BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

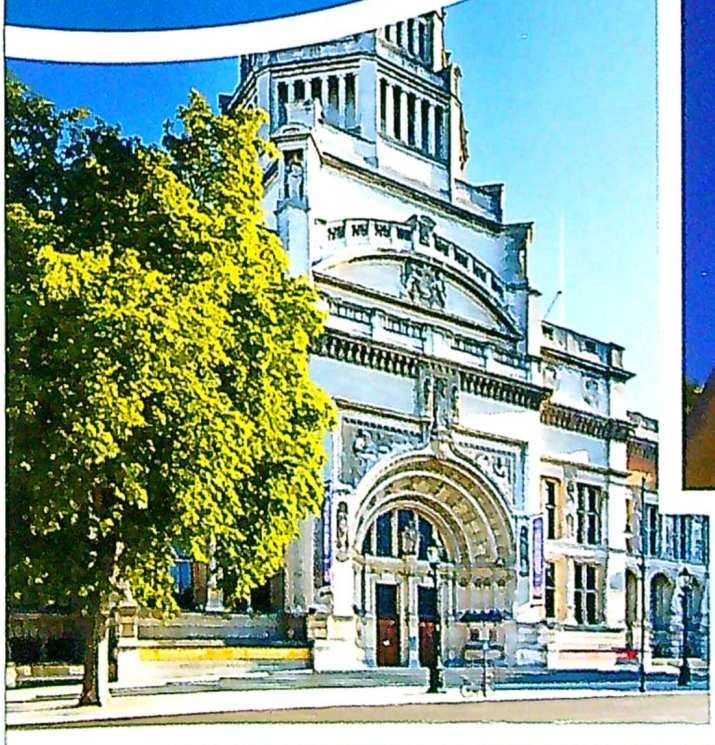
The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

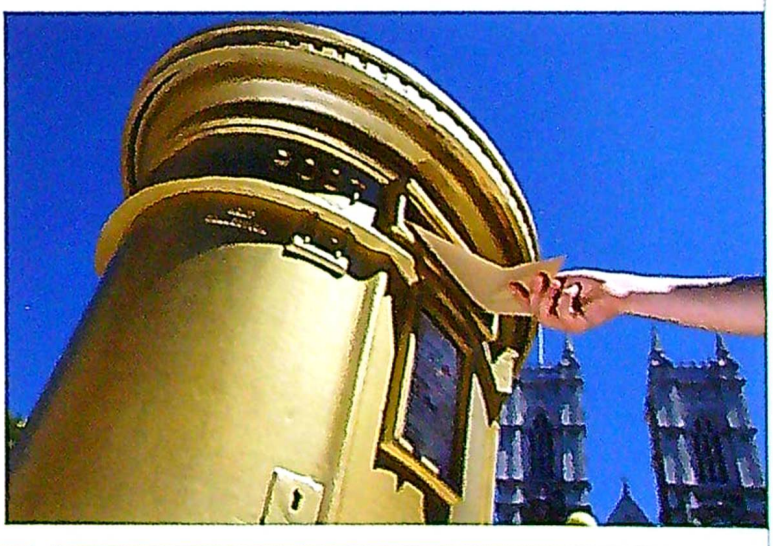
Volume 49 Number 12 | August 2012 £1.20

Sporting spectacular • Island hopping • Europas • Bletchley

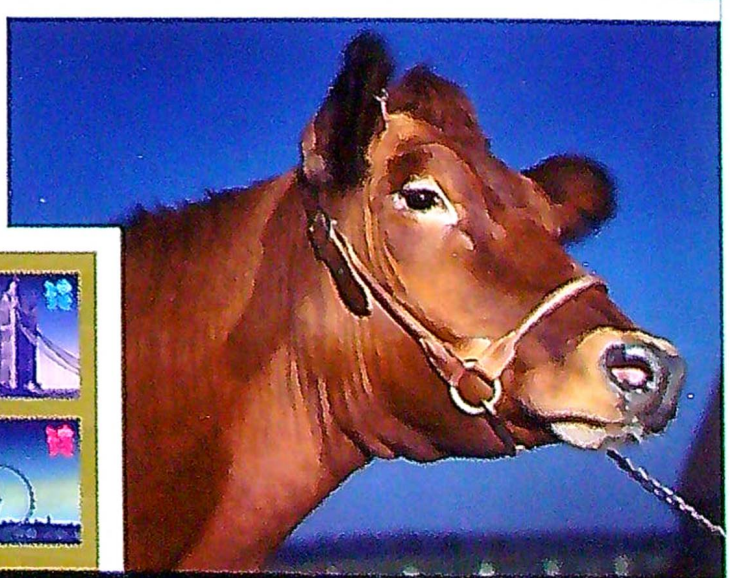
Summer 2012





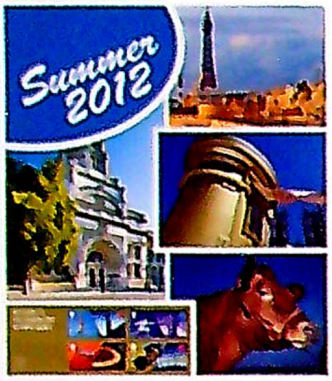






WIN LONDON 2012 PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK • PREVIEW POST & GO: CATTLE

Issues and withdrawals



Cover gold post boxes are being located in the home towns of Team GB gold medallists this month. A map of all their locations will be available at www.royalmailgroup.com. The golden mini-sheet Welcome to the London 2012 Olympic Games was released on the day of the Opening Ceremony. UK A-Z stamps are revisited on pages 368 and 379. Read about Red Poll stamp on page 360; cattle image © Getty Images

August	**Issue** Gold Medallists: stamps, issued within 24 hours of each Team GB win during the London 2012 Games, in progress as this magazine goes to press
22 August	**Withdrawal** The Crown Jewels: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
28 August	**Issue** London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games: Sports Cover Collection: Gymnastics 29/30 and Athletics – Field 30/30
29 August	**Issue** Welcome to the London 2012 Paralympic Games: Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
9 September	**Withdrawal** Aerial Post Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack
27 September	**Issue** Classic Locomotives Stamp Book No 2: 6 x 1st class, 4 x Jubilee definitives and 2 x Scotland Locomotive stamps
27 September	**Issue** Memories of London 2012: Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards
28 September	**Issue** Post & Go British Farm Animals 3, Cattle: Stamps

To order philatelic items, including those listed on the right, contact Royal Mail Tallents House at the address below. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on the Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, London (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Square), Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southend on Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro, York and Newport, Isle of Wight

Royal Mail Tallents House
21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483

Information about Royal Mail products is that which is available at time of going to press. Royal Mail is not responsible for opinions and information provided by independent writers in the features section of this publication

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The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● Royal Mail Editor: William Doherty ● Price £1.20 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets (see opposite) ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address opposite) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world ● ©Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editor ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England & Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

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Bulletin index At-a-glance index for *Bulletin* Volume 49, which completes with this issue **382**

Postbox and inbox



Beauty in small numbers

Further to the letter from Paul Kirsten in the July *British Philatelic Bulletin*, I am sure many other collectors are very pleased with the decision to reduce the number of special issues per year. However, just as important as considering the number of issues is the number of stamps per issue – many of them now comprise eight or ten.

For example, couldn't the UK A-Z issue have been divided into four or more parts instead of two? Looking at the latest Royal Mail Philatelic Stocklist, 70 per cent of issues from 2011 and 2012 cost £6 or more.



***Bulletin*'s excellent Diamond Jubilee Souvenir booklet reminds us that a small number of stamps per set can have just as much aesthetic impact and give as much enjoyment as the higher numbers that seem to be *de rigueur* nowadays.**

A Mahon by email

Good point, well made. The *Bulletin* team has passed it on to Royal Mail policy makers. Unusually, the approved list of stamp issues for 2013 has not yet been made available to us. As soon as we have it we hope to be able to highlight any reduction of stamps per issue in the near future. Watch this space!

