

Bulletin

Stamp Magazine at 70 • Postal stationery • Crimean War

Letters, &c., for the British Forces in Turkey and the Black Sea.

ATTACK ON BALAKLAVA.

Before Sebastopol, Oct. 28.

My Lord Duke,—I have the honour to acquaint your Grace that the enemy attacked the position in front of Balaklava at an early hour on the morning of the 25th inst.

The enemy commenced their operations by attacking the work on our side of the village of Camara, after very little resistance carried it.

The Russian cavalry at once advanced, supported by artillery, in very great strength. One portion of them assailed the front and right flank of the 93d, and were instantly driven back by the vigorous and steady fire of that distinguished regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Ainslie.

The other and larger mass turned towards Her Majesty's heavy cavalry, and afforded Brigadier-General Scarlett, under the guidance of Lieutenant-General the Earl of Lucan, the opportunity of inflicting upon them a most signal defeat. The ground was very unfavourable for the attack of our Dragoons, but no obstacle was sufficient to check their advance, and they charged into the Russian column, which soon sought safety in flight, far superior in numbers.

The charge of this brigade was on

IV
Flash'd all their sabres bare,
Flash'd as they turn'd in air
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while

All the world wonder'd:
Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right thro' the line they broke
Cossack and Russian
Reel'd from the sabre-stroke
Shatter'd and sunder'd.
Then they rode back, but not
Not the six hundred.



Sgt. Powell, 1st Regiment of Foot Guards
fought at battles of Alma and Inkerman
THE CRIMEAN WAR 1854-1856

(Cardigan)

000000
010000
020000
030000
040000
050000
060000
070000
080000
090000
100000
110000
120000
130000
140000
150000
160000
170000
180000
190000
200000
210000
220000
230000
240000
250000
260000
270000
280000
290000
300000
310000
320000
330000
340000
350000
360000
370000
380000
390000
400000
410000
420000
430000
440000
450000
460000
470000
480000
490000
500000
510000
520000
530000
540000
550000
560000
570000
580000
590000
600000
610000
620000
630000
640000
650000
660000
670000
680000
690000
700000
710000
720000
730000
740000
750000
760000
770000
780000
790000
800000
810000
820000
830000
840000
850000
860000
870000
880000
890000
900000
910000
920000
930000
940000
950000
960000
970000
980000
990000
1000000



HEAVY CAVALRY CHARGE

BALACLAVA

25th. October 1854

From Bal

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The 150th anniversary of the opening of the Crimean War is commemorated this month with Royal Mail's new set of stamps. This issue was previewed in August, and this month James Mackay looks at the historical background. 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. Handling charges: UK £1.30, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some stamps/products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps

29 September

Withdrawal Robins Smiler sheet (issued September 2003).

5 October

Issue Scottish Parliament miniature sheet • Crimean War stamp cards.

6 October

Withdrawal British Museum stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and medal cover.

12 October

Issue Crimean War stamps and presentation pack.

13 October

Withdrawal 19p definitive (issued 20 April 1999) • Country stamps for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales: 2nd, 1st, E (40p) and 68p stamps without white borders. Also country stamp packs Nos 53-56 & 59 (issued 2001/2) and original stamp cards (1999/2001) • roll of 500 1st class stamps (January 2003), sheet of 100 self-adhesive 2nd class (May 2002), sheet of 100 self-adhesive 1st class (July 2002), 6 x 1st book (Questa, June 2002), 6 x E, 6 x 42p, 6 x 68p & 12 x 2nd books (July 2002).

26 October

Issue 2004 Christmas stamp cards (seven cards – six stamps and miniature sheet).

2 November

Issue 2004 Christmas stamps, stamp books, presentation pack, Smilers sheet, airletters (standard and Welsh/English) and Christmas cards • 2004 Yearbook (standard and de luxe versions) and Yearpack.

3 November

Withdrawal 2003 Christmas stamps, stamp books, presentation pack, stamp cards, Smilers sheets (ice sculptures) and airletters (standard and bilingual Welsh/English) • 2003 Yearbook (standard and de luxe) and Yearpack.

30 November

Issue Stamp roll: 1000 x 1st class gold • Coin cover: Scotland £1 coin & Scottish country stamps • Ingot pack: George V Mackennal definitive.

Due to a change of printer for the *Bulletin*, we regret the late despatch of the September issue. The change may also slightly delay this issue – our further apologies if it does.

Contents



An illustrated cover in Colin Baker's postal stationery collection

Illustrated stationery Part

I of a new three-part series: from the introduction of the Mulready, postal stationery has been overprinted. Colin Baker offers an insight into a fascinating area for postal history collectors **52**

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.10 single copies from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 UK & Europe; £16.75 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group plc, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any article should be addressed to the Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

Issues and withdrawals 34

Stamp scene Auctions news; UK and overseas exhibitions; Societies; Royal Stamp display in Washington DC; Asiago award for philatelic art; Publications **36**

Royal Mail news Your suggestions for special stamps invited; Stamp ingot series; Books and Smilers for Christmas; News of special issues; Archives display **39**



Special prize draw Win the 2004 Yearbook **43**

Event Offices A report on recent developments in Mobile Post Offices, by Martin Robinson **44**

Olympics SmartStamps issued by the Society of Olympic Collectors, by Bob Wilcock **45**

War in the Crimea The historical background to this month's issue of six new special stamps, by James Mackay **46**



Stamp Magazine at 70 Richard West recalls its history **57**

Philately on-line Ron Negus looks at a single country website **60**

Competitions £200 in Royal Mail stamps and products to be won **61**

Cover corner A reply card surcharged due to improper use **61**

Events for October to November **62**

Late news **63**

Stamp scene Exhibitions • Auction news • Societies • Publications • Asiago Award

Scotex enquiries Telephone A Wishart, 01698 356337 or see the Scottish Philatelic Traders Association website: www.spta.biz

Basildon Tickets to the buffet reception are £15 and for the awards dinner £27.50. Bookings should be sent to: E Day, 6A Minster Close, Rayleigh SS6 8SF. Exhibition details on website: www.basildon2004.org.uk

Thematica Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W1, is a short walk from Marble Arch underground station.

Exhibitions The Irish national stamp exhibition STAMPA will be held at the RDS Hall, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 on 1-3 October. SCOTEX, the major stamp fair in Scotland, takes place at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow on 16-17 October. Open 16th 11.00-18.00 and 17th 10.00-16.30, admission free •

The fifth ABPS national exhibition – BASILDON 2004 – will be held at the Towngate Centre, Basildon on 20-21 November. Open 20th 10.00-17.00, 21st 10.00-16.00. Admission free. The exhibition will include displays, competitions, specialist society meetings, and a youth corner as well as some 40 dealers' stands. The principal class of the exhibition is Aerophilately with other competitions for Special Studies, Social Philately, Literature and Software, and National Youth. The National Inter-Fed competition will be based on previous ABPS competitions and will exclude the Aerophilately class. The exhibition is being organised by the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies on behalf of the Association of British Philatelic Societies and marks the diamond jubilee and 10th anniversary of the two organisations. A buffet reception will be held on 19 November (19.00) and the awards dinner on 20 November will be held at the Holiday Inn, Basildon •

The second of this year's Thematica exhibitions will be held at Carisbrooke Hall in London, on 26-27 November, admission free. Visitors will receive a souvenir sheet reproducing one of Jeffery Matthews' unadopted design for the 1984 Heraldry issue. As always there will be plenty of dealers with material for thematic collectors – and others! •



Auctions This month Harmers will auction an archive of tracings, drawings, mock-ups, essays, trials, proofs, etc of stamp designers Michael and Sylvia Goaman. Among the highlights will be designs for the International Botanical Congress issue of 1964 (left), the first time they were jointly accredited as designers by the GPO. Sylvia had a particular interest in botany and her skilled use of colour (due in part to her background in textile design) and Michael's instinctive understanding of shape and mass with a composition resulted in bold artwork for the stamp designs. From the 1960s there was increased demand for commemoratives expressing a wide range of subjects, many of them modern in their appeal. The Goamans built on advances in design made by Abram Games in the 1940s and 50s. As well as stamps for GB, they designed some notable issues for Antigua, Falkland Islands, Ghana, Kenya, Nauru, New Hebrides, Nigeria, and St Helena. Enquiries: Harmers, 020 8747 6100 or see website: www.harmers.com •

Cavendish will hold a Worldwide and GB auction on 24-25 November. Enquiries: Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, 01332 250970 •

Forthcoming Spink auctions are: GB & British Empire (20-21 October), and Stamps & Covers of the World (9 December). Enquiries: Spink, 020 7563 4000 or see website www.spink.com •

Royal Stamps display An exhibition of material from the Royal Philatelic Collection is on show at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington until 11 January, admission free. It displays a representative selection taken from The Queen's collection, featuring the lead-up to the introduction of the Penny Black, Twopenny Blue and the Mulready in 1840. Of particular interest is the 'Kirkcudbright Cover' bearing the largest multiple (10) of Penny Blacks known on first day of use, bought by The Queen in 2001. The unique block of 38 unused Twopenny Blues from Plate 1 is also being shown. In a special gallery, a number of other rarities from the Collection are being displayed, including the 'Post Office' Mauritius 1d and 2d, British Guiana and Bermuda items, Cape of Good Hope 'Woodblock' errors of colour, as well as other 'gems' from the Collection. A new book on the Royal Philatelic Collection was reviewed here in August •



Treasury competition entry by John Henry Clive.

