be portrayed as an integral part of the design solution if shown individually they are neither immediately identifiable nor a public figure; they

are not associated with political or religious beliefs; they are the subsidiary figure, a minority part of the overall design or used as a symbol of a broader theme; they are part of a larger group involved in a single achievement; or their achievement is the focus of the design rather than their image. 3) Anniversaries are restricted generally to 50 years or multiples of 50. 4) Past and future years are considered to ensure a balance and variety of subjects taking one year with another. 5) Within a year's programme the aim is to provide a variety of subjects •



Definitive and country packs

Shown left are the new packs for the definitive and country stamps issued on 4 July. The new Machin definitive pack costs £2.30, the country pack £3.10.



Business sheets Sheets of 100 self-adhesive 1st and 2nd class stamps, printed respectively by Questa and Walsall, will be withdrawn from sale at Royal Mail Tallents House on 1 September. The sheets, issued in September 2000, cost £19 2nd class stamps (order code DPO26) and £27 1st class (DPO25). New business sheets, printed by Enschedé, went on sale on 4 July •

Queen Mother coin cover A coin cover honouring the late Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will be available from 14 December. Further details to follow •

Going off sale Any remaining stock of the Punch & Judy stamps will be withdrawn from sale at Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 3 September. The six 1st class stamps cost £1.62, presentation pack £2, and stamp cards £1.50. The stamp book containing the Mr Punch and Judy stamps plus four 1st class definitives, all self-adhesive, is now sold out •

HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

Crown Agents Stamp Bureau
 St Nicholas House, St
 Nicholas Road, Sutton, Surrey
 SM1 1EL. Telephone 020
 8770 0707.

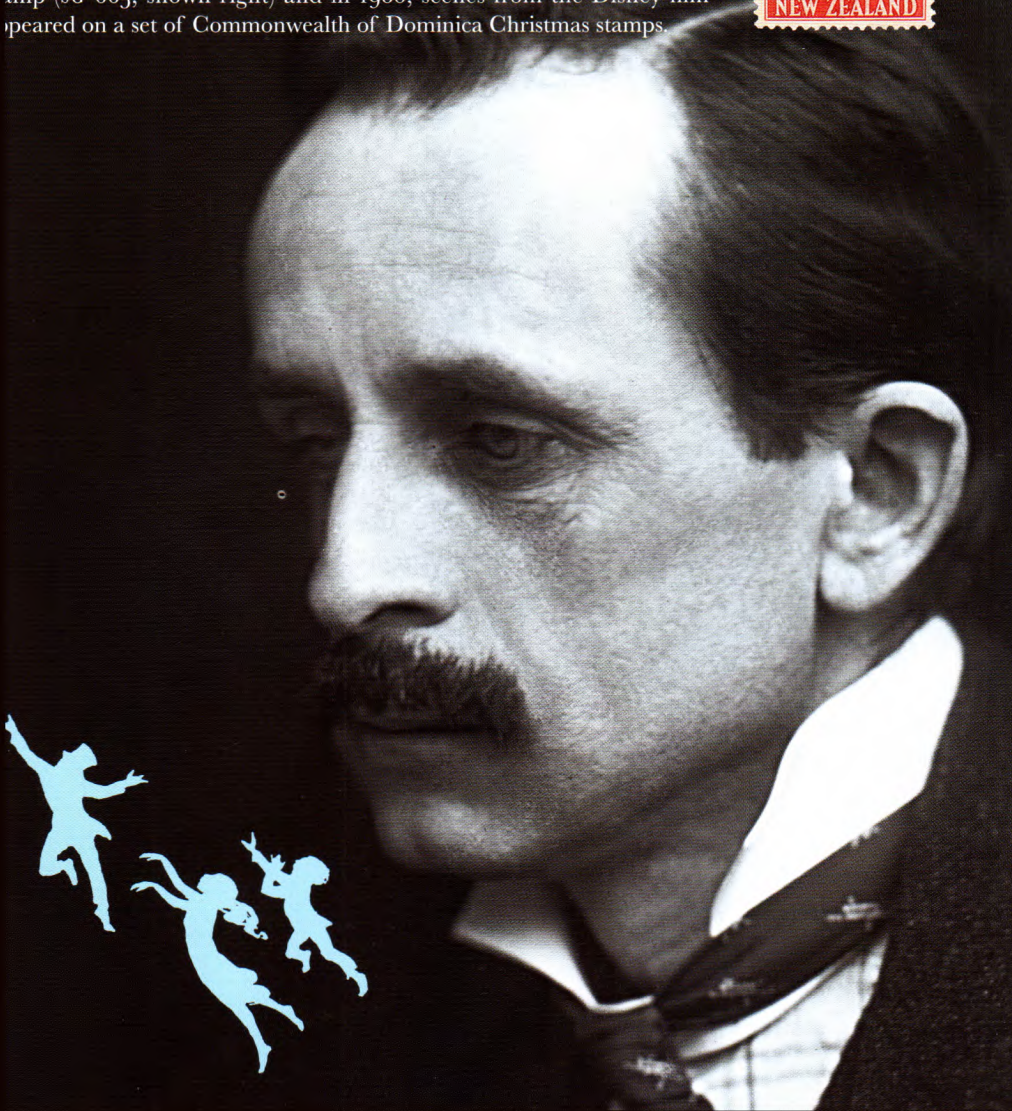
SHOWN HERE are three of the miniature sheets produced by the Crown Agents to commemorate the life of The Queen Mother. Countries in the series include Ascension Island, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Tokelau and Tristan da Cunha. For further information, or to order, contact the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau at the address opposite. ●



Peter Pan

Jean Matheson recalls J M Barrie's famous story

ALL CHILDREN, EXCEPT ONE, GROW UP' J M Barrie wrote. That one was Peter Pan, who hasn't aged since he first appeared at London's Duke of York Theatre in December 1904. Peter on stage and page has delighted generations of children, and he may now be glimpsed on a 68p British stamp, one from the set of five previewed here last month. The new issue marks the 150th anniversary of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, beneficiary of the rights to Peter Pan assigned to it by Barrie in 1929. This isn't Peter's debut on stamps, however: his statue in Kensington Gardens, Barrie's gift in 1912, featured on a 1947 New Zealand Health stamp (SG 665, shown right) and in 1980, scenes from the Disney film appeared on a set of Commonwealth of Dominica Christmas stamps.





Royal Mail's Peter Pan stamps are by Tutssels, designers of the 1996 50th anniversary of Children's Television and 1999 Welsh country issues. Peter has been portrayed by several well-known artists, and here Tutssels have created a fresh image for his story

Above: the fairy Tinkerbell on the new 2nd class stamp and Dominica 1/2¢ (SG 722).