Sticky filing problem

I have every issue of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*, including the first one on A4 sheets of paper. In the past you have sent me volume number stickers to label filed volumes as they are completed, but I have not received these labels for Volumes 47, 48 and 49. To make my collection complete, I would be obliged if arrangements could be made to send these – and the sticker for Volume 50, if available, for the fast-approaching new volume.

G W J Studholme, East Lothian

These volume stickers were phased out four years ago. *Bulletin* production costs have been cut down significantly in order to avoid increasing subscription rates, but if enough readers require them, these labels can be factored in next time there is a price review – as well as special rates for longstanding readers such as Mr Studholm. Perhaps other subscribers can suggest what they have used in place of the stickers?

Lithuana calling

Hello. I'm interested in exchanging with stamp collectors in the UK.

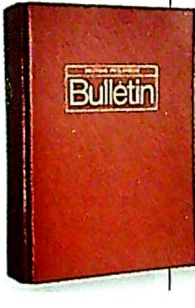
R Dosinas, Kaunas Box 1096, 49007 Lithuania



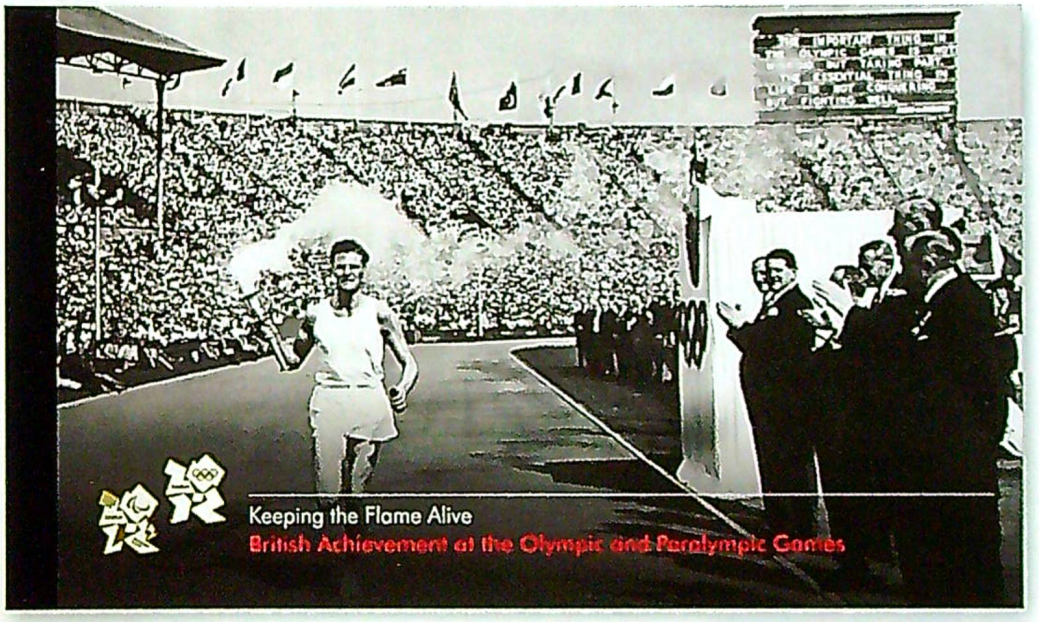
An interesting invitation – over to you, readers. R Dosinas does not mention a specialism and seems keen on exchanging all kinds of UK stamps for Lithuanian ones. This month would be a fine time to start – shown above is one of the new Lithuanian stamps featuring the London 2012 logo.

Write to... The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or email bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

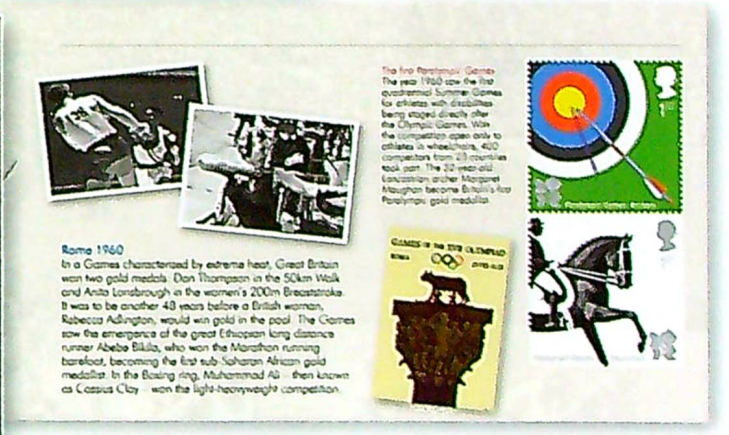
Readers' letters published will receive a thank-you gift. The sender of the 'First-class letter' receives the *Bulletin* binder.



August update a wide range of stamps, covers, philatelic souvenirs and gifts marks a sporting year to remember







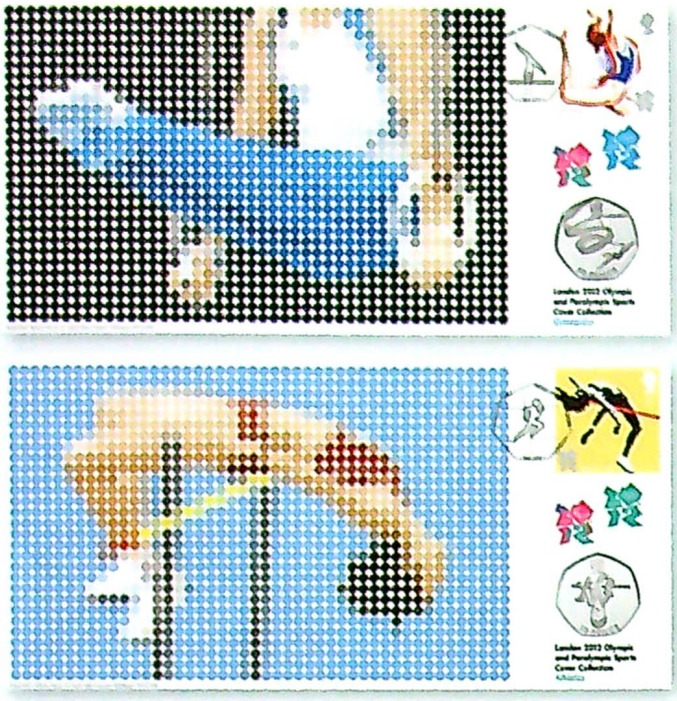




Keep the flame burning A beautiful way to celebrate this month's Games is the new Prestige Stamp Book – Keeping the Flame Alive.

This stunning PSB contains four unique stamp panes, as shown on this page, and superb archive photographs, as well as fascinating facts about the British successes in past Olympic Games. Price, £10.71 (including VAT) • ▸

Above: the four unique stamp panes of Keeping The Flame Alive, the latest Prestige Stamp Book