Philatelic Societies news The subjects of the Royal Philatelic Society London displays this month are The Postal History of the War in Mesopotamia 1914-18 (Patrick Pearson, 7 October) and Tercentenary of British Gibraltar (21 October) •

On 9 October the National Philatelic Society will enjoy a visit by the Gibraltar Study Circle, and on 28 October Michael Thompson will display Lundy, Herm and GB Minor Railways, etc. The August issue of the NPS journal, *Stamp Lover*, includes articles on the stamps of French Senegal (in series on Forgotten Countries), the London Gang (stamp forgers), Przemysl, a review of Nicholas Courtney's new book on the Royal Philatelic Collection (and other reviews), auction news, details of NPS activities and the first instalment of a welcome cumulative index to the magazine, covering the years 1999-2003 •

The August issue of the Letter Box Study Group Newsletter is the first from new Editor, Malcolm Marples. It includes a report of the Group's London meeting, features on boxes in Lanzarote, Canada, notes from the Group's Photo Archives, restoration of the first standard pillarbox, coats of arms and pillar boxes, aperture castings on wall boxes, and much else that makes compelling reading for anyone interested in post boxes. Sent out with the Newsletter is a listing of publications and postcards available to Group members. The AGM will be held at the Aston Court Hotel, Midland Road, Derby on 2 October •

The July issue of the Methodist Philatelic Society Newsletter includes features on Wesley, Dominica, Brian Thompson's Bible, Richard Trevithick and Timothy Hackworth, Methodist Colleges in South Africa, and news of MPS activities •

RPS London 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Telephone 020 7486 1044 or see website www.rpsl.org.uk

National Philatelic Society 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. Telephone 020 7490 9610, or website www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

LSBG Val Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES.

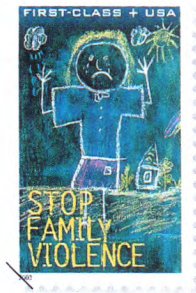
Methodist Philatelic Society Terry Smart, 11 Northwood Park, Woodlesford, Leeds LS26 8PE. Telephone 0113 282 6988.

Philatelic Expertising Dr W C Hellrigl, PO Box 349, I-39100 Bozen, Italy. www.aiep.net

MonacoPhil enquiries
Telephone +377 93 15 41 50.

Insch Mail 12 pages, paper covers. Available from Mrs A Dean, West Lediken, Insch, Aberdeenshire AB52 6LL. Price £1.50 postpaid.

Picture Postcard Monthly
£2.40 at postcard fairs, or on subscription from: 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT. Telephone 0115 937 4079.



International events An International Congress on Philatelic Expertising, organised by the International Association of Philatelic Experts, will be held in Merano-Meran, Italy, 12-14 November •

The MonacoPhil 2004 exhibition of rare stamps takes place at the Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies, Monaco, 3-5 December. Opening hours are 10.00-18.00 •

Publications Ann Dean has published an interesting little booklet *Insch Mail 1843-2004* concerning the postal history of the village of Insch and nearby Old Rayne (or Old Rain) in Aberdeenshire. By 1811 road improvements made a mail coach service possible, and in 1829 the main mail route to Inverness was via Old Rayne. In 1843 Insch became a receiving house of Old Rayne. Details are given of early 19th century letter charges, and examples are shown of the Old Rain and Insch cancels used in the 1850s. With the opening of the railway, Insch became a post town, and in 1886 the North of Scotland Sorting Carriage began operations and the Inverness bound mail train stopped at Insch to collect mail; on the journey to Aberdeen mail was picked up by lineside mail apparatus. Mail from Insch was despatched by rail until about 1985; now it goes by road. Mrs Dean gives details of the premises which housed the post office, with line drawings of two, the trackside apparatus and a Victorian letter box in Insch •

The August *Picture Postcard Monthly* includes reports on exhibitions, fairs, and clubs and societies as well as reference articles on topics such as 1908 Olympic Games, Photocrom's Rural Life postcards, Entente Cordiale, Queen Juliana, Kitted in Khaki, and Monkeys. There is a useful listing of forthcoming fairs and numerous adverts for dealers and auctions •

Art award Giorgio Migliavacca reports that the USA has won the 2004 Philatelic Art Asiago Award with a stamp issued on 8 October 2003 to raise funds for domestic violence programs whilst increasing public awareness on this important issue. Asiago's Mayor, Andrea Gios, congratulated the US Postal Service and said that the stamp focuses on a 'particularly distressing and often covered-up dramatic aspect of modern times.' The 45c stamp depicts a distraught woman with her hands raised in despair. Originally it was to depict a photograph of 6-year-old Monique Blais erasing an image of domestic violence from a blackboard. During a break in the photo session, without prompting, Monique drew her own picture of what she imagined best represented domestic violence. Her drawing had such an impact that it became the basis for the stamp. President George W Bush told her that her design was a 'really great piece of work'.

The Award for the best stamp on nature went to Liechtenstein for the stamps on agriculture and wine-making designed by Marta Griebler. San Marino's miniature sheet for the re-opening of the Fenice Theatre received the award for the best stamp promoting tourism. The recent issues of Portugal were also praised by the jury. The Asiago Award is under the patronage of the Italian President, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. Asiago is a popular tourist attraction nestled in the heart of the Eastern Alps •

Royal Mail news Your suggestions invited

• Christmas books • Smilers • Special issues

Bulletin reader participation in future special issues Royal Mail receives several hundred suggestions each year for subjects for special stamp issues. These are carefully assessed before a first shortlist is drawn up and market research carried out with groups made up of members of the general public to assess the level of interest in each subject. Sometimes this research brings some surprising results. The final shortlist of subjects is submitted to the Board of Royal Mail Group plc for approval.

Readers interested in suggesting subjects for stamp issues should write to: Stamp Programme Manager, Philatelic Sector, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. Suggestions for issues in 2007 should be submitted by the end of October; suggestions are also welcome for issues in 2008. We should also be interested in your views on joint issues and which countries you would like to see us doing joint issues with. The 2006 programme will be announced in this *Bulletin* in the first quarter of 2005. When submitting suggestions, please bear in mind Royal Mail's criteria (and conventions) for special stamp issues. These are as detailed at right. Readers interested in further guidance are referred to the feature 'Special Stamps Criteria' in the April 1992 *Bulletin* (page 175).

It is proposed that a shortlist of potential 2007 special issues will be published in the *Bulletin*, and readers invited to vote for the subjects they would most like to see featured on our stamps. This will be taken into consideration when the final shortlist is drawn up for Board approval.

Once the Royal Mail Board has approved the subjects for issue, image makers will be commissioned and design routes agreed with the help of the Stamp Advisory Committee, which comprises representatives from the worlds of design, media, philately, and public service, as well as some Royal Mail staff. The current members of the SAC are listed below.

The Royal Mail representatives are: Paul Rich, Deputy Managing Director & Marketing Director UK (Chairman); Julietta Edgar, Head of Philatelic Sector; Jane Ryan, Head of Stamp Design; Philip Parker, Head of Stamp Policy & Publishing; Catharine Brandy and Susan Gilson (Design Co-ordinators); and Stella Dunn (Committee Secretary). Other members of Royal Mail's Philatelic Sector attend as required.

Royal Mail criteria for special stamp issues

- 1 To commemorate important anniversaries.
 - 2 To celebrate events of national and international importance.
 - 3 To reflect the British contribution to world affairs, in particular to the Commonwealth and Europe, in a variety of fields of activity including the arts and sciences.
 - 4 To reflect the many and varied aspects of Britain and the British way of life.
 - 5 To extend public patronage to the arts by encouraging the development of miniscale art.
 - 6 To fit in with Royal Mail Group plc's commercial targets for philately.
-

Conventions supplementing the broad criteria

- 1 Any topic which may conceivably be controversial or cause offence nationally or internationally is avoided, eg political implications or propaganda, particular religious factions.
- 2 No living person, other than Royalty, is depicted as an individual. However teams can be featured, as on the stamps marking England's Rugby World Cup victory.
- 3 Anniversaries are restricted generally to 50 years or multiples thereof.
- 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 categories of subjects.

The external members of the Committee are: Dr Jean Alexander (food scientist and philatelist); Balam Gidoomal (businessman); Steve Guilbert (Dept of Trade & Industry); Mary Lewis (designer); Alan Livingston (Professor of Design, Falmouth College); John McConnell (designer); John Roberts (retired Chief Executive, Royal Mail Group plc); Paul Singleton (print expert); Glenn Tutsell (designer); Anthony Walker (garden designer and philatelist); and Michael Wolff (designer).