Before he created Peter Pan, Barrie was already an acclaimed author and playwright. His best-known plays were listed on a 1987 Scottish aerogramme showing the house, now a J M Barrie museum, where he was born in Kirriemuir, a Scottish weaving town, in 1860. While his tales of 'Thrums' as he renamed it, were based on people he had known there, it is for Peter Pan, child of his imagination, that Barrie is best remembered today.

The childless Barrie loved children. At a hospital he founded for French children wounded in Zeppelin raids, they clamoured for 'Monsieur Auld Reekie' to join in their games, and little Princess Margaret Rose was to say that Barrie was her greatest friend, and she was his. Over 50 years later Princess Margaret unveiled a plaque, presented by the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, commemorating the gift of Peter Pan's statue by Sir James Barrie, OM. Perhaps the day brought back happy memories for her of tea with Barrie on her third birthday, and showing him her gifts.

To the five sons of a barrister, Arthur Llewelyn Davies and his wife Sylvia, Barrie became 'Gardie', their guardian, when their parents' early deaths left them in his care. He first met the older boys as he walked his dog in Kensington Gardens, and entranced them with his stories until he became a family friend. 'I made Peter by rubbing the five of you violently together, as savages with two sticks produce a flame,' he told George, Jack, Peter, Michael (his favourite) and Nico. For them, he invented another family – Mr and Mrs Darling and their children, Wendy, John, and Michael. 'There never was a simpler, happier family until the coming of Peter Pan'.

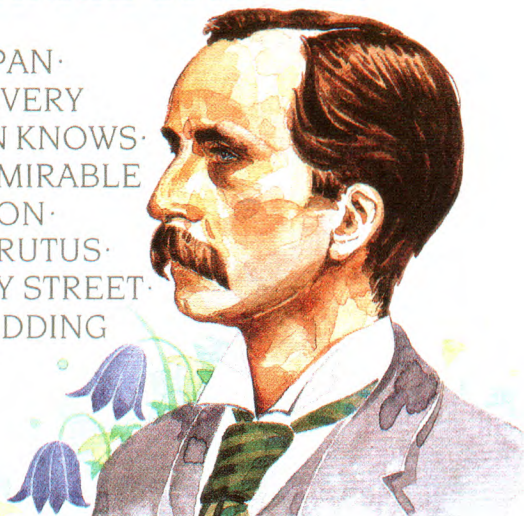
Peter's shadow had come off and in the Neverland, where he headed a troop of Lost Boys, there was no girl to mend clothes. Accompanied by a fairy, Tinkerbell, he made his way into the Darlings' nursery and, as Wendy sewed his shadow back on, coaxed her to return with him to the Neverland, home of mermaids, Red Indians and an enormous crocodile, shown on the £ (European rate) stamp. It had swallowed an alarm clock whose ticking warned of its approach. On the Dominican \$2.50 stamp (730) the crocodile engulfs the pirate, Hook, named for the claw he wore in place of the hand Peter had cut off in a duel. 'It's licking its lips for the rest of me', Hook complained, dreading the day when the clock would run down. Hook, who 'somewhat aped the attire associated with the name of Charles II', was dressed for the stage by William Nicholson, the renowned poster artist responsible for many of the play's sets and costumes.

Barrie kept a firm hold on Peter Pan's artists, borrowing the Llewelyn Davies boys' clothes as patterns for Henry Ford, illustrator of fairy tales, who drew Peter Pan in a tunic like those Sylvia made for her sons. The popular illustrator, Arthur Rackham, copied Michael's velvet beret for *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* (1906). Peter wore tunic and beret on stage,





PETER PAN·
WHAT EVERY
WOMAN KNOWS·
THE ADMIRABLE
CRICHTON·
DEAR BRUTUS·
QUALITY STREET·
THE WEDDING
GUEST·



but the latter was omitted by later illustrators. Even the Academician, Sir George Frampton, was given photographs of Michael as guidance for the statue. Then Barrie complained that it didn't 'show the devil in Peter'.

In 1921 Barrie chose Mabel Lucie Attwell, known for images of cute children on posters and postcards, to illustrate a new edition of *Peter Pan and Wendy* (first published in 1911). Barrie, or the publisher, asked for pictures that wouldn't scare the younger readers, and it's hard to imagine the girlish Peter (shown on the aerogramme), clad in top and shorts instead of the usual tunic and tights, duelling with Hook. Surprisingly, she showed the 'hostile forces' trying to impede his flight although Barrie wrote: 'Nothing horrid was visible in the air'.

Barrie died 10 years before the Disney film was released, so nobody knows what he'd have thought of the red-headed urchin on the Dominica stamps, or the umbrella John carries on the flight – an 'unauthorized' detail included by Tutssels too. Then Tinkerbell, who was 'somewhat inclined to *embonpoint*', is slim in their views of her. On stage, she was represented by a spotlight, so perhaps the glow near Peter's head on the aerogramme, and the sparkling trail over the five new stamps, best personify her, while the slippers and tights that are all we see as Peter flies off the 68p stamp give us leeway to imagine him as we will.

With Hook dispatched, the Darling children and the Lost Boys were free to return to their grieving families, leaving Peter Pan alone in the Neverland. 'Barrie knew all about how to get on with children', his godson Peter Scott wrote; a claim borne out by Barrie's treats for the five boys and the poor children admitted, gratis, to Peter Pan's enduring appeal which he thought would last 'so long as children are gay and innocent and heartless' •

Above left: Hook's clothing is unaltered by Disney, but on the new 47p stamp Tutssels have breached tradition with a glimpse of a fearsome face, capped with skull and crossbones, peering through the shadow of a plumed hat.

Above: Barrie's best-known plays are listed on a Scottish aerogramme of 1987.

References J M Barrie, *Peter Pan and Wendy*, 1911; Chris Beetles, *Mabel Lucy Attwell*, 1988; Andrew Birkin, *J M Barrie and the Lost Boys*, 1979 (preceded by a trilogy of plays shown on BBC television in 1978); Denis Mackail, *The Story of J M B.*, 1941; Stanley Gibbons, *Stamps of the World* catalogue vol 1, 2001.

Illustrations Portrait p361, illustrated London News Picture Library; below and p361 left, page decorations from *Peter Pan and Wendy*, by Gwynedd M Hudson, published 1922 (reproduced by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Limited).