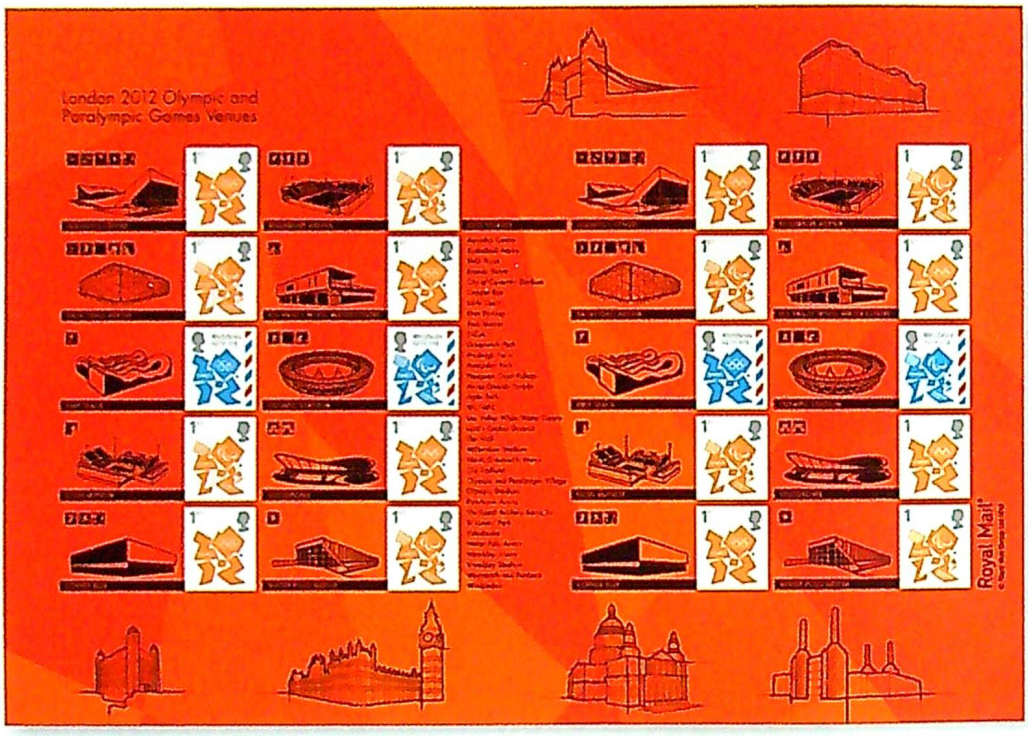


Above: Gymnastics and Field Athletics are the subjects of Sports Covers released this month

Final issues in the Sports Cover series On 28 August the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Sports Cover Collection is completed, with the issue of the Gymnastics Cover and the Field Athletics. Each of the stunning coin covers features the stamp depicting the appropriate sport alongside a 50p commemorative coin from the Royal Mint. Unique cancellation marks include the official Olympic pictograms and the reverse side of the covers contain information about the sport and the all-important LOCOG hologram that confirms these as an official licensed products. Price, £9.95 each, including VAT •

Sporty Smilers A bright self-adhesive A4 Olympic Definitive Generic Sheet is now available. Alongside 16 x 1st and 4 Worldwide Olympic and Paralympic stamps are labels bearing representations of the Olympic venues and pictograms of the sports with which they are associated – clockwise from top right, the Riverbank Arena, Lee Valley White Water Centre, London 2012 Stadium, Velodrome, Water Polo Arena, Copper Box, Eton Manor, BMX track, Basketball arena and the Aquatics Centre.

The purchase code for this unusual sheet is AT072 and it costs £15.22 •



The more gold medals won by Team GB this month... the more new stamps are to be released by Royal Mail. So the number of August stamp issues is entirely unpredictable as we go to press, looking forward to a once-in-a-lifetime month for the many stamp collectors who are also sports fans.

London 2012 Gold Medal Winners Miniature Sheets are being issued from 27 July onward, to be on the day following every Team GB triumph. To achieve this philatelic world-first, Royal Mail has photographers, designers and printers on 24-7 alert, with templates of the special sheets piled up and waiting to receive images of medal winners (see page 334 of July *Bulletin* for further details of the proposed design, printing and on-sale schedule) •

Welcome to the London 2012 Paralympic Games Following hard on the heels of all the excitement of the XXX Olympiad comes the London 2012 Paralympic Games. To celebrate the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games, Welcome to the London 2012 Paralympic Games Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards will be issued on 29 August (see July *Bulletin*, page 334) •

Memories are made of this Another unique philatelic collectible is the 1948 Olympic Games Stamps Facsimile Pack (issued on 27 July). While the facsimile stamps are not valid for posting, this pack makes a stunning memento for UK collectors. Four 1948 stamps are beautifully printed in gravure and are presented with informative facts compiled by Douglas Muir. Price £5.95, including VAT•



Left: the 1948 Olympic Games facsimile stamps are printed in gravure

Watch out for details of planned new stamps in *Bulletin*.... To be released in September is a special souvenir issue, provisionally entitled Memories of the Olympics. Its design is dependant in part upon new photography of sporting events over the next few weeks, so watch out for details in a future *Bulletin*.

Another unique item is the Handover Commemorative Cover, released on 27 September to mark the official Games handover from London to Rio de Janeiro.

Changes to the stamp programme over the remainder of 2012 have been confirmed: the Dinosaurs issue is postponed until next year and Space Science stamps will be issued on 16 October. The 2013 Stamp Programme is still being finalised as we go to press •

Below: there still time for last-minute purchases of the Crown Jewels – the issue is withdrawn from sale on 22 August



New online is a comprehensive Guide to Postmarking – just visit www.royalmail.com/stamps-and-collecting/your-guide-postmarking •



Right: the final set in the Post & Go British Farm Animals series. Below: the Tallents House first-day postmark for Post & Go issues. And first-day cover envelope with special 'Cowes' handstamp



Classic British cattle New Post & Go British Farm Animals stamps pay tribute to six top breeds

The third and final set of the Post & Go British Farm Animals series takes a look at cattle and will feature six breeds. The first issue in the series explored sheep breeds in February, followed by pigs in April. Once again Kate Stephens was commissioned to produce the designs and wildlife artist Robert Gillmor created the illustrations. Issued on 28 September, a First Day Cover (below) and a packaged Stamp Set (far right) accompany the stamps.





Stamp by stamp The six-stamp set is mounted on an attractive card with information about the breeds by Jack Byard and a profile of artist Robert Gillmor on the reverse. All values are First Class with a philatelic Post & Go code. Design is by The Chase with illustration by Chris Wormell.

Irish Moiled is one of the most recognised breeds in Northern Ireland. These are polled (hornless) cows. Their name originates from the Gaelic term 'Maol', which refers to the distinctive mound shape of the head.

Welsh Blacks are hardy beef cattle who browse as well as graze, making them ideal for rough pasture and for conservation grazing.

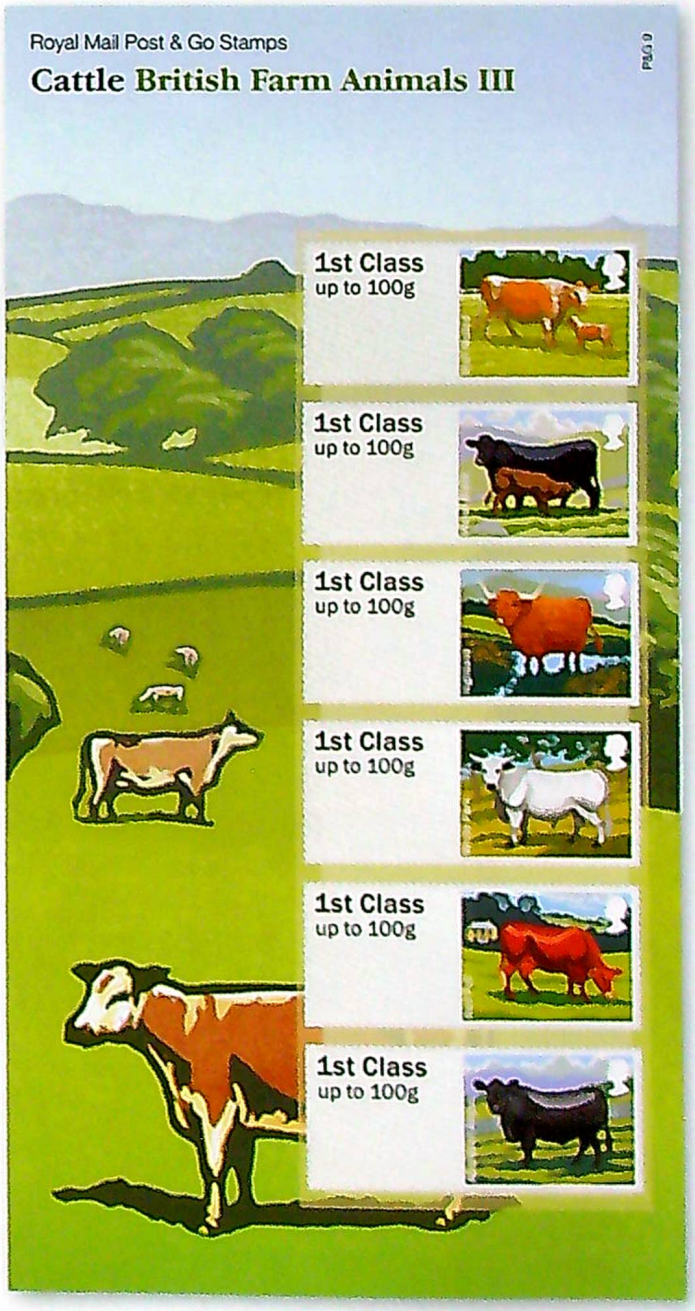
Highlands are a tough breed that produce lean meat as they get most of their insulation from their thick shaggy hair rather than subcutaneous fat.