The Committee normally considers several sets of designs for each issue and its deliberations are often long and detailed. The set eventually selected is then sent, via the Dept of Trade & Industry, to Buckingham Palace for The Queen's approval. No British stamps can be issued without Her Majesty's consent •

New Stamp Ingots series The third in a new series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V will be available from 30 November. It features the George V 1d Mackennal profile definitive. Ingots for the George V 10s Seahorse high value, 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition, and 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress commemoratives will be available next year. Price £26.95 each from Tallents House. The Victorian stamp ingot series is still available, price £26.95 each – see the back cover of the September 2003 *Bulletin* for full details •

Christmas stamp books Shown below are the two stamp books (folded sheets) which go on sale, with the Christmas stamps (sheets of 50) and the miniature sheet, on 2 November. The books have the self-adhesive matrix stripped from around the stamps. Cylinders used are: D1 magenta, D1 yellow, D1 cyan (blue), D1 black, D1 phosphor (for both stamps), plus D1 light blue and D1 gold for the panels of the 2nd class and 1st class books •





Christmas Smilers The new Smilers generic sheet for Christmas, called 'Christmas Delivery', available from 2 November, will contain 10 1st class and 10 2nd class Christmas stamps, price £5.40. The sheet, printed in litho by De La Rue, has self-adhesive stamps. The stamps in sheets and books are printed in gravure. The labels feature two repeated series of five images of Father Christmas getting up in the morning and preparing for bed. The background design features Father Christmas flying over Buckingham Palace about to make his last delivery. Customised versions can be ordered containing 20 1st class or 20 2nd class stamps. Price £14.95 for one sheet (1st class) or £9.95 (2nd). To order, phone or visit website – details at right.

Still available are the 1st and 2nd class Ice Sculptures (4 November 2003), Hong Kong Stamp Expo (30 January 2004), Occasions (3 February), RHS Dahlias (25 May), and Rule Britannia (27 July) stamp sheets. All £6.15 each except 2nd class Ice Sculptures which is £4.20. Also available are sheets of 20 with your personalised image printed on the labels, price £14.95 for one sheet of 20 1st class stamps, £13.95 each for 2-4 sheets, and £11.95 each for 5-9 sheets. Sheets with 2nd class Ice Sculpture stamps are £9.95 one sheet, £9.25 each 2-4 sheets and £8.50 each for 5-9 sheets. Enquire for prices for larger quantities.

Personalised Smilers sheets can also be produced in Snap Digital photo booths in hundreds of shops and post offices around the country. These can produce any sheets from the current Smilers range. Price £15 per sheet. An album to house Smilers sheets is now available from Tallents House, price £16.50 (order code PA665) •

Personalised sheets To order phone 0845 074 2000 or see website: www.royalmail.com/smilers

2004 special issues This month's special issue, on 12 October, marks the 150th anniversary of the Crimean War – the stamps were previewed here in August. Also to be issued this month, on 5 October, will be a miniature sheet to commemorate the opening of the new Scottish Parliament building at Holyrood in Edinburgh. This sheet was previewed last month. The 2004 programme concludes with the Christmas stamps, miniature sheet and airletters (2 November), also shown last month •



2005 stamp programme Dates and numbers to be confirmed

11 January	Farm Animals (10 stamps + Smilers sheet)
8 February	British Journey: SW England (6)
24 February	Castles (miniature sheet)
3 March	Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë (6 + MS + PSB)
22 March	Magic Circle centenary (5 + Smilers sheet)
21 April	World Heritage Sites (8)
7 June	Trooping the Colour (6 + miniature sheet)
5 July	60th anniversary of the end of the War (MS)
19 July	British Motorcycles (6 + miniature sheet)
23 August	A Celebration of Food (6)
22 Sept	50th anniversary of ITV (6 + Smilers sheet)
18 October	Battle of Trafalgar (6 + miniature sheet + PSB)
1 November	Christmas (6 + MS + stamp books + Smilers)

The British Journey: North of England set will now be issued in 2006. PSB = prestige stamp book. MS = miniature sheet.

2005 stamp programme The Farm Animals issue (five shown above at proof stage, 74% actual size) will feature: Pigs (British Saddlebacks), Ducks (Khaki Campbell), Horses (Suffolk), Cattle (Dairy Shorthorn), Dog (Border Collie), Chicks (Light Sussex), Sheep (Suffolk), Goat (Bagot), Turkeys (Norfolk Black), and Geese (Embsden). The issue was designed by Rose Design, using illustrations by Chris Wormell; they are being printed in gravure by Enschedé. Further details will be given next month. The British Journey – South West England stamps will feature: Old Harry Rocks, Studland Bay; Wheal Coates, St Agnes; Start Point, Start Bay; Horton Down, Wiltshire; Chiseldon, Exmoor; and St James's Stone, Lundy. The Castles sheet will mark the 50th anniversary of the first Elizabeth II high value stamps •

Royal Mail Archive An exhibition of Victorian stamps from the R M Phillips Collection is now on at Royal Mail Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, open Monday-Friday 10.00-17.00 (Thursday until 19.00). The display will run until summer 2005. Large items such as vehicles are kept at the Postal Heritage Museum store which will be open to the public on 7 May, 11 June, 16 July and 17 September 2005. Royal Mail Archive, run by the Postal Heritage Trust, comprises the collections of the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum. For further information contact 020 7239 2570, or e-mail heritage@royalmail.com •

Stamp and coin publications Tallents House stocks the Stanley Gibbons publications *Collect British Stamps* and *Collect British Coins* (reviewed here in July). They are available at £9.95 each (order codes PB378 and PB379) •

Storing the Bulletin Binders and box files are available for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The sturdy box files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin* are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £9.95 each. Order codes PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the Philatelic and about 50 of the Postmark Bulletins. The traditional binders for the Philatelic and Postmark Bulletins cost £8.50 each (order codes BB001 and PB322 respectively) •



Going off sale The British Museum stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and medal cover will be withdrawn from philatelic sale on 6 October, and the 2003 Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp books, stamp cards and airmailers (national and Welsh versions) on 3 November. Also to be withdrawn will be the 2003 Year Book and Year Pack •

Special Delivery service From 28 October the Special Delivery Next Day guaranteed delivery time will move from 12 noon to 1pm, with standard compensation doubling in value from £250 to £500. For the vast majority, the delivery will still take place before noon. The Special Delivery gam service will remain unchanged •

Special prize draw Win the 2004 Yearbook

WE HAVE two Yearbooks to give away to the senders of the first card in our draw on 1 November. Five runners up will be sent packs of the 2004 Christmas stamps. To enter, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Yearbook Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ •

Prize draw winners The winners of the mystery prize draw in the May Bulletin were: R Lacasse, USA; R Highton, Kent; J Warmbrunn, Germany; R White, Essex; Mrs J Marymink, Sussex; and G Jones, Cardiff. The winners of 2003 Yearbooks in the June prize draw were: D Manning of Kent; F Pieren, Belgium; M Tritton, Bedfordshire; and G Skaife, Cleveland. P Palmer of Florida, USA and Mrs R Wicks of North Yorkshire were the winners of definitives presentation pack folders in the July draw •



Event Offices A report by Martin Robinson



The trailer at the Royal Show, Stoneleigh, showing the ramp and postbox. Below, the self-inking datestamp and Horizon label receipt, which gives the full address of the venue.



Post Office Ltd.
Your Receipt

Event Office Branch
Stand D904 Block 7
Royal Show
Stoneleigh Park
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2LZ

VAL Reg No.	243 1700 02
05/07/04	10:35
Session Prefix:	1-6656
Quantity:	1
Weight:	0.065 Kg
Dest:	UK
2nd Class	£0.35
Receipt	£0.00

ANYONE who has ever written a handbook or an article will have experienced the annoyance of new information coming to light just after publication. This is certainly the case with my article on Mobile Post Offices, published in the *Bulletin* in June 2004. In it I said that the programme of Mobile Post Offices, which used to provide services at agricultural shows and similar events, was cut back in the 1980s, that MPO postmarks were last used in 1988, and that the one surviving vehicle only made rare appearances. That was true at the time of writing, but there have been surprising new developments in 2004.

In October 2003 and January 2004 Colin Peachey reported in the British Postmark Society's *Bulletin* that self-inking datestamps inscribed **EVENT OFFICE** had been used at temporary post offices at the Harwood House Game Fair, the Welsh Royal Show and the National Eisteddfod of Wales, all in early August, the Conservative Party Conference in Blackpool in October, and possibly other events not yet recorded.

In June, July and August 2004, there were Event Offices for at least 10 shows as far apart as Edinburgh, Cornwall, Norwich and Haverfordwest. One was advertised as being in attendance at the Royal Show, Stoneleigh, in Warwickshire, and I took the opportunity of going along in the first week in July. There I found, in a far-flung part of the show ground near the Flower Tent, a fully-functional post office counter housed in a white four-wheeled trailer. It had a retractable pod at the side, which becomes the counter area, fold-away ramp, skirts and lobby, and a handsome Penfold pillar box at the front. I was told that it is towed behind a Land Rover Discovery, that there were three trailers (one an old vehicle held in reserve and likely to be scrapped), and that this one had travelled down from the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, Edinburgh. It was staffed by a young woman who travels with it and someone else recruited locally. The counter was provided with a self-inking datestamp, a Horizon machine which prints postage labels and receipts for packets and parcels, and an Alliance & Leicester cash machine. Brisk business was being done, mainly for people who wanted to withdraw money or cash cheques.

At the time of writing, two of the trailers have been seen, with datestamps **EVENT OFFICE BRANCH 2** and **3**, and both bearing the same vehicle registration number, as both are towed by the same vehicle. Let's hope this marks a new departure for the mobile post offices. If you find one at your local show or another event, please report it to John Newcombe, The Long House, Farnborough Hill, Orpington BR6 7EE, who is keeping a record on behalf of the British Postmark Society •

Olympics SmartStamps from Bob Wilcock



IN MY ARTICLE on the Olympic Games in the August *Bulletin* (page 363) I mentioned that the Society of Olympic Collectors would be using one of the first commemorative SmartStamps. In fact four have now been issued, two for the Athens Torch Relay, one for the soc 20th anniversary celebrations in Much Wenlock, and one to support the London 2012 Olympic bid.