London Bridges Five new stamps trace the



Technical details

Printer House of Questa

Process Lithography (see Stamp Book, opposite)

Stamp size 41 x 30mm

Perforation 15 x 14

Phosphor 2nd class one band, others two bands

Gum PVA

Sheets 100

Gutter pairs Vertical

Plate numbers and colours

2nd Q1 yellow ● Q1 magenta ● Q1 blue ● Q1 black

1st Q1 sepia ● Q1 black ● Q1 chocolate brown ● Q1 flesh

E Q1 yellow ● Q1 magenta ● Q1 blue ● Q1 black ● Q1 chocolate brown

47p Q1 yellow ● Q1 magenta ● Q1 blue ● Q1 black

68p Q1 yellow ● Q1 magenta ● Q1 blue ● Q1 black ● Q1 chocolate brown

Phosphor Q1 all values

FIVE STAMPS featuring London bridges will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 10 September. The stamps show: 2nd class Millennium Bridge, 1st class Tower Bridge, E Westminster Bridge, 47p Blackfriars Bridge, and 68p London Bridge. All the bridges are depicted in contemporary photographs or illustrations; three of the values show existing bridges, and two show structures which have since been replaced on the same site. The Queen's silhouette and value/service indicator are shown in white at the top right of each design. The name of the bridge is printed at top left. The stamps are the work of the design partnership Robert Maude and Sarah Davies; Robert designed the 1998 Endangered Species stamps, and is the designer of this *Bulletin*. Robert will be writing about the bridges and the stamps in next month's *Bulletin*.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 10 September, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or London SE1 must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.74 UK (including VAT) or £2.34 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB, marking the outer envelope 'FDO2 17' (Tallents House), or 'FDO2 18' (London SE1). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London SE1 postmark. Details of other handstamps for 10 September will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

STAMP BOOK A book containing four 1st class definitives (printed in gold) and two 1st class Tower Bridge stamps will be available from Tallents House and philatelic outlets from 10 September, price £1.62. All stamps will be self-adhesive, printed by The House of Questa in gravure. Note: the Tower Bridge stamp in sheets of 100 is printed in lithography.

vibrant history of the capital's river crossings



The stamps are the work of the design partnership Robert Maude and Sarah Davies. The bridges are all represented by contemporary images: Millennium, Tower and Westminster are the bridges existing today; Blackfriars and London Bridges are earlier structures which have since been replaced by new crossings on the same sites.



'Praise the
BRIDGE *that*
carried
you over'
GEORGE COLMAN
10.6.2002

'Praise the
BRIDGE *that*
carried
you over'
GEORGE COLMAN
10-9-2002

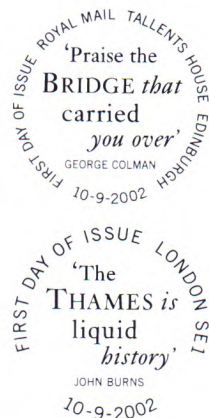
‘Praise the
BRIDGE *that*
carried
you over’
GEORGE COLMAN
10.9.2002

The BRIDGES of LONDON

Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Don't Miss! Fallers House: In South Cove's Current Edition, 0117, 2011



The BRIDGES of LONDON

Royal Mail Mint Stamps



3 IN FISHERMEN'S HALL AT THE CITY END IS AN VESSEL MADE FROM UNDERWATER TIMBERS OF THE BRIDGE. THE CARVED B&K SLATS FEATURE OLD LONDON BRIDGE, RENNIE'S LONDON BRIDGE, WESTMINSTER AND BLACK RIVERS. A SQUARE OF PERURICK MARBLE, REPUTEDLY FROM THE FOUNDATION STONE OF OLD LONDON BRIDGE IS SET IN THE MAST.

2 On the way to the castle, you'll see the colorful houses of the village of Stone Gully. The houses are built on the steep slopes of the valley, and the colorful houses are built on the steep slopes of the valley.

as well as the exquisite Gothic chapel of St Thomas à Becket, and a drawbridge where the formidable Traitors' Gate was bedecked with as many as thirty-five severed heads. During the Renaissance, when the bridge was at its peak of beauty, this gate was replaced by the

astonishingly decorated Nonesuch House ('none such like it'), which was prefabricated in Holland and held together with pegs for almost 100 years.

4 THE CHURCH OF ST MAGNUS THE MARTYR STILL STANDS ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE CITY END. THE NARROW BRIDGE STREET WAS INITIALLY TWELVE FEET WIDE AND, TO EASE CONGESTION, THIS IS WHERE 'KICK TO THE LEFT' ORIGINATED. BELOW, THE OLD BRIDGE (LEFT) IS BEING DECONSTRUCTED AFTER RENNIE'S BRIDGE HAS BEEN BUILT AROUND. TODAY, WITH STONES FROM THE BRIDGE, REMAINS IN THE CHURCHYARD.



2 ON THE WALL OF THE KING'S ARMS IN NEWCOMEN STREET, SOUTHWARK, IS THE LARGE, RED STONE COAT OF ARMS OF GEORGE II (LATER ALTERED TO GEORGE III) ENACT IN PLACE ABOVE THE GREAT STONE GATE OF THE BRIDGE.

water was diverted to flow under the appeal of a bridge at London. For the reasons the old bridge was so long was because it had an administrative organization, the *Bridge House*. Money, property, endowments accumulated over the well-loved bridge have been carefully nurtured for hundreds of years and when the majestic Tower Bridge was opened in 1894, funds amassed from Old London Bridge paid for it in full.

Remarkably, these funds today still support the present London Bridge as well as Tower, Southwark and Blackfriars Bridges and indeed contributed to London's newest bridge, the Millennium footbridge.



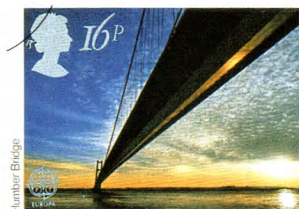
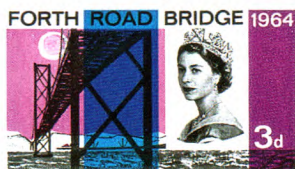
5 IN THE FINAL STAGE OF *Old London Bridge* (1767-1814), THERE WERE ELEPHANTS AND SEVEN HANDSOME ALLEGES ON EITHER SIDE. DICKENS REFERS TO THEM IN *David Copperfield*: "My favourite swinging place was old London Bridge, where I was wont to sit in one of the stone recesses 'watching the people go'." THE REMAINING BRITISH NOW KISS IN GUY'S HORROR, AND A FORCED PAIN, HUCKLEBERRY.

A presentation pack containing the five stamps (left, price £2.35) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets.