White Parks have been kept in Britain for over 2,000 years. Today's White Parks are descended from Britain's original wild white cattle enclosed in parks by the nobility in the Middle Ages.

Red Polls originated as a cross between Norfolk Red beef and Suffolk Dun dairy cattle, both now extinct. The Suffolk breed was also polled – Norfolk cattle had horns but the horns gene was bred out in the Red Poll.

Aberdeen Angus cattle are famous beef producers. Naturally polled, they can be either red or black.

First-day Cattle covers Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 28 September 2012. Customers may also choose to send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark •



Post & Go British Farm Animals 3 Cattle Stamps – Prices	
Stamps	£3.60
First Day Cover UK	£4.80
First Day Cover overseas	£4.00
First Day Envelope	30p

Post & Go British Farm Animals 3 Cattle Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	28 September
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Kate Stephens
Stamp illustration	Robert Gillmor
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Kiss die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

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



Above: the autumn Stampex sheet marks the 60th anniversary of John Cobb's attempt to break the world speed record.

Below: the city of Melbourne, host to an international stamp exhibition next year

Stamp exhibitions Autumn Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1, from 26 to 29 September. It will include a display of Australasia (see below). In a change from previous exhibitions, there will be dealers' stands, rather than display frames, on the 'Village Green' area facing the Royal Mail stand.

The Stampex customised sheet will be on sale at the information stand and marks the 60th anniversary of John Cobb's attempt to break the world speed record on the waters of Loch Ness in September 1952. Cobb died in the attempt. The sheet bears ten First Class Union Flag stamps with attached labels showing Cobb, his vehicle 'Crusader' and Sir Malcolm and Donald Campbell. The Stampex postcard, which is enclosed in the Stampex exhibition programme, reproduces an unused design of a 37p stamp for the 1998 Land Speed Record Holders issue. It features Cobb's famous Railton Mobil Special, in which he broke the world land speed record in 1947.

Another image of Railton was used on the issued 43p stamp. For enquiries concerning Stampex, call 01273 594110 or e-mail info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk.

The tenth national exhibition, under the auspices of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS), will be held at the Dewar Centre, Perth, on 19 and 20 October, followed by the 94th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain at the Queen's Hotel in the city from 20 to 22 October.

Stampa, the popular Irish national stamp exhibition, takes place at the Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin, from 12 to 14 October.

There will be no Strand Stamp Fair in August. The next will be held at the Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1, on 12 September from 9am to 4pm. Some 20 dealers will attend. Call 020 8946 4489 or visit www.stampshows.net for further details •



Australasia 2012 Next year marks the centenary of the first stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia. To celebrate the anniversary, an international stamp exhibition is to take place in Melbourne in May 2013.

Meanwhile, the British Society of Australian Philately, the New Zealand Society of Great Britain and the Pacific Islands Study Circle are organising the 'Australasia 2012' programme of

special events. The centrepiece of this celebration is an Australasian theme for Autumn Stampex 2012 (see above). Exhibits of Australasian material have been invited from all FIP-affiliated countries. Competitive exhibits will be displayed in relevant classes (Traditional and Postal History, for example), a meeting and a dinner held, and a book published. The title of the book is *Gems of Australasian Philately.*



Above: Captain Cook's signature featured on this Royal Mail stamp of 1968

The book launch and the afternoon meeting take place at Stampex on 28 September, with a talk on Captain Cook given by Alwyn Peel. On 27 September the meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London will feature a display of New Zealand 'adsons' by Robin Gwynn. Visitors are welcome if they contact the Royal Philatelic Society in advance. For more information about the Australasia 2012 programme, e-mail info@australasia2012.org •

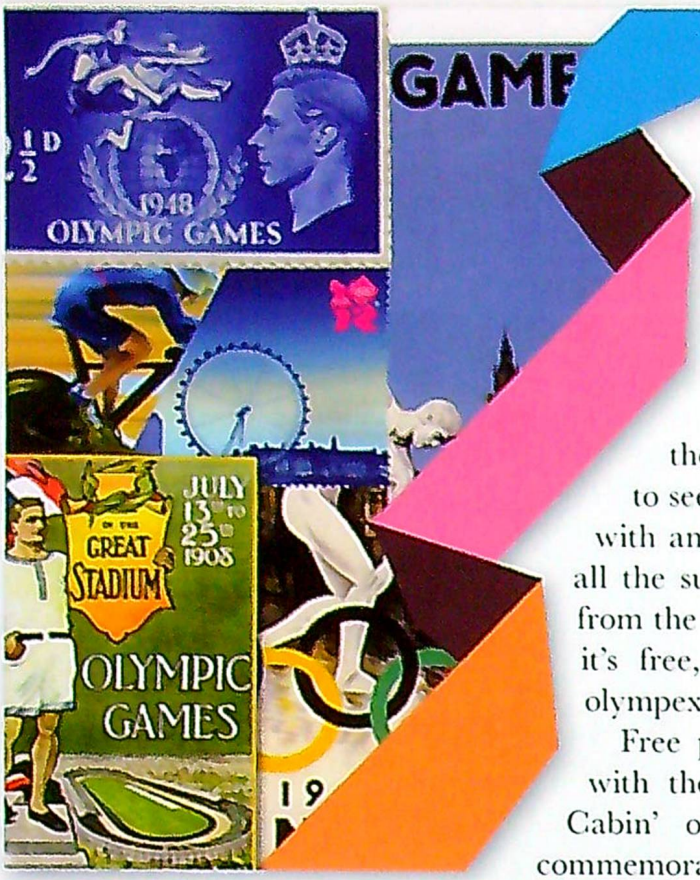
Global Philatelic Library The Global Philatelic Library website has been launched. The site, www.globalphilateliclibrary.org, is a centralised information gateway to the world's greatest philatelic research. The founding partners include the Royal Philatelic Society London, the National Postal Museum and Smithsonian Libraries in Washington DC, and the American Philatelic Research Library in Pennsylvania. Other contributing libraries in the UK, the USA, Canada, Germany and Norway are also involved in the global project.



Above: the long-awaited www.globalphilateliclibrary.org is now open to all the philatelists in the world

The idea for a joint index of philatelic literature was first put forward 125 years ago. Now the project has become a reality. The website establishes a single point where philatelists around the world can search, locate and access philatelic research from partner libraries instantly. It offers support to beginners, hobbyists, specialists and postal historians; opportunities for international collaboration with philatelic libraries and museums around the world; and an anthology of fascinating (and sometimes scandalous) articles written in the past century about philately and the people involved in its history •

Postage due display Nearly 130 Fellows, members and guests enjoyed the display given by Patrick Frost to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 7 June. It examined Great Britain Postage Due Mail from 1839 to the present, with many fine items shown, starting with the introduction of the Uniform 4d Post on 5 December 1839. But as Chris Harman explained in the vote of thanks, it is the more modern material that is often harder to find. Chris described Patrick's presentation as 'a wonderful display of sophisticated material'. The display included Official Mail, Jury Summons, Parliamentary Proceedings, Registration and Book Post. Non-members can attend most RPSL meetings by arrangement – call 020 7486 1044 • ▸



Two important Olympic shows are still on show in London. Olympex, at the British Library until 9 September, is part of the cultural programme of the 2012 Games. The theme is collecting the Olympics through philately, and one of the key aims is to encourage new collectors through a very high visual impact. Displays show Olympic stamps, postcards and postal history for 1896, 1908, 1948, 2012 and Olympic sports, as well as the Paralympics. Touch screens will enable visitors to see all the exhibits and more in high definition and with amazing close-up zoom facilities. Displays include all the submitted stamp designs for the 1948 Olympics, from the BPMA. It is an exhibition not to be missed, and it's free, with a free catalogue. See http:www.bl.uk/olympex2012 for more details.