The Torch Relay SmartStamps show the quality that can be achieved in the 'message' section, allowing a clearly recognisable portrait for example. One of the soc SmartStamps incorporates a photo of Andrew Lindsay MBE wearing the Gold Medal he won in the rowing eights at Sydney, and who, with his seven fellow medal winners, rowed the Torch from Embankment to Westminster piers. soc were also able to create a Smiler using the same photograph, and a postcard. The SmartStamp makes an interesting companion to a Smiler maximum card using a special handstamp. Like postage meters, SmartStamps will not normally be cancelled when they are sorted, and they are not accepted for special handstamps, whereas Smilers are.

A challenge with SmartStamps is that they can only be downloaded by computer the day before the intended posting date, and the day itself: it can be a rush printing labels and envelopes in this 36 hour window!

The soc Torch Relay SmartStamps were only used on 26 June, and the Much Wenlock SmartStamp was used only on 10 July. This refers to William Penny Brookes, a Much Wenlock doctor who founded the Wenlock Olympian Games in 1850. He impressed Pierre de Coubertin, who visited Much Wenlock in 1890, and who acknowledged Penny Brookes' contribution to the restoration of the Olympic Games in 1896.

soc were also given permission by London 2012 to use their logo on a SmartStamp. This was used on 10 July (on covers and on London 2012 postcards) and may also be used again in the future, on key dates in the Olympic Bid campaign.

Full details of SmartStamps were given in the March 2004 *Bulletin* (page 202) and can be found on the Royal Mail website (www.royalmail.com).

There are fears that computers and e-mail will mean the death of stamps and stamp collecting. The uninspiring 'Horizon' counter labels do not help, but SmartStamps offer an opportunity to take the hobby forward that hopefully the younger generation will see as cool! ●

War in the Crimea James Mackay looks at



The war of 1854-56 which engaged Britain, France and Sardinia on the side of Turkey against Russia is known as the Crimean War because most of the action took place in the Crimean peninsula, at the northern edge of the Black Sea.

SIX STAMPS featuring soldiers who served in the Crimean War go on sale this month. The war of 1854-56 which engaged Britain, France and Sardinia on the side of Turkey against Russia is commonly known as the Crimean War, because most of the action took place there, but it was accompanied by a naval campaign in the Baltic, a side-show which is all but forgotten. At this remove in time, it is hard to understand why the two leading powers in western Europe should undertake a campaign in such a remote, little known place. Even at the time, the causes of the conflict were confusing and barely understood.

Even more remarkable than the war itself was the alliance between Britain and France, enemies in countless wars and campaigns since the Middle Ages and the Hundred Years War. Indeed, only a year or two earlier, Britain's defences had been

put on red alert, and the militias and yeomanry units mobilised against the possibility of a French invasion, in the immediate aftermath of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte's coup of 1852. Indeed, mutual distrust would mar the conduct of the war, not helped by Lord Raglan's unfortunate habit of referring to the enemy as 'the French'.



Russian menace This unlikely alliance resulted from a common fear of Russia, which was once more in an expansionist mood. The drive towards Constantinople, an unresolved ambition of Peter the Great, seemed at last about to be achieved as Russia, under the energetic and ambitious Tsar Nicholas I, nibbled away at the dominions of the Sultan in the Caucasus and along the western shores of the Black Sea. Early in 1853 the Tsar found a new pretext for aggrandisement. A petty squabble between 'a few Greek priests' over the Christian sites in the Holy Land provided the opportunity for Nicholas to arrogate to himself the unofficial (but highly lucrative and influential) title of Protector of Orthodox Christians in Infidel Parts.

This was seen as a toe in the doorway to the seizure of all those parts of the Ottoman Empire with a Christian population, mainly the Balkans but including coastal settlements in Asia Minor and further south. The thought of the Russians in Constantinople, as heirs to the Byzantine Empire, was too much for the British government which feared that this would lead to Russian encroachment on India. When Nicholas suggested that Britain take Egypt as her share of the spoils, the Foreign Office recoiled in horror.

The quarrel between Russia and France was much more quixotic and arose from the coronation of President Bonaparte as Emperor Napoleon III. Nicholas addressed the new Emperor as 'friend' instead of 'brother', an insult which turned Napoleon into an implacable enemy of the Tsar.

the background to this month's new stamps

Besides, Napoleon III was a staunch Catholic and felt it was his duty to act on behalf of the Pope in sticking up for the rights of the western Church in the Holy Land. As a Bonaparte, he wanted to get his revenge for the Russian defeat of his uncle in 1812. Most of all, he realised that his restoration of the imperial dynasty was shaky, and there was nothing like a successful war for improving his popularity ratings with the French public.

Even Kaiser Franz Joseph, who owed his succession to the Habsburg throne to the intervention of the Tsar in 1848, the Year of the Revolutions, was so alarmed at Russian encroachments on Constantinople that he was prepared to desert his ally and throw in his lot with Britain and France. In the end, the only other partner in this coalition was Sardinia, whose ruler, Victor Emmanuel, saw this as a good move in advancing the cause of Italian unity under his rule.

Indigestible cake of Europe In July 1853, Nicholas mobilised his army and sent troops into Turkish territory north of the mouth of the Danube. Russia had annexed Bessarabia in 1812 and seized Moldavia and Wallachia in 1829. Now the Tsar had got his hands on the Dobrudja, nicknamed the indigestible cake of Europe because so many powers had swallowed it briefly, only to be forced to disgorge it later. Britain and France sent their fleets to the Bosphorus, too late to save a Turkish squadron from annihilation.

War was now inevitable, although the Coalition forces moved at an extraordinarily slow pace. By January 1854 Allied plans had only got as far as a scheme for the fortification of Constantinople and Gallipoli. At that stage, the war was to be fought defensively. While the Allies were still mustering their forces at Varna on the west coast of the Black Sea, Russia suddenly withdrew from the Dobrudja after pressure from Austria. The Coalition now had no cause to go to war with Russia after all, but their troops could not be left at Varna, where a cholera epidemic had erupted, and neither France nor Britain was prepared to bring home their expeditions with nothing to show for all that effort. Someone in the British Cabinet pointed out that the Crimea was an easy target, a peninsula that could be readily blockaded by the Allied fleets, and the Russian naval base at Sevastopol was a tempting prize. Only when they got there did the Allies discover that the seas surrounding the Crimea were far too shallow for their ships.

Overall Commander in Chief was Lord Raglan, an elderly general who had not seen active service since Waterloo. His deputy, Marshal St Arnaud, was even longer in the tooth, and expired during the campaign. The ablest of the Allied commanders was Omar Pasha, a veteran of many campaigns against the Russians in the Near East.

On 7 September 1854 the Coalition forces embarked at Varna. Some 57,000 men were involved, the largest armada up to that time. The landing took place without a hitch at Eupatoria, whose Russian governor informed the Allies that, because of the cholera outbreak at Varna, they must remain in quarantine!



Enmity between the Emperor Napoleon III, above, and Tsar Nicholas I, opposite, was one of the reasons their countries went to war.



First battle The advance on Sevastopol began on 19 September and the following day battle was joined at the Alma river. The French and British fought uncoordinated battles, but the Russians were disorganised and eventually driven back. The advance resumed on 23 September and two days later the Allies were in front of Sevastopol. Their bombardment started on 17 October, and a week later the Russians counter-attacked at Balaclava, to be checked by the Heavy Cavalry Brigade. When the Russians captured a Turkish gun battery, Raglan gave orders for it to be retaken. His staff officer Nolan launched the Light Brigade not against the battery but against the full might of the Russian artillery. The resulting charge of the 600 has gone down in history as a most pointless operation. A battle at Inkerman on 5 November was inconclusive due to inept leadership on both sides.

That was effectively the end of the campaign, as both sides settled down to a hard winter of trench warfare. Hostilities resumed in April 1855 but it was not until 8 September that the assault on Sevastopol succeeded, though the British attack on the Redan failed and only French success at Malakoff saved the day. The Russians managed an orderly evacuation and the Allies, failing to take advantage of their success, did not pursue them.



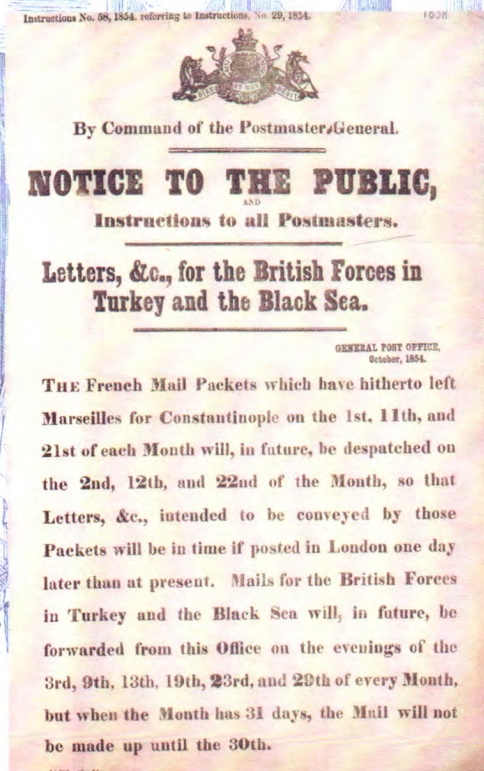
Hitherto British wars had been conducted abroad largely without reference to London, owing to poor communications. During the winter of 1854, however, an electric telegraph cut communications between London, Paris and the Crimea from 10 days to less than 24 hours. Napoleon III, whose dynasty depended on victory, sent thousands of telegrams to his field commanders. By contrast, telegrams from the War Office were infrequent and piffling, such as a debate on whether beards encouraged soldiers to desert. General Simpson, Raglan's successor, hated the telegraph, saying that it had upset everything. He worked from 4am till 6pm every day answering telegrams, incapable of delegating this task to staff. When Sevastopol fell and Simpson did not press forward, the War Office sought an explanation. Simpson replied that he was waiting to know the Russian plans. This drew a telegram from Queen Victoria herself, drily suggesting that he telegraph St Petersburg for advice! Not surprisingly, he resigned soon afterwards.