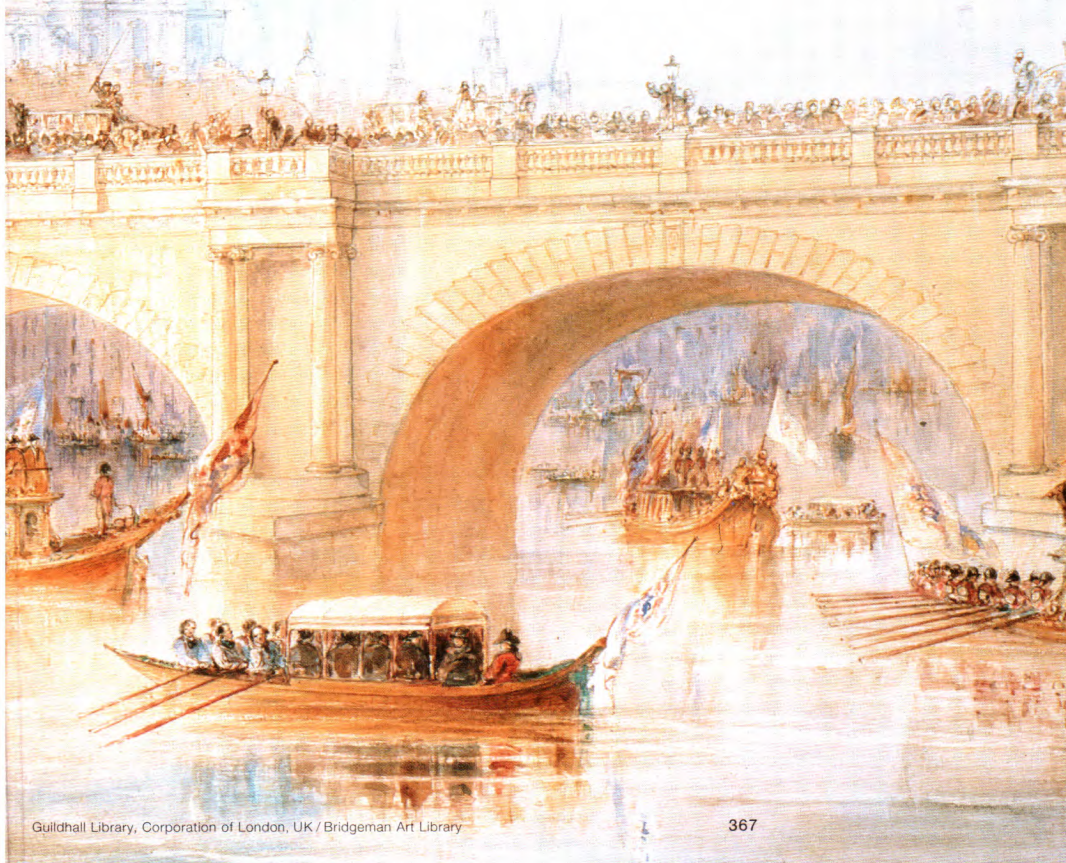
Below: *Disembarkation of the Lord Mayor at Blackfriars Bridge* c1830, by Thomas Allom. This bridge, the third to cross the Thames, is the structure shown on the new 47p stamp. It was replaced by the current wrought-iron bridge in 1860-69.

London bridges on stamps These are the first Royal Mail stamps dedicated to the subject of London Bridges, although some have featured on a number of earlier issues, beginning with the M4 motorway viaduct in London on a 1sgd Bridges stamp of 1968 (right). Westminster Bridge (new E stamp) features on the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference stamp of 1975, and Tower Bridge (new 1st class stamp) can be seen in Jeffery Matthews' 50p London 1980 stamp and on the 41p Picture Postcards stamp of 1994.





British bridges on stamps also include Forth Road, 1964 (top left); Tarr Steps, Aberfeldy Bridge and Menai Bridge (above), 1968; Humber Bridge, 1983 (far left); Ironbridge (left) and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, 1989; and Millennium Bridge, Gateshead and Tyne Bridge, 2000. A steam-hauled train crosses a bridge on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal on the 41p of the 1994 Age of Steam set; other railway bridges can be seen on the 43p Travellers' Tale and 26p Workers' Tale Millennium stamps.



Pictorial handstamps Continuing his series, Richard West



Above: handstamps for Shakespeare's birth, Robert Burns, the opening of the Forth Road Bridge, Sir Francis Chichester (there was no GPO cover for this issue), and the International

Botanical Congress overprinted 'CANCELLED'. Opposite: handstamps for the 1968 Anniversaries, and the first pictorial 'first day of issue' handstamp for the Philatelic Bureau, 1972.

THE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL issue of 1964 provided much to interest first day cover collectors: the first GPO first day envelope; the introduction of the circular 'first day of issue' handstamp; an appropriate slogan reading 'Shakespeare Anniversary Year'; and a pictorial handstamp relevant to the issue. Hitherto, the prime way of linking the theme of the stamps with the postmark had been with slogan cancellations. Apart from the British Empire Exhibition handstamps of 1924/25, the rather basic Postal Union Congress handstamp of 1929, and the handstamps linked with the Postage Stamp Centenary in 1940 (all of which really fall outside the time parameters of this series), the only pictorial handstamp which had been totally applicable was that for the 46th Parliamentary Conference in 1957.

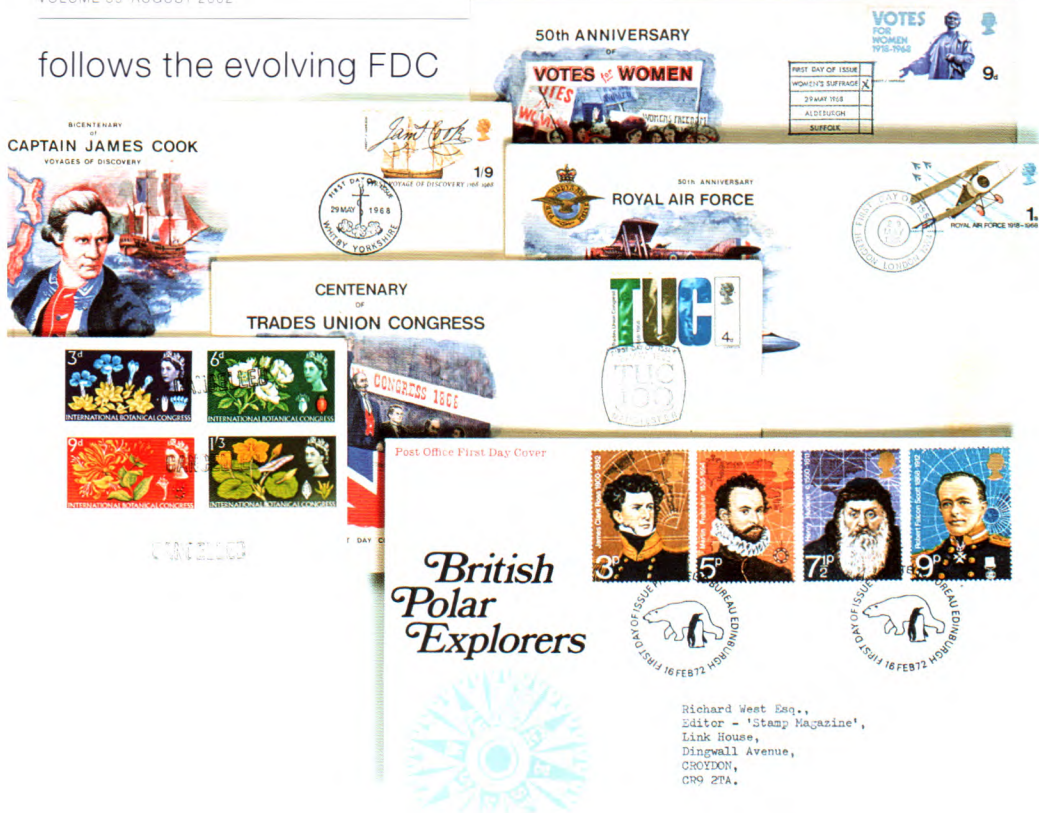
However, from the Shakespeare series onwards, far greater use would be made of the pictorial handstamp. For the issue of 23 April 1964, the