Free publicity postcards have been produced jointly with the British Library. There will be a 'Collectors Cabin' on the piazza outside the Library where a commemorative cover will be available with an exclusive 'Smiler' or a SmartStamp relating to Olympex 2012 or Olympic events - available only on the days of the events, including the Torch Relay on the first three days of the exhibition. A special handstamp will be used throughout the exhibition.

Open daily until 9 September, but please note that the cabin will not be open in the period between the Olympics and the Paralympics. The British Library is situated beside St Pancras Station and the Javelin train service to the Olympic Park. Visitors will have an opportunity to look at the British Library's own philatelic collection.

'The Olympic Journey' exhibition at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 runs until 12 August. For details see page 326 of July *Bulletin* and www.olympic.org/museum" •

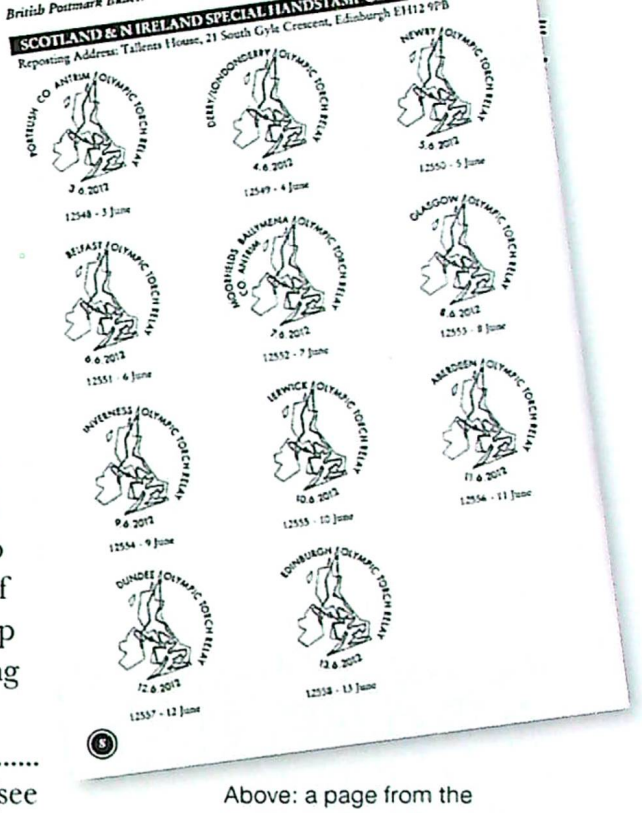
Above: publicity card and special handstamp for the current Olympex exhibition



Above: vehicles in the BPMA Museum Store at Debden

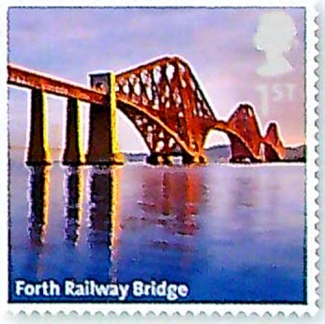
BPMA Friends visit Debden The BPMA's support group, the Friends of the British Postal Museum & Archive, gathered at the BPMA store at Debden on 19 May for the annual Friends' Social Day. The store is a fascinating resource and on this annual visit, staff are on hand to give guided tours and answer questions. There was an illustrated talk by Barry Robinson, a former Royal Mail Design Director responsible for Post Office corporate identity, pillar boxes, vehicle livery and uniforms as well as stamps. Friends were also told of the work to conserve vehicles from the Post Office Railway, the underground line of unmanned trains that once carried mail between Whitechapel and Paddington. The Friends were also able to examine items in the store, including pillar boxes, telephone kiosks, postal vehicles and sorting machines. For information about the Friends, visit www.postal heritage.org.uk/page/friends •

British Postmark Bulletin Our companion magazine, published fortnightly since 1971, announces forthcoming special handstamps sponsored for anniversaries, events and, particularly, for the first day of issue of new stamps. Among the many handstamps announced this year have been ones marking the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Torch Relay. The *British Postmark Bulletin* illustrates all forthcoming handstamps with a reference number to be used when sending covers to Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres for cancellation. Annual subscriptions – £12.25 for UK and European countries or £24.95 rest of world – should be sent to Tallents House (contact details on inside front cover of this issue of Bulletin). To sponsor a special handstamp, contact Handstamp Liaison at Tallents House on 0845 071 2000. For more postmarking information, see www.royalmail.com/postmarks•



Above: a page from the *British Postmark Bulletin*, our companion publication

In the news The recently repaired Forth Bridge in Scotland (see March Bulletin, page 206), is being nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for 2014. There are now over 900 such sites, with 28 in the UK. The Forth Bridge featured on a stamp in 1964 (marking the opening of the new Forth Road Bridge), and on one of the A-Z stamps in October 2011. Its centenary was marked by a special Scottish aerogramme in 1994. Other UK World Heritage sites shown on stamps are: Blenheim Palace, Canterbury Cathedral, Castles of King Edward in Wales (Caernarfon, Harlech), Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape (1989 Industrial Archaeology stamp), Durham Cathedral, Giant's Causeway, Hadrian's Wall, Heart of Neolithic Orkney, Ironbridge Gorge, New Lanark, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, St Kilda, Saltaire, Stonehenge, Tower of London, Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey •



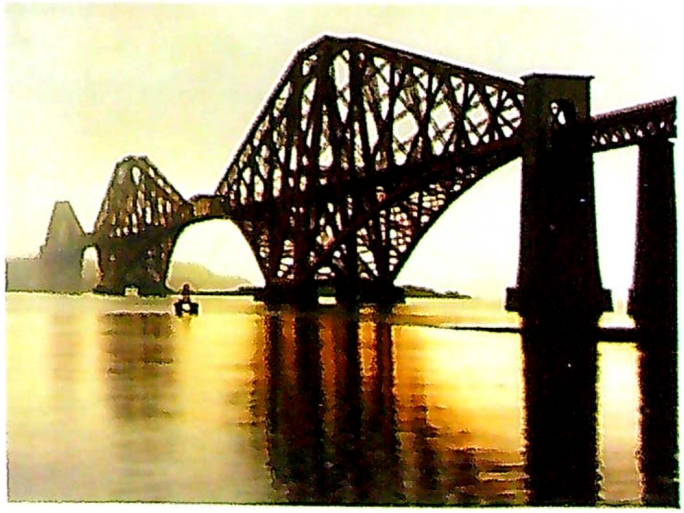
Above: the Forth Railway Bridge, recently featured in the UK A-Z stamps set, and may be deemed a World Heritage site – ranking alongside sites of cultural significance such as Stonhenge

Philatelic scholarship The Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship is available to philatelists to study Commonwealth stamps or postal history. The scholarship, administered by the Royal Philatelic Society London, will be a contribution towards research costs, especially travel, accommodation and subsistence for a trip, particularly overseas.

Applications, to arrive by 30 September, should include: an outline of the study subject and how it relates to the applicant's previous philatelic research; plans for publication of the results; an accurate costing of the trip, including places and organisations to be visited, and a short philatelic CV giving personal details, collecting interests, previous publications and philatelic achievements.

For fuller details write to: Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY.

Julian Chapman FRPSL (1952-1994) ▸



emigrated to Australia in the 1960s where he became a teacher and later worked for the Australian Federal Department of Agriculture. His philatelic interests included British Africa, Gibraltar, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Lundy Island •

Obituary Two former Chairmen of The Post Office died during May 2012.