There was no further action and the war ground to a halt, formally ended in February 1856 by the Treaty of Paris, which excluded Russian warships from the Black Sea (a clause which was broken only 15 years later). British forces remained in the Crimea until 12 July 1857.

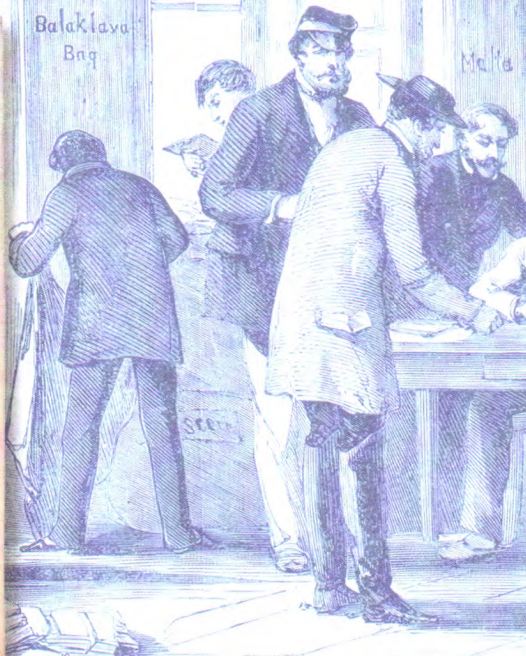
Lord Cardigan, far left, led the Light Brigade in a futile charge following a confused order by Lord Raglan. Six weeks later, Tennyson's *The Charge of the Light Brigade* was published, and the '600', depicted below by Richard Caton-Woodville, became legendary figures.

Cardigan: MEPL. Below (and p35): © copyright. Reproduced by permission of the Thomas Ross Collection: www.rosscollection.co.uk





Above: the British Army Post Office in Constantinople in 1856 and a notice relating to transportation arrangements. Below: Henry Mellersh, one of the Assistant Postmasters sent to the Crimea (see also October 1994 *Bulletin*).



Mail arrangements Forces' mail initially travelled through the French consular post offices in Constantinople and Smyrna, for which a charge of 156d per half ounce letter was made, but in April

1854 this was reduced to 11d (5d to Malta or Gibraltar and 6d from there to Britain). In May 1854 letters were conveyed by the French mail packets, at 3d per quarter ounce, usually paid by the recipient. The letters of enlisted servicemen were carried home by British warships where possible. These were charged only 1d, but had to be counter-signed by the commanding officer, otherwise the full rates (to which officers were subjected) applied.

A British post office opened in Constantinople on 20 June 1854, followed by branches at Gallipoli, Varna, Sevastopol and Balaclava. Edward Smith was seconded from the GPO in London as Postmaster to the Forces; later three assistant-postmasters were appointed to head the branch offices, and seven letter sorters were sent out. During the campaign an average of 45,250 letters were sent each month to the Crimea and 43,125 were sent from the front. These offices closed in August 1856, but a temporary office, handling mail from the Black Seas Fleet, operated in Constantinople in September 1856, using a CONSTANTINOPLE /B.A. (British Agency) datestamp.

The office at Varna was actually located on board a British warship and after the embarkation it was transferred to Balaclava (30 September 1854 to August 1856). The main post office in the Crimea was at Army general headquarters, but there was also a branch office at the Palace Hospital in Scutari, from late January 1855 until August 1856.



At first the British stamps affixed to servicemen's mail went uncanceled to London, and such covers can only be identified by manuscript endorsements such as 'The Army in Turkey' or 'Army in the Crimea'. The oval obliterator shown at right was followed by a second, with a sunburst flanked by the letter o (known to collectors as the oxo type), sent out in March 1855 and in use on 24 March. Robson Lowe, who had made a detailed study of covers bearing this cancellation, was convinced that it was applied at the Army Post Office in Constantinople, through which all mail from the Crimea was then routed.

Datestamps, found on the backs of covers or alongside the adhesives, consisted mainly of the unframed circular type inscribed POST OFFICE – BRITISH ARMY (shown at right). At first no code letter was used, but from December 1854 to July 1856 code A identified Constantinople, while code B was used at Balaclava (January–October 1855) and Army HQ (May 1855 to August 1856). Code C is extremely rare and has only been recorded on mail from Scutari.

French mail The French had a long tradition of military mail and were much better organised. As well as datestamps stating BRIGADE FRANCAIS GRECE and ARMEE D'ORIENT, they had dotted lozenge-shaped obliterations with the initials of many different units, from AO (Armée d'Orient), QG (Quartier Général) and GI (Garde Impériale) to BC (Bureau Central) and BS (Bureau Sédentaire). Several handstamps inscribed KAMIESCH (French HQ) are also known, while naval mail had postmarks inscribed MEDITERRANEE •



The oval cancellation above, sent to the Crimea on 27 May 1854, was in use from early June until 26 April 1855. This was followed by the oxo type, as used on the 1855 cover at top, sent from the Black Sea Fleet to Somerset. Circular datestamps are found on the backs of covers or alongside the adhesives.

Illustrated postal stationery of GB Part 1:

The overprinting of envelopes, by Colin Baker

IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES, much of the commercially used postal stationery carried messages or advertisements, some being plain and to the point while others were colourful and ornate. This three part article looks at illustrated postal stationery, and not at unstamped items that were used with adhesive stamps. In addition, it is not intended to provide a comprehensive list of all the designs that were printed, nor meant to be a catalogue of the varieties of additional printings that were undertaken. Instead it is intended to be an introduction to the area of postal stationery collecting that covers advertising and overprinted matter impressed with a postal stationery stamp. I hope that it will encourage others to delve more deeply into this fascinating aspect of postal stationery, and maybe tempt someone to compile a listing or catalogue of the numerous designs produced.

The beginning The world's first nationally valid postal stationery, carrying the now famous design by William Mulready RA, was issued by Great Britain in May 1840. Both envelopes and lettersheets were issued, but only weeks after their introduction, the insides of both types of stationery were being overprinted with an assortment of advertisements and other matter. Although the Mulready stationery rapidly fell from the public's favour (if ever it was accepted by them in the first place), the idea of advertising on blank areas of envelopes and lettersheets continued into the period of the replacement stationery introduced in 1841, which carried the penny pink and twopenny blue embossed stamps.

Types of overprinted postal stationery

1 Addition of a company's logos or seals. In this category, apart from the prestige of having one's own stationery embellished by a company logo, it must also have reduced the risk of envelopes and the like being misappropriated by staff.

2 Printing of addresses, notes and other text. Overprinting stationery with all manner of messages, from an order form to correspondence acknowledgements, was mainly applied to postcards and envelopes, but a few lettersheets and lettercards were also treated in this way.

3 Promoting one's own goods and services by overprinting stationery was by far the most popular type of advertising undertaken. The overprinting usually included engravings, or latterly photographs and drawings, associated with the type of goods available.

4 Distribution of groups of advertisements paid by several contributors. This type of stationery was normally sold at a discount to encourage sales, but was not nearly so popular in the latter part of the 19th century as it had been at the time of the Mulready lettersheets. Examples are difficult to find. As far as I am aware, the selling of advertising space on cut-price stationery did not extend into the 20th century.

As we know today, almost all of the commonly used types of stationery fell under the advertisers' spotlight and thus everything from envelopes to lettersheets and postcards to lettercards were embellished during their periods of use. Advertising and overprinting on postal stationery continued from the early Victorian period until its demise during the present reign. The introduction of bulk mailing facilities, combined with the postage paid impression, especially where mail could be pre-sorted by the sender before delivery to the Post Office, meant that postal stationery became redundant, being replaced by the PPI (Postage Paid Impression) envelopes covered in a mass of gaudy advertising material, but no postage stamps.

The overprinting of all postal stationery can be grouped into four types, as described at left. Although some items clearly come within only one category, others may fall into two or more.

Opposite from top Cooke & Sons envelope showing their factories in Liversedge and Brussels. Parkins & Gotto 1d pink envelope with advertising rings privately printed after the stamp had been impressed. Stamp dealers Alfred Smith & Son featured their Bath premises on their envelopes. Some stationery was prepared as a souvenir of an event, such as the maiden voyage of one of the transatlantic liners.

could be said that the Mulready design was more than just a postage stamp. Perhaps it focussed other artists' thoughts and encouraged them to produce similar designs. It may even have led to the diverse development of illustrated envelopes in the 19th century.