handstamp read 'Shakespeare 400th Anniversary / Stratford upon Avon'. For the final issue of 1964, the opening of the Forth Road Bridge, the pictorial handstamps were very appropriate, there being one for each of North and South Queensferry, either end of the bridge. Many collectors chose these handstamps for their first day covers, but surprisingly few seem to have appreciated another handstamp which came in between. For the International Botanical Congress set a pictorial handstamp was in use in Edinburgh on the day of issue of 5 August 1964.

Incidentally, for the International Botanical Congress, the GPO envelope on which the four stamps were affixed and handstamped 'CANCELLED', was distributed at the time as a way of publicising the Post Office's own covers.

Generally speaking, covers serviced by the Philatelic Bureau had received a 'first day of issue' postmark (except for the Lifeboat Conference

follows the evolving FDC



and Red Cross Centenary, when the relevant slogan had been used). From the Shakespeare issue onwards, the Bureau used a 'first day of issue' circular handstamp (for Stratford upon Avon in the case of the Shakespeare set). However, for the two stamps issued in January 1966 for Robert Burns the Post Office provided pictorial handstamps at eight locations in Scotland, and although none was actually inscribed 'first day', all were available through the Philatelic Bureau. In addition, the cancellations applied by the Bureau can be distinguished (they are smaller in diameter) from those on covers put into posting boxes.

A similar approach was also used for the Sir Francis Chichester stamp, a pictorial handstamp being used at the Bureau, and at Plymouth and Greenwich.

There would now be a gradual awakening to the use of pictorial handstamps on covers. Sometimes these were 'official', such as for the British

Bridges set of 1968, inscribed 'first day of issue' and available at either Bridge (Kent) or through the Philatelic Bureau. Indeed, for the British Anniversaries set of 1968, no fewer than four 'first day of issue' pictorial handstamps were provided, one for each of the anniversaries commemorated.

At the end of 1970, a pictorial 'first day of issue' handstamp for each new issue became the norm at one location (and sometimes more than one) appropriate to the subject of the stamps (for example, that for the 1970 Christmas stamps was at Bethlehem in Wales). At first the Philatelic Bureau continued to use the basic 'FDI' handstamp, but from 1972 had a separate pictorial version for each special issue, designed to compliment the stamps. Furthermore, the Bureau would offer to service covers with either its own handstamp, or the 'alternative' pictorial FDI handstamp(s) for each issue.

Richard West Esq.,
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CROYDON,
CR9 2TA.

However, on one aspect the Post Office was very firm: while it permitted any organisation or individual to sponsor a pictorial handstamp, these could not be inscribed 'first day of issue'. This certainly did not deter; indeed, just the reverse. From fairly tentative beginnings, increasing use would be made of handstamps to link with the issue of new special stamps. Opportunities would be seized of linking each issue with appropriate organisations so that the cachet of 'official' might be applied to any covers that were produced, the handstamp also linking the organisation with the theme of the stamps. More often than not the organisation chosen has been a charity, which has been able to benefit from sale of the covers.

The first steps were again fairly tentative, from 'Posted from the Battlefield' for the Battle of Hastings set in 1966, 'Art on Stamps Exhibition' at the Strand Stamp Centre for the British Paintings of 1967 to the 'Christmas Toy Fair' at Selfridges in 1968. From 1969, the availability of specially commissioned handstamps escalated, and continues today.

Looking back In the previous article, reference was made to the slogan 'first day of issue' cancellation, with the envelope design. Not mentioned was the slogan used for the day of issue of the Prince of Wales Investiture stamps. Using the envelope design, it was inscribed 'Investiture Day' in English and Welsh. The 'First Day of Issue Westminster' slogan was used for the Churchill Memorial issue of 1965, in addition to the stamps to mark the 900th anniversary of Westminster Abbey in 1966.

From 31 May 1978, a 'first day of issue' slogan was used at Bournemouth, but with the inscription only, and no envelope design. In addition, examples of the envelope 'FDI' slogan are known with a triangle in which appears a number replacing the usual dateslug. Examples include number 162 within a triangle for Cardiff, and 635 for Reading, both used on the day of issue of the Paris Postal Conference stamp.

As mentioned last time, when the basic 'first day of issue' handstamp (non pictorial) was introduced (for the Shakespeare set), it was of a fairly

large diameter, albeit that used at Stratford upon Avon on that occasion was smaller. A smaller handstamp was also used by all 'first day of issue' offices for the Battle of Hastings set in 1966, although for the next issue, Christmas, all reverted back to the larger size. However, for the Christmas issue, a 'FDI' handstamp was also provided at Bethlehem (Llandeilo, Carmarthen), and this was of the small format. The 1967 EFTA stamps proved to be the final occasion when the larger diameter handstamps would be used, and thereafter the neater, smaller version would become the norm.

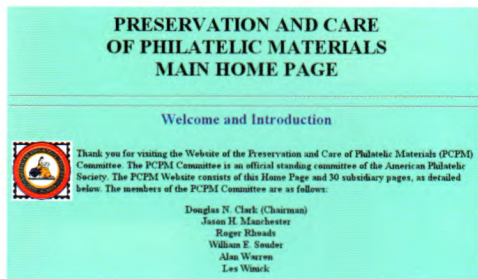
Forgeries From time to time, forgeries of first day of issue cancellations have cropped up, but surprisingly not usually to create what has now become a scarce first day cover. However, a 'forgery' does exist of the 46th Parliamentary Conference handstamp of 1957. I put the word forgery in quotes for, as it does not include the drawing of Big Ben, it is easy to detect.