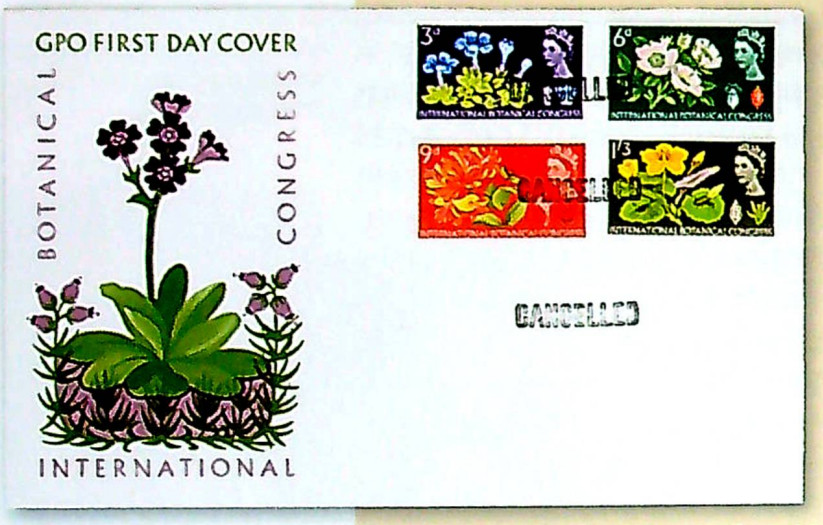
Sir William Barlow was Chairman 1977-80 during which time he persuaded the government to split the telecommunications business from the postal side of The Post Office, the telecommunications sector subsequently being privatised as BT. He opened the London 1980 international stamp exhibition at Earl's Court.

Dr Neville Bain was Chairman 1999-2001 during which time The Post Office was renamed Consignia. The new name was much ridiculed in the media, by the public and staff and his successor, Allan Leighton, quickly changed the name to Royal Mail Group •

This month in history John Holman recalls the beauty of the Botanical Congress flower stamp series

Four stamps went on sale on 5 August 1964 to mark the 10th International Botanical Congress held at Edinburgh in July and August that year. The attractive, colourful stamps, designed by husband and wife team Michael and Sylvia Goaman, showed the 3d Spring Gentian, 6d Dog Rose, 9d Honeysuckle and 1s 3d Fringed Water Lily. The 3d was printed in three colours, the others in four. The predominant background colours of the 3d and 1s 3d were those of the corresponding definitive values – a practice that lasted from the first commemoratives in 1924 until multi-coloured stamps became the norm in the 1960s.

All four values were produced in plain and the more scarce phosphor-lined versions. The two top values (plain versions) are known with watermark inverted, and it is well worth checking your examples for these varieties. Three of the four values exist with a missing colour – all catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at over £20,000! First day covers are especially sought with Edinburgh First Day postmark or the special handstamp used on mail posted at the Congress.



Above: a sought-after unaddressed first-day cover with four pretty stamps marking the 10th International Botanical Congress of 1964

Also worth searching for are unaddressed FDCs with the four stamps tied by a 'CANCELLED' handstamp (as shown right). These covers were distributed as press samples.

The presentation pack for this issue is one of the rarest packs: only 16,140 were sold and it is now catalogued at £160. Stamp sales ranged from 12.4 million of the 9d to 173.2 million of the 3d stamp, the basic UK letter rate. The stamps were withdrawn from sale, 11 months after issue, on 2 July 1965 •

Indonesia 2012 exhibition Yvonne Wheatley reports on the World Stamp Championships recently held in Jakarta

Colourful Jakarta The perimeter of the two halls of the Jakarta Convention Centre, in which Indonesia 2012 World Stamp Championship took place was let to local traders. Stalls sprang up selling jewellery, Indonesian artefacts and batik work of all descriptions. These lively stalls, along with the colourful attire of the local people, made an unusual backdrop to the exhibition.

The exhibition was well produced and packed with information. It comprised around 2,500 frames, which were rather difficult to negotiate – partly because exhibits were organised from right to left and also due to an unusual numbering system and the absence of a stand selling catalogues.

Having said that, the Organising Committee did a wonderful job in staging the exhibition and the FIP Congress. There were numerous volunteers to mount and dismount the exhibition and remove the backing from the new Perspex sheets for the frames. Nothing was too much trouble.

It was particularly pleasing to see the high standard of the 61 exhibits by juniors. There was an outstanding display in the Court of Honour by 15-year-old Mathilda Laarson of Sweden, entitled 'The Magical World of Harry Potter'. It was off a very high standard and a delight to read.

Great Britain had 17 exhibits plus two one frame entries. Hugh Feldman's 'Mails Carried By Water In The USA (1813-1875)' and Michael Smith's 'The Postal History Of The Orange Free State' both won Large Gold Medals and special prizes. In addition there were eight Gold Medals, five Large Vermeil and two Vermeil Medals with the two one frame entries achieving 91 and 86 marks respectively.

The winner of the World Stamp Championship, for which there were 11 contenders, was Elveraldo Santos with 'Postal History Of Brazil 1606 – 1877'.

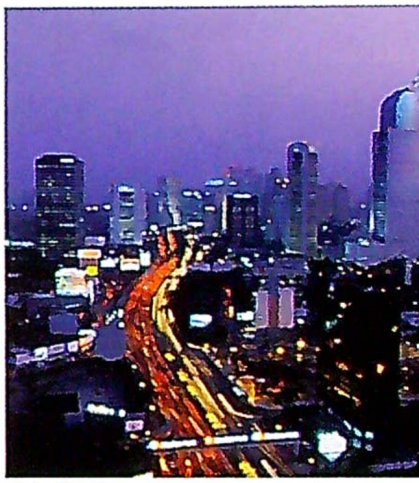
The Grand Prix d'Exposition went to Steven Walske (USA) with 'Heart Of The West; San Francisco As A Postal Hub from 1849 – 1864'.

Arjan H Lalwani (Indonesia) took the prize of the best National Exhibit with 'Netherlands Indies Classic Period'. 'Sails' by Luo Yating (China) was the Best Youth Exhibit.

In the second hall, housing the dealers, auction houses and postal administrations, Royal Mail had a presence. On sale were 'Hello' stamp sheets featuring aspects of Indonesian life on ten labels, as pictured right. The Indonesian Post Office had an elaborate stand on two levels. They issued a different souvenir sheet on each day of the exhibition and these attracted long queues at the stand.

There was only one dealer there from the UK but a trio of UK dealers now living in Thailand had found their way there.

Yvonne Wheatley enjoyed the role of GB Commissioner for Indonesia 2012 •



Above: Jakarta was this year's host to this year's World Championships, which took place in June at the city's Convention Centre.
Below: Royal Mail sheet celebrating Indonesia 2012 (see May *Bulletin* page 263 for more details)



Photograph of Jakarta by night: Alamy

'A powerful antidote to the gin palace'

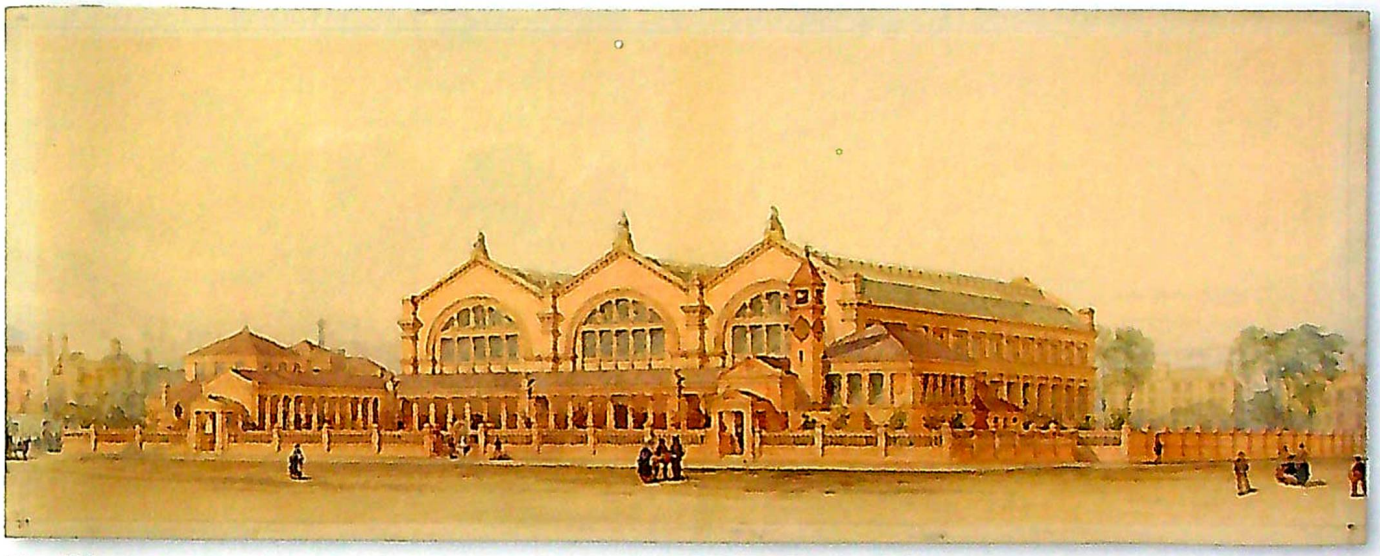
Dr Jorella Andrews looks at the history behind our Europa stamp, chosen for 2012's theme of 'Visit'