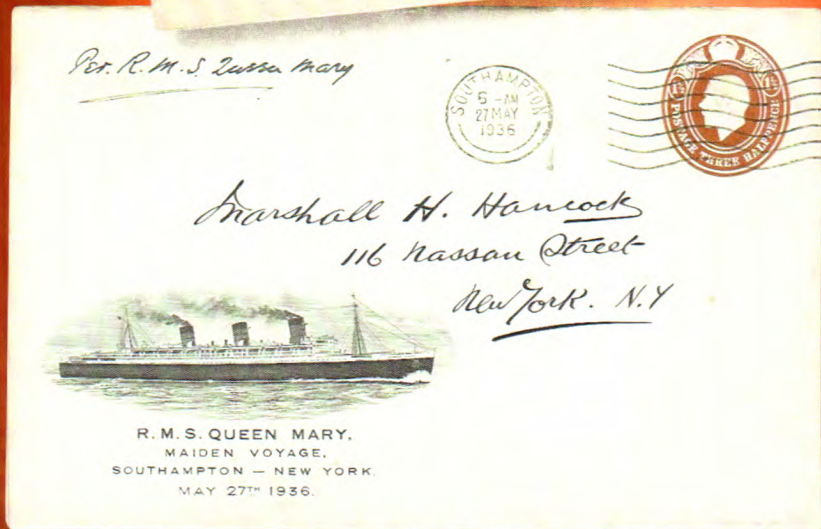
Until 1855 the only pre-paid stationery available to the public was that sold by the Post Office. Apart from the Mulready, overprinting the inside of envelopes with advertisements, invoices, etc was generally not carried out. The reason for this was simple. The manufacture of envelopes became mechanised in the 1840s and before long they were being sold ready for use, to be sealed using a pre-gummed flap. Prior to this, envelopes had to be folded by hand and sealed with sealing wax or wafer seals. They were opened in a similar way so that the insides were exposed, revealing any printed advertisement. The new envelopes with their gummed flaps could be slit open, so that matter printed on the inside would not have been seen. Progress had killed off the internal printing of envelopes.

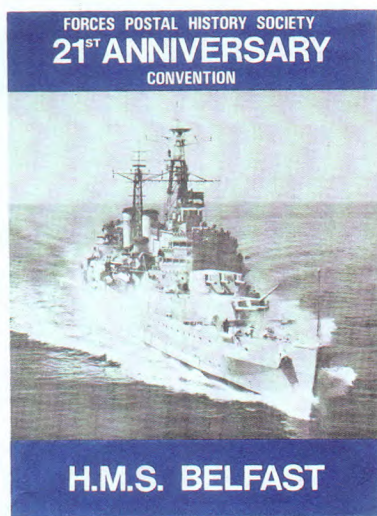
In 1855 the facility to have one's own paper impressed with embossed stamps allowed firms to submit pre-printed sheets to Somerset House in London (and other stamping offices across the British Isles) for impressing with stamps to any required value. But firms who obtained their stationery in this way were not usually interested in the political scene; profit and the furthering of business opportunities were much more important. Pre-printing envelopes with information about a firm's products and services was an important advertising tool, and many companies took the opportunity to use envelopes and other stationery in this way.

In particular, firms liked to boast of the size of their premises, such as Cooke & Sons with two factories in Liversedge, Yorkshire, or Blundell Spence based in Hull. The latter company included adjacent buildings in their vignette to give the appearance their premises were larger than was actually the case. Sadly I can find no evidence of these companies existing today. One company that has remained in business since the Victorian period is John Oakey and Company, who made all manner of products from knife polish to specialised soap. Their trademark remained in use on postal stationery envelopes into the George VI period.

Privately printed stationery had another unexpected advantage. Postal stationery could be purchased from the Post Office by anyone, and it would be difficult for a firm to prove that employees had misused their property where Post Office stationery was involved. But with privately printed stationery there could be no such doubt. Thus any slight increase in the cost of preparing pre-printed stationery through Somerset House was probably offset by savings made in preventing the misappropriation by staff of envelopes, postcards and the like.

Such was the desire of some firms to prevent the theft of their stationery that rings carrying the firm's name and address were printed around embossed stamps, sometimes in addition to other devices printed above or to one side of the address panel. Philatelists know these as advertising rings. However, there were far easier and more effective ways of displaying a firm's name and address than embossing these details around a postage stamp.





One of the numerous privately prepared commemorative envelopes stamped under the STO system before its closure in 1973.

Some of these advertising rings were applied privately after the paper had been stamped at Somerset House with the appropriate value stamp, and different coloured inks were used, as is clearly shown in the Parkins Gotto envelope shown on page 55. However, some firms had the rings included as part of the dies used to impress the stamps, and thus were printed in one operation and in one colour. WH Smith was one of the firms that followed this route, and used an extensive range of different value wrappers to send magazines and papers around the world.

Some firms sent mail to another of their offices, or to associated firms, on a very regular basis and, starting in the 19th century, they had envelopes pre-printed with the address to which they were to be sent. Mail of this nature was often posted last thing at night and correctly addressed and stamped envelopes saved the clerks time, prevented mistakes from occurring and once more helped to prevent the theft of stationery by the staff. It is not unusual to find pre-addressed stationery envelopes impressed with sufficient stamps to cover not just the weight of the package, but also late posting fees. One such firm was the German Insurance Company Mannheimer Versicherungsgesellschaft that had quite a range of envelopes pre-stamped to a variety of values to cover various weights of correspondence, while Baader & Gerlach of Leipzig was another.

At the beginning of the 20th century window envelopes were introduced. These also had the advantage of saving clerks time, avoiding errors in addresses and making the misuse of envelopes by staff more difficult. Postal stationery versions of window envelopes often carried company details, and some included engravings and photographs of the company's products or factory. Throughout the 20th century postal stationery envelopes, both window and plain versions, gradually lost their popularity. However, I am pleased to note that they do survive today, albeit to a limited extent ●

Stamp Magazine at 70 Richard West recalls its history



IN OCTOBER 1934, a new philatelic publication was launched in the UK – *Stamp Magazine* was born. The brainchild of its first Editor Tom Todd, the first issue sold for 3d, there were 5,000 copies printed, and its 32 pages were equally split between editorial and advertising. Not all the names appearing will be familiar today, especially of the advertisers, although it is good to see Harmers, a full page advertiser, and Healey and Wise, who took a quarter page in that first issue 70 years ago, still going strong. Ken Berry, then the owner of Healey and Wise, now run by his son Michael (although no longer attending Stampex, Healey and Wise is always at Thematica), had been influential in the development of the magazine.

Other advertisers in that issue whose names may be familiar were Robson Lowe and Francis Field, plus W Ramsay Strachan, who went on to become a stamp wholesaler and a prominent personality within the Philatelic Traders' Society and Stampex.

Among the authors were Fred Melville, whose name remains legendary, and Ken Chapman, who went on to edit *Stamp Collecting* for over 25 years, and was a welcome visitor to the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain last year. The legendary writing team of L N and M Williams would soon be contributing to the title.

New issue news From the outset the magazine aimed to appeal to a more general collector, and embraced the philatelic societies with a regular 'Stamp Club News'. A record of new issues has always been important, in the early days the information being printed on coloured paper in the centre of the magazine, clearly with the view that it could be pulled out and kept. It is interesting that in those days this information was gathered from a few leading stamp dealers, and collectors in various countries. A different scenario from today, when magazines are bombarded with details from the Post Offices and their agents.

The second issue a month later added another eight pages of editorial, and the price doubled to 6d. This issue contained the magazine's first competition, in which readers were asked 'Which country's stamps do you prefer, and why?'. The prize was half-a-guinea (52½p), although writers of every published letter received 2s 6d (12½p).

The Editor himself contributed the news and a number of features, while other regulars included 'The Beginners Page' and 'For Your Bookshelf'. Many articles in the early issues focused on airmails, perhaps not surprising in those pioneering times. In fact, Tom Todd did everything, from editing to handling advertisements, printing and distribution.

Promoting the hobby Tom Todd was active in the hobby and in September 1936 organised his first stamp exhibition, at Dorlands Hall, Lower Regent Street in London. Other exhibitions would follow, and it said that Tom's events were the inspiration for Stampex. In 1938 he became Editor of *World Stamp Digest*, later to be incorporated in *Stamp Magazine*. He wrote a number of books, including *A History of British Postage Stamps* and *The Embossed Octagonal Postage Stamps of Great Britain*. In the 1960s he moved to Guernsey, and when Guernsey attained postal independence he was invited to join its Post Office Board, a position he held until 1974. During the 1960s he was agent for the local issues of the Calf of Man.

From the advertisements of those early issues there is one which some may now find surprising. There was a very prominent and thriving stamp department in Selfridges, and many who would later become leading lights in the stamp world, both collectors and dealers, started their careers at this famous department store.

Few editors Despite its 70 years, *Stamp Magazine* has had few Editors. The first, Tom Todd, sadly died at the age of 79 just weeks before the magazine celebrated its 50th birthday. He was succeeded by Arthur Osbert (A O) Crane, who also wrote a number of philatelic works, including *Postage Stamps and the Empire's Story*, *Practical Stamp Collecting* and *Money in Postage Stamps*.