In the early 1980s, the Postmaster at Freshfield, Formby produced his own circular 'FDI' handstamp, so that he could 'service' covers for his customers.

However, probably the most famous forgery is the 'FDI' circular handstamp for Diss in Norfolk. It seems a local dealer applied to the PO to have a local handstamp made available for each new issue, but this request was denied, so he produced his own. He certainly did not conceal this fact, taking an advertisement in the then weekly *Stamp Collecting* and illustrating the England Winners stamp on cover, cancelled with his own handstamp. He also produced a similar handstamp inscribed for 'Norwich Norfolk'. The dealer pleaded guilty to the charges brought against him. Ironically, the forged 'Diss' covers often command a hefty premium when offered for sale.

The question of definitives So far this series has concentrated on British special issues. However, definitives and airletters have also been afforded special first day treatment; and there is the saga of the introduction of the low value decimal definitives, at the time of a Post Office strike. But more about those next time ●

Philately on-line Caring for your collection, by Ron Negus



www.stamps.org/care/pcpm.htm By using the internet to publish these details on looking after your collection, the authors are able to keep the information up to date. As new storage materials appear or stamp production methods change, any conservation problems arising from these new factors can be brought to the attention of collectors.

IF YOU FIND AN ALBUM which was used by a collector in the early 19th century, there is a very good chance that the stamps it contains will have been ruined by having been stuck down with glue. No collector today would do this to their specimens. In fact, many will only add 'never hinged' items to their albums with the argument that any trace of a hinge will destroy the value. Others consider that conservation is important, not for holding value, but so that the items in the collection can be passed to future generations in the best possible condition.

The question of what needs to be done to look after philatelic materials properly is a very complex one, involving many topics such as paper, gum, printing inks, and so on. There is a useful site on the internet which contains a comprehensive guide to these matters. It is hosted by the Preservation and Care of Philatelic Materials (PCPM) Committee. The PCPM is an official standing committee of the American Philatelic Society and the site can be found at www.stamps.org/care/pcpm.htm. Although many references on the site are to specific goods of US origin, the general concepts examined apply worldwide.

The site is arranged very simply with an opening contents page that lists the 30 topics covered. Clicking on any one of these headings takes you to a subsidiary page on which the particular subject is discussed in depth. At the foot of each subsidiary page are three buttons which take you on to the next page, back to the previous page or right back to the contents listing.

The first four pages give some introductory background about paper. How it is manufac-

tured, why it deteriorates and some of the environmental factors affecting the storage of stamps and covers. This introductory section is concluded with a page listing those items that should be avoided when considering how to house a collection of stamps and covers.

Later subsidiary pages are devoted to techniques for dry and wet cleaning of covers, how to deal with Scotch tape residues, the properties of adhesives, plastic folders, stock sheets and mounting corners, amongst others. Comparisons are made of different brands of stamp hinges on another page. Watermark detectors, photograph albums and materials and paper and wax seals are all discussed under the relevant headings.

The pages that are included which discuss the factors involved with phosphor banding and other chemical additives used as mechanical sorting aids will also repay study. This is clearly an area of conservation that still needs much research and these pages on the site only serve to alert collectors to the inherent problems of changes to phosphors, and similar chemical aids to sorting, over time.

The final sections of the site have pages with details of conservation materials, and a listing of archival suppliers that has some UK addresses included. The concluding page lists a large number of books as well as articles devoted to conservation that have appeared over the years in philatelic magazines.

The PCPM are to be congratulated on bringing this important subject to the attention of interested collectors in such a way that specific information can be found so easily •

Mainly Machins Douglas Myall reports on the recent major



Retail book makeover Major changes to retail books of self-adhesive NVIs appeared on 5 June after many months of gestation. Implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 has led to changes in the design and content of these books, aimed at helping blind or partially sighted people and those who have difficulty in handling small objects due to, for example, arthritis. Many departments within Consignia were involved and lengthy consultations took place with organisations representing handicapped persons, including the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Under the Act, disabled people have the right to access services regardless of their disability. Up to now the only GB definitive in this sphere was the large £10 stamp of 1993 with the word 'ten' embossed in braille.

The most obvious change occurs on the front cover. Gone are the diagonal images of blocks of the relevant stamps and a single figure to show how many stamps are inside. Gone too is the long-lived yellow strip. In their place is a simple statement of the content in large text, 14mm high, with the indicator figure in an extra thick font. This should help those who have to peer closely to see what kind of book they are holding. For those who cannot see even this, there is a single curved cut-out, or nick, at the top right of the back cover. This not only tells the owner that the book contains stamps for the first class service but also enables him to orientate the book correctly so as to access the content. I understand that books of 12 second class will have two nicks although these have not been issued as I write.

Another change designed to assist blind users is that the paper surrounding the stamps, known to Royal Mail as the matrix, has been removed. This makes the stamps stand proud of the backing, and so easier for both blind and sighted customers to remove them. It is also a simple matter for blind users to ascertain how many stamps are left and whether it is time to get a new book.

Yet another design change is that the covers are 5mm wider than previously. They are still rouletted and folded in the same place as before, so that the extra bit appears at the right as an extension and is visible when the book is closed. This is an additional means of orienting the book correctly and makes it easier to open. Both Questa and Walsall have increased their rouletting ratio, although they are still different from each other.

The removal of the matrix means that cylinder numbers do not appear there any more. Instead, the extra strip has a white backing inside and the cylinder numbers appear there. At least, they do on the Questa book of six, where the numbers are Q1 colour and Q1 phosphor. It was intended that the Walsall books of six and 12 would also have numbers on this white strip, but these were omitted from the cylinders used for the initial printings. You can expect numbers to appear on future Walsall books. For the first time since 'window' books appeared on 4 August 1987, cylinder numbers, when they exist, can be seen when the book is closed. This makes life easier for collectors and those who service their needs. Will it be possible, I wonder, to order cylinder books from Tallents House as in pre-window book times?

changes in retail books, and the end of a long-running series



From opposite far left: new gold books from Questa (cylinder Q1), back cover of the new gold books, Questa self-adhesive book of six (on philatelic sale from 4 July), and the new Machin stamps (4 July).

What blind people will be unable to tell is that the stamps are printed in gold instead of the usual flame colour. This is to mark the golden jubilee of The Queen's reign. Gold stamps were issued in 1997 in celebration of Her Majesty's golden wedding anniversary, when they were printed by Walsall and Harrison (now De La Rue). The new stamps are a good colour match to the previous gold printing. The 1997 stamps were not self-adhesives so they are easy to distinguish. It is possible to distinguish the current Walsall stamps from Questa's by the placement of the denominator: Questa's is positioned much closer to the left frame than Walsall's. Business sheets of 100 × 1st printed in gold by Enschedé are to be issued on 4 July and it will be interesting to see if singles from that source can be distinguished from the book versions.