The stamp chosen as our European ambassador

A stamp featuring the distinctive architecture of the Victoria and Albert Museum represents the letter 'V' in part 2 of the UK A-Z stamp series. This stamp alone bears the word EUROPA, as it was chosen to represent the 2012 Europa theme of 'Visit'. A most fitting choice – in the year 2011-12 the V&A achieved record visitor figures across the UK, internationally and online, with more than 5,058,700 actual visits to V&A collections and over 24.9 million visitors to the V&A website.

Europa stamps have been issued annually since 1956 and since 1974 have reflected a common theme. See page 370 for a selection of this year's Europas.



Above: original drawing of the 'Science and Art Museum' of South Kensington.
Below: how the *Illustrated London News* showed the Prince of Wales arriving at the museum in June 1872

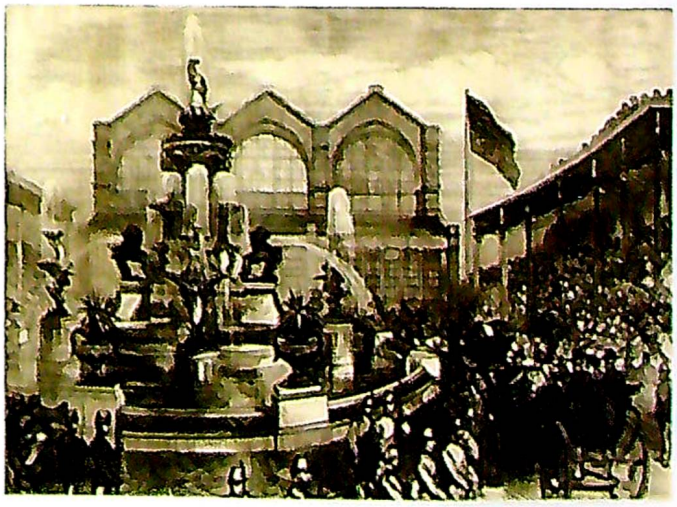
THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM was founded in 1837 and today it houses a permanent collection of more than 4.5 million objects. It has become a destination museum for tourists from all around the world and the 'V&A', as it is fondly known, is also a favourite teatime meeting place for many Londoners.

It was first established to foster the improvement of British design: in 1836, aiming to quell the fear that Britain was losing ground to its design competitors, the British government took the unusual step of setting up a House of Commons select committee to look into the matter. Soon afterwards, a government School of Design and Museum was created in Somerset House, which might be described as the beginnings of the V&A. However, as Mark Jones, Director of the V&A until 2011, explains, 'The Somerset House school and museum were open to the public, but lack of space and information made it a confusing and unsatisfactory experience for visitors.'

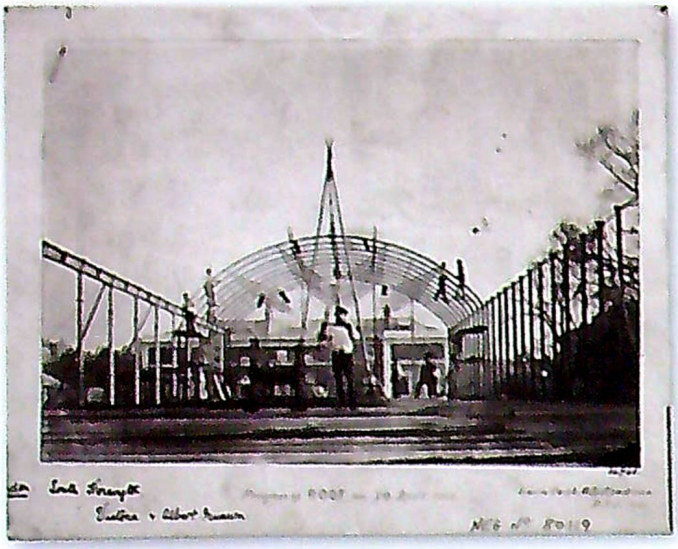
In 1852 the museum was renamed Museum of Manufacturers and Henry Cole was appointed to run it. Jones says about this important transition, 'Cole knew very well that a large public could be interested in the latest goods from around the world (but) also understood that was no point in training excellent designers ... if there was no market for their designs.' Cole conceived of an institution with a threefold function – to educate designers, inspire British designers and manufacturers and reform the tastes of the British public.

Prince Albert steps in The enormous success of the Great Exhibition in 1851 pre-empted Cole's vision. The Exhibition produced profits that were used to establish the museum and purchase the exhibits that formed the basis of the V&A's collections.

The Royal Commission for the Exhibition had been established in 1850 by Queen Victoria, with Prince Albert appointed as its President. Cole shared with Prince Albert responsibility for planning the Great Exhibition and Albert agreed that if Cole made the museum part of his plan to perpetuate the benefits of the exhibition, he could move it to Marlborough House – a Royal ▸



Images courtesy the Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood



Above: photograph entitled 'Progress on the roof' taken on 7 April 1856

residence near Buckingham Palace, Jones describes, 'New displays opened in May 1852, showing why some designs were good while others, in a "Chamber of Horrors", were not.' In 1857 the museum moved to its present site in London SW7 and became known as the South Kensington Museum. It was renamed the Victoria & Albert Museum in 1899 when Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone of new buildings along Exhibition Road and Cromwell Road.

The Royal Commission for the Great Exhibition remained constituted to administer the profits for charitable purposes. And it was the Commission that purchased 86 acres of land in South Kensington to establish the site of three great museums, the Royal Albert Hall and the now renowned institutions of learning – Imperial College and the Royal Colleges of Art and Music. The Commission still owns the freehold and manages much of this estate. The V&A comprises the South Kensington site, the V&A Museum of Childhood at Bethnal Green and the archive/study collections site at Blythe House, West London.

A number of world firsts were boasted by South Kensington Museum. It was the world's first museum to provide a public restaurant and use gas lighting in the galleries for its evening openings. Cole hoped that 'the evening opening of public museums may furnish a powerful antidote to the gin

Images courtesy the Victoria and Albert Museum

EUROPA selection

Hungary, Turkey and Croatia are the top three winners of the EUROPA 2012 Competition. And Russian Post took the first prize in the Europa 2012 Jury Competition. The awards for these competitions will be presented during the Belgian Philatelic Grand Prix, held in Brussels City Hall on 22 September. More details at www.posteurop.org/europa





Above: Ágnes Rozmann designed the award-winning stamp, showing Hungary's online country code filled with peppers and grapes. Below: the inviting Russian winner and Iceland's Europa stamp, which combines a landscape with a code providing downloadable tourist information





palace'. It was also the first to collect photographs as art – the museum houses the earliest photograph of London, a view down Whitehall from Trafalgar Square, before Nelson's Column was built, in 1839.

Today the V&A contains many impressive unique objects. For example, an Egyptian woven linen, dated before 3150 BCE, and the earliest surviving wedding suit belonging to James II, dated around 1673. The Ardabil carpet is the world's oldest dated carpet (Iran 1539), and is one of the largest, most beautiful and historically important in the world.