I have been the longest serving Editor, for 27 years, and before me came Arthur Blair. Arthur was an 'all-round' collector with interests in many areas, and had been associated with the magazine from the outset. All who knew Arthur remember him as a true gentleman, seemingly one of the 'old school' but who could certainly enjoy a, sometimes risqué, joke. While his collecting was fairly general, he had a particular fascination for Christmas and Valentine's cards. He was Editor for around 20 years, until 'retiring' in 1972 whereupon he became Consultant Editor. I became the next Editor, having at the time not long left university, it being through University College London that I met Arthur. It was Arthur's encouragement that started me writing for the magazine.



First editor Tom Todd



Arthur Blair

Since 1999 Steve Fairclough has been at the helm. His background is journalistic rather than philatelic, having started his career with the *Birmingham Post*, then joining the newsdesk of *The Sun*, and becoming photographic correspondent for *The Times*. His move to magazines initially saw him as Assistant Editor of *Club Mirror*, published by EMAP, before joining IPC Magazines Ltd as Deputy Editor of *Amateur Photographer*.

Changing ownership In 1939 *Stamp Magazine* was acquired by Link House Publications. Ownership changed over the years, from a private company to a stock market listing. It was then bought by United Newspapers and subsequently became the subject of a management buy-out. In 1998 the company became part of IPC Magazines: today *Stamp Magazine* is one of around 100 titles published by IPC, now owned by Time Warner AOL.

As part of the original private company, *Stamp Magazine* was a stablemate of the famous *Exchange & Mart*. Perhaps that is the reason *Stamp Magazine* became so popular with its advertisers, with issues topping 100 pages, although for many years the number of editorial pages remained at around 28. It is only in more recent times that the balance has been redressed, and readers are now given a far more substantial read.

The hobby has seen many ups and downs over the years. A boom in the late 1960s persuaded Link House to launch a full colour *Stamp Weekly*, initially edited by Colin Narbeth. The good times did not last, and after three and a half years, in 1971, the title was incorporated into *Stamp Magazine*. In 1992 *Stamps*, launched a few years earlier, was also incorporated within *Stamp Magazine*.



Richard West



Steve Fairclough

Changing times Over the years, various changes have naturally occurred. Perhaps the most noticeable has been the use of colour. At one time there was no colour inside the magazine, and restrictions on its use on the front cover. For years the cover was printed in two colours, black and one other, and eventually that was increased to black and two other colours. It was only in the late 1970s that full colour covers became the norm, and colour started to creep in on other pages.

Despite the apparent paucity of editorial pages for many years, there were times when there were restrictions placed on the size of the magazine: during the war, and at the time of the three-day week in 1974 when fuel-saving measures meant a reduction in working hours, and hence a reduction in the number of pages in the magazine.

The 1970s brought other changes. In former times it had been quite customary for stamp magazines to include a gift packet of stamps with each issue. However, the trend had disappeared, albeit *The Cinderella Philatelist* has for many, many years offered its readers a gift with each issue. As part of the build-up to The Queen's Silver Jubilee, in March 1977 *Stamp Magazine* gave away a packet containing a random three St Vincent Silver Jubilee stamps overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. From that time such cover gifts have become a regular feature of the magazine, one that has been adopted by other stamp journals.

Around that time *Stamp Magazine* also established a connection with the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, and for some years 'Crown Agents News' appeared each month as a separate section. Over the years the exhaustive listing of new issues has remained a prime feature of the magazine.

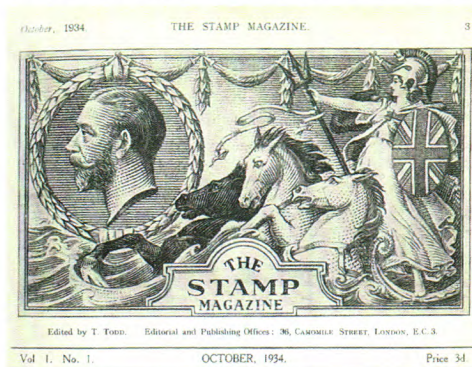
Stamp Magazine trophy Following the lead given by Tom Todd, the magazine has always been a keen supporter of exhibitions, and was one the sponsors of the British Philatelic Exhibition at Seymour Hall from the late 1960s. Around the same time, realising the growing popularity of thematic collecting, the publishers offered a trophy to be presented each year at Stampex, originally known as The Link House Trophy, but this year replaced by The Stamp Magazine Trophy. Over the years the magazine has been entered in many international stamp exhibitions, invariably been awarded a silver medal or higher, and has had a presence at many of these exhibitions.

Today the magazine maintains its approach of keeping its readers fully informed of news from home and overseas, still presenting updates from stamp clubs and keeping abreast of new issues, while offering a good balance of other features, now all in full colour.

The hobby has changed over the years, with the growth of stamp fairs and greater use by collectors of buying and selling at auction. Some years ago the magazine introduced a comprehensive diary of fair and auction dates.

Over the years stamp magazines have come and gone. On the commercial front, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* has been the longest survivor, but not far behind, and now with a 70 year history, is *Stamp Magazine* •

Title page of the first issue of *Stamp Magazine*, October 1934.



THE UNIVERSAL APPEAL OF STAMPS

By FRED J. MELVILLE.

If anyone who has followed the trend of philatelic affairs from the beginning of this century, it seems little less than miraculous how the we should have no arrievable help towards a philatelic census. What happens to all the old ones? Yet anyone who has been alert to two old for service, get away his stamp albums and send that stamp collecting 'at' war time was too much like New England when Boston was burning. He

Philately on-line Ron Negus looks at a single country site



<http://Philippine-philately.org> Designed and implemented by Abraham Luspo Jr, this website lives up to the sub-title on its home page which reads 'For those who passionately collect the Philippines'. However, it offers ideas to anyone who may be responsible for a single country philatelic site.

IN LAST MONTH'S COLUMN I described a site prepared by a collector who wanted to display his collection of GB Victorian stamps. Similarly, some collectors employ the internet to invite viewers to share their own enthusiasm for a particular country. I have recently found one that is devoted to the Philippine Islands (see above for address), that is a superb example of how this type of site can be arranged.

The Philippines gained their independence in 1946. Prior to that they were under the administration of other nations, and this site has major sections which cover the Spanish Philippines, the Revolutionary Government, the US Administration, and the Japanese Occupation in World War II and, finally, issues of the Philippines Republic. The philatelic implications that arise from this history of foreign occupation provides material for a website now containing nearly a thousand pages of text and incorporating more than 4000 illustrations.

A useful test when examining a website for the first time is to see when it was last updated. Many sites ignore this detail completely. On others, the information given is so obviously out of date that it gives rise to a suspicion that its owners have ignored the site. This Philippines site provides the date it was last updated on its title page, and then gives a page of notes on updates. These include a summary followed by a full commentary on each individual change that was made.

The bulk of the site gives fully illustrated extracts from 'some of the best Philippine collections ever formed'. These are indexed under the general title of Collections, and each index entry gives the number of pages and the number of images that are included. This gives a quick indication of the amount of viewing time likely to be needed to examine the detailed pages. The range of the collections is comprehensive. It covers stamps, postal history, airmails, revenues, Cinderellas and even includes a fascinating compilation of 'errors, freaks and oddities'.

The scope of the 27 collections included varies from the small four pages (with 48 images) of the island's 'Overprint Issues of 1899-1904' up to a monster 80 pages (404 images) under the title 'Pioneer Flights 1919-1946'.

Another separate section of the site is entitled Auction Watch. This is grouped under the five major categories shown above, and for each one it lists material offered at recent auctions. These are summarised with a dated index giving a very brief outline of the material offered. Clicking on any particular entry in this index brings up a full page showing a picture of the item and the full description taken from the actual auction catalogue. If the sale has passed, the entry shows the price realised, as well as the estimate. This is invaluable information for the specialist collector, since auction realisations provide a much more accurate guide to scarcity than the normal stamp catalogue pricing.

Even if you have never been interested in the issues produced by the Philippine Islands, I would strongly recommend a visit to this site. It was awarded a 2003 Website Excellence Award, and thoroughly deserves it. Try to imagine how you would feel if your own country of interest was dealt with on the web in a similar manner ●

Competitions Win £200 in Royal Mail stamps and products



July identify The detail was from the 1961 PO Savings Bank 3d stamp. The winner was B Hegson of Hereford.

July knowledge Answers: 1) Elizabeth Blackadder; 2) 1986; 3) 1978. The winner was W Dols of the Netherlands.

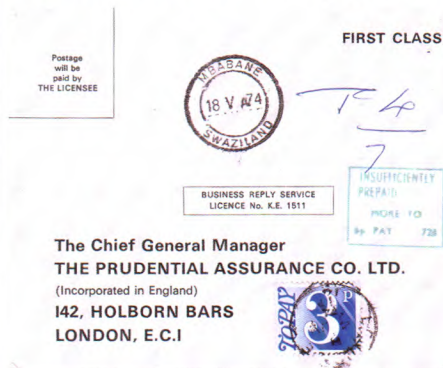
Ten runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1988 Linnean Society stamps?
- 2 Who was appointed Postmaster General in October 1964?
- 3 In which year was Bush House, Bristol shown on a stamp?

Send your answer (addressed to either October *Identify* competition or October *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 November will each receive £100 worth of Royal Mail stamps and related products. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Cover corner A reply card improperly used and surcharged



No Postage Stamp necessary if posted in GREAT BRITAIN or NORTHERN IRELAND



£10,000 when you retire

Now, while you are young, is the time to take out a Prudential Endowment Assurance—a sure way to secure a comfortable retirement at an economical cost. For more details complete and return this card.