The barcodes are unchanged and are still blue on a white ground in the same position on the outside back cover. The name of the printer still appears above it, but is printed in white instead of black. There are some other changes to the covers. The contact text in English and Welsh has been replaced by telephone and fax enquiry numbers and a website address. The latter is the general www.royalmail.com in place of the previously specific postcodes page. The site at the revised address is in fact an old one which has not been updated for quite some while now. The current website is at www.consignia.com but it has been reported that the Consignia name is to be given up, so maybe the address on the book cover will be revived.

Questa 6 × 1st old style On 4 July a Questa book of 6 × 1st self-adhesives in what we must now call old style format was issued. This is Questa's first book of six self-adhesives. A book of six 2nd class stamps from them was announced some months ago but will not now be issued. It has been decided that there will be no more books of six 2nd class stamps as sales have been insufficient to justify the relatively high costs of production. The July book is a bit of an oddity, since it contains the normal flame-coloured stamps and will be issued while their book of six gold stamps is still on sale. Make sure that you get your copy of what is bound to be a temporary and short-lived issue. The flame stamps were printed from cylinders Q1/Q1. These numbers appear in the usual place on the matrix, which was not removed.

New values for overseas mail A revised overseas tariff came into effect on 4 July and details of the changes were announced in the June *Bulletin*. The four new sheet values were printed by De La Rue. The cylinder numbers on all four values are 1/47, with the phosphor number right of the forward slash. All exist dot and no dot. The previous 37p rhododendron (amethyst) was printed from cylinders 2/45 and 2/47. It is possible that the new, dark grey, stamp will also be issued from 2/47 so keep a lookout for it. The European letter rate is unchanged at 37p, having been raised from 36p only a year ago, but the new stamp is not likely to see much usage for that duty as the European N1 E stamp already exists in the four national pictorial designs as well as with the Machin head.

Books of self-adhesive stamps for overseas rates

Another consequence of the tariff change is that the three overseas rate books are to be issued on 4 July in self-adhesive form. These will be £ (euro-pean), 42p and 68p. I have not yet seen these and will write about them next time. I believe they will be in the 'disability' series but whether they will have all the features (such as nicks in the right-hand edge) I cannot yet say. I understand that the airmail labels will also be changed.

De La Rue pictorial definitives

This firm now has the contract for the pictorial definitives for all four countries. Their Scotland 1st and 2nd class stamps were issued on 5 June. There are no surprises and the stamps are a good match to Wall-sall's. The paper was gummed and coated by De La Rue and is white compared to the creamy paper supplied by Tullis Russell. Cylinder numbers are: 1st, 1, 1, 1, 1, / 49 and 2nd, 1, 1, 1, / 50.

The 68p rate is new for each country and will replace the existing 65p stamps but using the same design and colours. I will include some notes on these stamps in my next column.

Machine vend books

For some time, sales of the £1 and £2 books from machines have been low and I have thought the next tariff change might make it difficult to continue them. Although there is to be no increase in basic inland letter tariffs at present, other than for mail exceeding 350g, it has been decided that no more books for these machines will be produced. Thus a long-running series has come to an end. When Machins began, a book cost two shillings, then 10p upon decimalisation. Many collectors, like me, enjoyed putting in a coin just to see if anything unusual emerged. At up to £2 a go, this 'lottery ticket' became rather expensive so with the demise of the machines we shall have more money to spare for all the new Machins and country stamps that Royal Mail continues to present for our enjoyment •



Bridging the gap between a



AFTER SIX YEARS at the helm, Frank Jones has decided the time has come to resign as President of the National Philatelic Society. He followed a number of notable collectors as President of the society which started life as the Junior Philatelic Society, founded by the legendary Fred Melville. It was Frank's great pleasure that his Presidency spanned the society's centenary in 1999.

When one meets Frank, there is no mistaking where he was born and brought up – his distinctive Welsh accent gives the game away. Trained as an engineer, his expertise extends to mechanical, aeronautical and marine engineering, with particular interest in aircraft and bridges. During his career he worked at Gloster Aircraft, P&O Steam Navigation and Vickers Armstrong, where he worked under Dr Barnes Wallis of the 'Dambusters' fame.

Following the demise of the aircraft industry, he decided to embark upon an academic career, in the higher education sector, lecturing and researching in structural analysis and design. After over 30 years in the academic sphere, he felt the time had come to 'retire', although he established his own engineering consultancy. Frank is a member and Fellow of several professional institutions, and is frequently invited to advise on matters of structural engineering, relating to bridges, buildings, roads and railways. He looks back to his earlier years with pleasure; times for 'inventiveness, imagination and intuition'. Gradually he believes there has been too much political interference, so that much of this nation's engineering and scientific heritage has been sold off or discarded.

hobby and a career Richard West speaks with Frank Jones

However, his professional interests have influenced his hobby. He went through the familiar collecting phase while at school, encouraged by a teacher who was herself a keen stamp collector. His particular favourite was stamps depicting nature. But studying natural history, choir practice and sport mainly filled his spare time growing up on the Welsh borders.

Little was to happen with the collection until Frank joined the Merchant Navy. The interest was now rekindled, encouraged when he joined P&O by the opportunities to acquire stamps from around the world. He decided to focus on the Commonwealth and Great Britain, until a certain degree of disenchantment set in. However, career and hobby were starting to merge as collections on bridges and aerophilately developed.

His main thematic collection is called 'Bridging History', divided into two sections, one examining the structural engineering, and the other the purpose and function of bridges within a communications network. The second half he feels can be viewed within the context of either postal history or social philately.

His aerophilatic collection is based on the major airmail routes, again providing a link between postal, social and aviation history.

Frank's collections have been enjoyed by many, as he has frequently displayed both nationally and internationally. He is an active member of many societies, local, national and international, including not only the National Philatelic Soci-

ety, but also The Royal Philatelic Society London, The Postal History Society, The British Aerophilatic Federation, the British Thematic Association, Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society, The Zeppelin Study Group, The American Airmail Society, The Wreck and Crash Mail Society and Cercle Aerophilatique Francais.

He has written articles and books on subjects related to his philatelic interests, and is currently working on an introduction to aerophilately. He does not always agree with his fellow collectors, and is not afraid to make his views known. He feels strongly that collectors should show a greater willingness to accept change, not least in ways of collecting, exhibiting and judging.

He is also not frightened to roll up his sleeves to help whenever required. Apart from his Presidency of the NPS, he has over recent years taken an active role in the Association of British Philatelic Societies, organising various workshops and seminars, plus working with the British Philatelic Trust to help those who wish for greater experience in judging.