Some Examples

Age at Entry	30	40	50
Sum Assured	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
Bonuses*	5,785	4,535	3,125
Total payable	10,785	9,535	8,125

*Bonuses on future maturities cannot be guaranteed.

Without committing myself in any way, I should like to have details of your Endowment Assurance policies.

NAME Shirley M. M. M.
ADDRESS 100 St. 100, 100 St.
DATE OF BIRTH 1943
McC (71173) CN 1079

Prudential
Assurance Company Limited

THIS business reply card was posted from Mbabane, Swaziland to London on 18 May 1974. The licence for these items only applies to mail sent within the UK – unless the appropriate stamp has been applied which in this case it has not – so the Post Office regarded the item as unpaid. There is a pen applied $\tau=4/7$ fraction presumably applied

in Swaziland and a framed 'Insufficiently Prepaid More to Pay 6p'. The number 723 probably refers to Southampton. However the London delivery office ignored this instruction and surcharged the card at 3p – the then current 2nd class inland rate. The postage due stamp is cancelled with an indistinct London datestamp. *Robert Phillifent* •

Events

Until 11 January 2005 The Queen's Own: Stamps that Changed the World exhibition (stamps from the Royal Philatelic Collection) at Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Old Post Office, near Union Station, Washington DC. Admission free.

30 September - 3 October Philatelic Congress of GB at Winchester Hotel, Worthy Lane, Winchester. Displays, social events, signing of Roll of Distinguished Philatelists etc. **Enquiries** A Griffiths, 01923 712384.

1-3 October Stampa (Irish national stamp exhibition) at RDS, Dublin 4 (Anglesea Road entrance). Open 11.00-18.00. **Enquiries** Telephone and fax +353 (0)1 454 6675. www.stampa.ie

5 October Lecture 'The Future of Britain's Oldest Public service' by Tony Benn, Postal Heritage Trust, Phoenix Centre, Phoenix Place, London WC1, 19.00. Free admission by ticket. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570, or e-mail heritage@royalmail.com

9 October Thatcham & District PS Stamp Fair at Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Thatcham, 10.00-16.00, admission free. Young collectors welcome. Dealers, over 500 lots on view for forthcoming auction (18 November) – catalogue available. Refreshments, free car parking. **Enquiries** 01635 866942.

16 October Hampex, convention of Hampshire Philatelic Federation at Romsey Community School, Priestlands, Greatbridge, Romsey, 10.00-16.30. Over 30 dealers, largest display of competition exhibits outside Stampex. Junior Hampex for young collectors. **Enquiries** 01794 514902.

16 October GB Philatelic Society meeting 'Extending the GB collection (to Revenues and more)' by Chris Tennant at British Philatelic Centre, Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 11.00.

16-17 October Scotex (Annual Scottish Stamp & Postcard Fair) at Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow. 16th 11.00-18.00, 17th 11.00-16.30. **Enquiries** See page 36.

17 October Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle AGM at Rhodia Recreation Club, Station Road, Langley, West Midlands. **Enquiries** T Wilkins, 01384 891373.

28-30 October Philatex, at Royal Horticultural Halls (Lawrence Hall), Greycoat Street, London SW1. Thursday 11.00-19.00, Friday 10.00-18.00, Saturday 10.00-17.00. 110 dealers. Admission free. **Enquiries** C Rainey, 01793 513431 or T Davis, 020 8946 4489 or see website www.stampshows.co.uk

30 October Bolton PS Annual Stamp Fair and North West Federation of Phil Socs Annual Competitions at Canon Slade School, Tonge Moor Road, Bolton, 10.00-16.30. Display by members of the Union Philateliq ue Sarthoise, Le Mans, France. Free parking and entry. Easy access for disabled. **Enquiries** Brian Fielding, 01204 307252.

9 November 'TheMachin Design', lecture by Douglas Muir, Postal Heritage Trust, Phoenix Centre, Phoenix Place, London WC1, 19.00. Admission by free ticket. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570, or e-mail heritage@royalmail.com

12-14 November International Congress on Philatelic Expertising at Merano-Meran, Italy. See page 38.

14 November Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors AGM at Harlow Moat House Hotel, Southern Way, Harlow, Essex, 12.30. Event includes a cover fair (10.00-16.00) and charity auction. **Enquiries** R Park, 2 Chaffinch Close, Horsham RH12 5HA.

20-21 November Basildon 2004, ABPS National Exhibition, at Towngate Centre, Basildon. Open 20th 10.00-17.00, 21st 10.00-16.00. Admission free. Aerophilatelic displays, competitions, specialist society meetings. **Enquiries** R How, 01702 544632 or visit www.basildon2004.org.uk

20 November GB Philatelic Society meeting 'German Occupation of the Channel Islands' by Alan Moorcroft at Basildon 2004 exhibition, 14.45 ●

Late news

Friends of Postal Heritage The Friends' August Newsletter, edited by Mark Kearnes, gives news that sites for a new heritage museum are being considered in Bethnal Green and Woolwich. The Friends' AGM will be held on 27 November, and events next year include a talk by stamp designers Andrew Davidson and Tony Meeuwissen, and a visit to the Postal Heritage Trust store at Debden. Enquiries: Avis Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX •

Royal Mail Archive The search room will be open on certain Saturdays to test demand. The next Saturday opening will be 10.00-17.00 on 13 November, followed by 8 January and 26 February. Normal opening hours are Monday-Friday 10.00-17.00. The search room now has improved facilities after recent renovation. Enquiries: Royal Mail Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Telephone 020 7239 2570. Website: www.royalmail.com/heritage •

Publications The 2005 Stanley Gibbons Part 1 catalogue was published on 10 September, price £44.95, and the 2nd edition of the Ireland catalogue on 24 September. To order phone SG on 0800 611622 or write to: Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH •

The July-August issue of *Topical Time* includes articles on animals in Fabulous Stories, Cable-stayed Bridges, Queen Christina of Sweden, the Chinese Bat, Castles of Spain, Space Shuttle Missions, United Europe, and Exhibiting your Collection, as well as features on postmarks, meters, cinderellas and much else. As always a good read for thematic (topical) collectors whatever the subject. Enquiries: American Topical Association, PO Box 57, Arlington TX 76004-0057, USA or see website www.americantopicalassn.org •

The July issue of the *Chronicle*, the quarterly journal of the Great Britain Collectors Club, includes features on the development of code-lettered datestamps (Paul Phillips), Mostly Machins (Larry Rosenblum), Collecting Duplex Cancels on Picture Postcards of the Edward VII Period

(Gordon Milne), and a report on the exhibition of The Queen's stamps at the National Postal Museum in Washington DC. On the front cover is stamp designer Jeffery Matthews receiving his MBE from The Queen; Mr Rosenblum writes: 'Matthews has arguably done as much for the Machins as Arnold Machin did (and certainly has spent many more years working with them than Machin). He is also second only to David Gentleman in terms of his influence on British commemorative stamps. A truly talented and generous man'. For details of the GBCC see website: <http://www.gbustamps.com/gbcc> •

Auctions Grosvenor's auction on 12 November will include an outstanding collection of Korea formed in the 1960s, with a used example of SG1, one of only nine known. The sale will also include early Zeppelin material, and a collection of Falkland Islands. Grosvenor is pleased that Stuart Billington has joined as a consultant, reuniting a large part of the old Phillips Stamp Department with Andrew Claridge, James Grist, and David Boyd (see August *Bulletin* for a profile of David). Enquiries: Grosvenor Auctions, 020 7379 8789 or see website www.grosvenorauctions.com •

Christmas stamps The 1st class Christmas stamp has also been printed from cylinders D2 as well as D1 recorded here in September (page 16) •

Customised sheets Rushstamps has produced a further business customised sheet (similar to the Royal Mail Smilers sheets) to promote stamp collecting. The sheet contains the 1st class 'Smiles' greetings stamps (first issued 1991) with labels worded 'Collect British Stamps' in a variety of designs. The sheet margins feature a montage of British high value stamps. Price £9.95 plus £2 post & packing. For details of earlier sheets see August *Bulletin*, page 360. Rushstamps also offers sheets of 2001 Occasions stamps with Spiderman and X-Men labels and background. Enquiries: Rushstamps (Retail) Ltd, PO Box 1, Lyndhurst SO43 7PP. Telephone 023 8028 2044 •

2004 Yearbook and Yearpack



Auction! We will be offering the most popular numbered copies of the luxury boxed leather-bound book for auction online from 21-31 October inclusive. These will be numbers: 1 to 5, 21 and 2004 – so get bidding! Visit website www.royalmail.com/yearbookauction for further information.

How will you remember 2004? It's certainly been a year of stunning stamp themes and designs, including Classic Locomotives, Ocean Liners, The Royal Horticultural Society, as well as the forthcoming Crimean War and Christmas issues. A full set of the year's Special stamps is contained in the 2004 Yearbook together with 150 high quality photographs and illustrations, a detailed narrative about each of the issues and exclusive interviews. A perfect marker of 2004 and an ideal gift, the limited edition Yearbook has an embossed hard-back cover with a hand-finished slipcase and each is individually numbered. It is available leather-bound and can be personalised.

To pre-order your 2004 Yearbook or the 2004 Yearpack which contains all of the year's Special stamps in a specially designed folder, call 08457 641 641.

Royal Mail

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



5 014721 103112



Royal Mail