Throughout his professional and philatelic life Frank has been fully supported by his wife Judith (pictured with him, opposite). He now feels the time has come to spend more time with Judith, particularly since their recent move from London to Essex. But you can't keep a good man down – Frank is certain to remain prominent in philately, not least aerophilately and thematics, but watch out for his increasing interest in social philately •

Special prize draw Win 2001 Occasions stamps in packs

WE HAVE one of each of the five packs each containing 10 of the 2001 Occasions stamps to give away – to the senders of the first five cards drawn on 6 September. Two of the five packs are shown opposite. To enter the draw, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Occasions Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ •



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



May identify The detail was from the 1958 Empire & Commonwealth Games 1s3d. The winner was D Colthup of Yorkshire.

May knowledge Answers: 1) Andrew Restall; 2) Entertainers' Tale; 3) 1965. The winner was D MacDonald of Hertfordshire.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1961 Post Office Savings Bank 3d stamp?
- 2 In which year did a mounted policewoman feature on a stamp?
- 3 Which printer of British stamps is based in the Netherlands?

Send your answer (addressed to either the August *Identify* competition or August *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 13 September will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition.

The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

Until further notice Postal Memorabilia displays at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln and Manchester Postal Museum, Wythenshaw Park, Manchester (open 10.00-16.00). **Enquiries** D Harrop, 15 Hawthorn Road, Stockport SK4 3DQ.

2-11 August PhilaKorea 2002 world stamp exhibition at Pacific & Indian Ocean Halls, Convention and Exhibition Centre, Seoul, South Korea. **Enquiries** British Commissioner, Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG.

3 August Norfolk & Norwich PS Summer Fair at Hewett School, Cecil Rd, Norwich.

28-31 August Picture Postcard Show 2002 at New Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat & Elverton Streets,

London SW1. Open Wed 11.00-20.00, Thurs & Fri 11.00-19.30, Sat 10.00-17.00. Admission £4 opening day, £2 others. **Enquiries** M Day, 0151 339 5422.

30 August - 1 September 54th International Stamp Fair and 41st 'Europa' International Philatelic Exhibition, Riccione, Italy. **Enquiries** +39 0541 693194.

30 August - 3 September Amphilex 2002, Amsterdam. **Enquiries** UK Commissioner Keith Fitton, 50 Firlands, Weybridge KT13 0HR. Telephone 01932 840549.

7 September Preston & District PS Annual Stamp & Postcard Fair at Canterbury Hall, Garstang Road, Preston, 10.00-16.00. 20 dealers. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX •

Postbag Letters to the Editor

2002 Occasions These were printed by Questa in sheets of 100 (5 March) and Smilers sheets of four of each of the five designs (23 April). The width of the phosphor bands varies on the sheet stamps; on the Smilers sheets the distance between the bands seems a consistent 22.5mm. The perforation gauge on the sheet stamps is 15×14 , but 14.5×14 on the Smilers version. Sadly these perf variations will not be listed in the SG catalogue. Apart from the 'LOVE' stamp, the colours appear brighter on the Smilers, particularly noticeable in the blue backgrounds to the 'hello' and 'best wishes' stamps, and the pink of the 'new baby' stamp. On the Smilers best wishes and baby

stamps the Queen's head and 1st appear quite dull (almost grey) compared to the sheet stamps.

The Airliner stamps (2 May) were printed in sheets of 100 and in a miniature sheet, both by DLR. I can see no appreciable difference between the two printings. The 1st class was also issued as a self-adhesive in books printed by Questa. These are easily distinguished from the gummed stamps by the shape of the perforations. In addition there is more 'pink' in the clouds on the self-adhesive stamp and more space between the phosphor bands. I hope these observations are of interest to fellow collectors. KEN MARKS, PORTSMOUTH ●

Late news

Buyer's premium at auction On 25 June Frank Doran, MP for Aberdeen Central, introduced a bill in the House of Commons to abolish the buyer's premium at auction. Buyers, he feels, receive no services in return for the premium. Mr Doran hopes that this will be the start of the Government taking a proper and considered look at the way in which auctions are regulated. He states: 'It is unlikely that my bill will become law, but I do think that this is an important issue which I intend to pursue further in Parliament. I will be taking the matter up with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. I am a member of the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport, and this may present another avenue.' He is anxious to receive views from those involved in the arts, antiques and auction trades around the country. Readers having views on the matter should write to Mr Doran at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA ●

NVI definitives New business sheets of 100 2nd class and 1st class (gold) stamps went on sale on 4 July. It was intended that the matrix (margin) surrounding the stamps would be removed, but this proved not so. Sheets without the matrix will be released later – date to be advised ●

Automated postage labels From 4 July the labels produced for affixing to parcels bear the coding 'P' instead of 'PF'. Responsibility for the UK standard parcel service has switched from Parcelforce Worldwide to Royal Mail ●

Peter Pan stamps The colours used are: 2nd gold, deep ultramarine, greenish yellow, grey-black; 1st gold, purple, greenish yellow, deep violet, grey-black; E gold, blue-green, greenish yellow, bright carmine, new blue, grey-black, orange-brown; 47p gold, pale new blue, greenish yellow, bright carmine, grey-black; 68p gold, bright rose-red, orange-brown, emerald, grey-black ●

New Originals catalogue A new, Summer 2002, catalogue of Royal Mail products, including pillar box piggy bank, coffee mugs showing classic stamp designs, model buses and vans, ties, and phone cards showing Machin definitives is available from Royal Mail Talents House, or call 0808 1000 55 (Monday-Friday, 08.30-17.00) ●

Bulletin back issues Dr Peter Ross has back issues September 1968 - November 1973 available for sale. Contact Dr Ross at The Old Sawmill, Lamplugh, Workington CA14 4TX ●

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Notes

(C) = correction

(L) = letter

Author's names are in italics

April 2002 issue contained a supplement: *The Wildings: the First Elizabeth II Definitives*. Each issue contained a supplement listing Commemorative Covers.

A GUIDE TO OUTER SPACE



A new prestige stamp book, *Across the Universe – A Guide to Outer Space*, has been issued by Royal Mail as part of the new Astronomy stamps range of products.

Featuring stamps in formats not available anywhere else, this book takes you on a journey through space beginning in 'Our Backyard', our own solar system, and continuing through 'The Milky Way, Cosmic Neighbourhood, Galactic

Clusters' and finally ending up at 'The Universe at Large'. This prestige stamp book contains four stamp panes – see inside for more information on the panes.

Across the Universe – A Guide to Outer Space is priced at £6.83, which is the value of the stamps contained within it, and is available by mail order from Royal Mail Tallents House. Quote order number 03 AAB.

Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
UK telephone order line 08457 641 641, overseas +44 131 316 7483



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