For opening hours and details of current exhibitons and events at the Victoria and Albert Museum, see www.vam.ac.uk





The V&A and stamps Stamp issues celebrating British design naturally tend to have strong links with the V&A. For example, the V&A has a special relationship with William Morris, whose influence was commemorated in the Morris & Co stamps issue of 2011. On permanent exhibition are various types of textiles designed by Morris, who was a keen supporter of the South Kensington Museum and contributed to its decoration.

The work of many of the designers featured in this year's Great British Fashion stamp series (the Norman Hartnell stamp is shown above right) can be seen in the current V&A exhibition Ballgowns: British Glamour Since 1950 •

Jorella Andrews is Head of the Department of Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths College, University of London.





Left: a discount voucher from the Netherlands. Above: beautiful reasons to visit Ireland. Below: Gibraltar's designs by Stephen Perera













Lundy scenes Five new Lundy stamps feature scenes from the island's history, including the visit of the Royal Family in 1977. The designs are based on watercolours by Sarah Lewis and were printed in lithography by Cartor in sheets of 21. Sets cost £3.88. For details of ordering and postage rates, contact Lundy Postal Service, Lundy, Bideford, Devon EX39 2LY. For more on Lundy stamps see *Bulletin* November 2004, pp88-89 and September 2010, p10 •

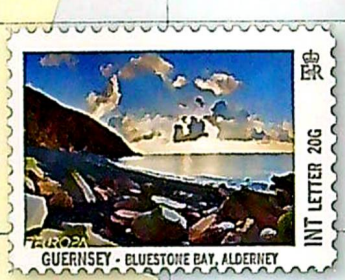
Island hopping

Take a picturesque stamp cruise around the UK with John Holman, to see what new issues have been launched from the islands this summer

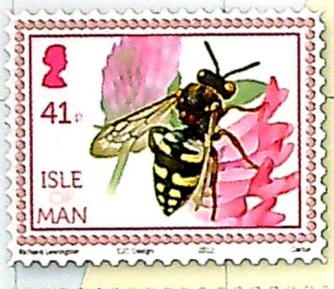
NEW LOCAL STAMPS (local carriage labels) have been issued by the islands of Lundy, off the north Devon coast, and the Summer Isles, off north west Scotland. Their designs are strikingly different and well worth a look (above). And for no other reason than celebrating summery stamps, we present a selection including birds, bees, butterflies and sunlit coastlines from offshore postal bureaux.

Guernsey ocean views This year's Europa stamps from Guernsey feature landscape photographs of inviting coastal views. For details and postal rates, contact Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 5SS or email: philatelic@guernseypost.com •





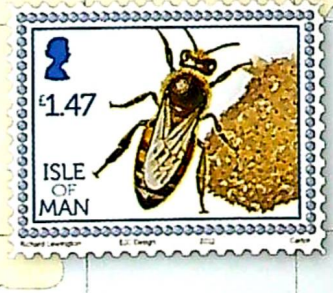






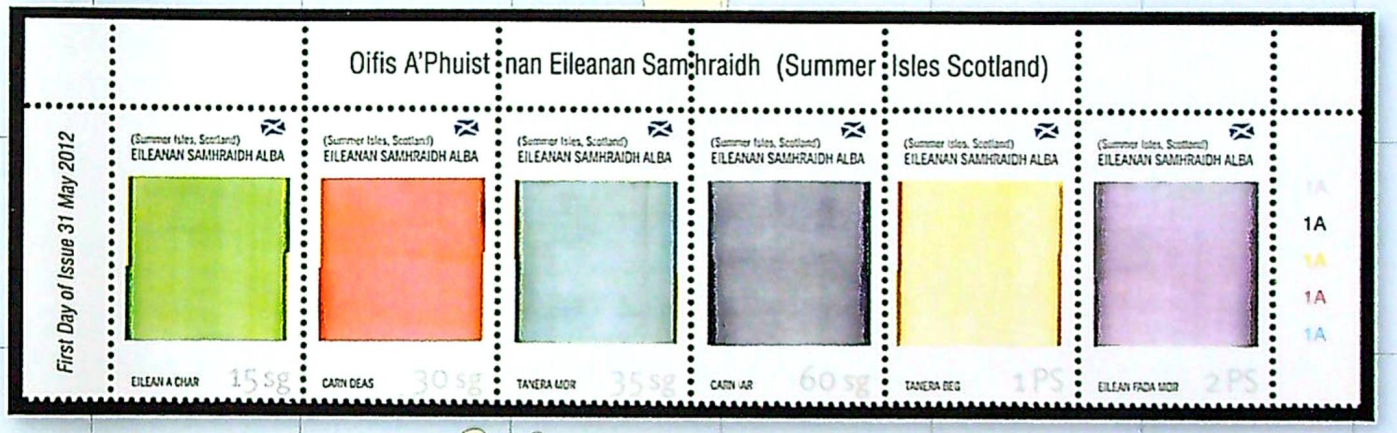






Isle of Man buzz Richard Lewington's delightful illustrations describe six different bees on this set entitled Bee Fauna of the Isle of Man, issued 8 August. Details from Isle of Man Post Office, Philatelic Bureau, Spring Valley Industrial Estate, Isle of Man IM2 1AA or www.gov.im/post/stamps •

Shades of the Summer Isles Six new-'flag' design stamps, designed by Edinburgh artist Callum Innes, were issued by the Summer Isles in May. The designs represent each of the islands in the group (see May Bulletin, p269). They are printed in sheets of 12, can be supplied perf or imperf.. The set of six costs £4.40, and £5.50 on FDC. All orders and postage rate enquiries to: Summer Isles Philatelic Bulletin, West Croftnuisk, Edradynate, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2JU. For more on Summer Isles and the stamp issues see *Bulletin* September 2010 pp20-22 and May 2011 pp273-75 •





Alderney on the wing Designed by Petula Stone, Tigermoths and Ermines are the subject of this pretty stamp set. For ordering details, contact Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 5SS or email: philatelic@guernseypost.com

Jersey birds Thematic collectors will find many reasons to be chirpy about these 'Threatened Birds' stamps, issued on 14 August and sixth in Jersey Post's Birdlife stamp series. For details contact Jersey Post Philatelic Department, Jersey JE1 1AA, phone (01534) 616616



Damp collection

An underwater post office in the South Pacific Ocean offers an unusual cover for collectors



Above: only three metres tall and two metres in diameter, the Vanuatu post office offers a uniquely bizarre mailing service//ends//

TRADITIONALISTS who still love 'soaking off' stamps can soak to their heart's content – by diving into the world's first underwater post office. In the island paradise of Vanuatu, post office staff handle special waterproof postcards and stamps three metres below the surface in the warm, turquoise waters of the South Pacific. Their cute, egg-shaped mail room is surrounded by exquisite coral and hundreds of clownfish.

A local octopus once tried to make the post office his home. By anyone's standards, this is an amazing place to send a postcard.

'I love working at the underwater branch,' says postal worker Samuel Robert. 'It's great fun and really pleasing to see so many visitors each day who cannot believe their eyes!'

The post office lies 50 metres offshore from Hideaway Island, one of 83 islands that make up the Rebupblic of Vanuatu. Seen by 100,000 visitors to date, it is part of the campaign to promote Vanuatu, a developing nation that gained independence in 1980 after being run by the French and British for almost a century.



Embossed handstamp and first day covers

Tourists can dive and snorkel to the post office and send special waterproof postcards that can even be written underwater. A postal worker will cancel the card, not with ink of course, but with a special embossing mark made by a handheld device.

So posting a simple postcard becomes a great adventure, and those cards travel back to friends and family back home all over the world – a very simple but effective method for promoting Vanuatu as a fascinating tourist destination.

And fascinating it is too. As you descend through azure waters past fanned and spiky staghorn coral, starfish wiggle by. A wetsuited postal worker awaits you in the tiny post office and another of the four-strong post office team will hover in the water to ensure visitors are safe. When the post office is unstaffed, you can pop your card in a postbox attached to it.

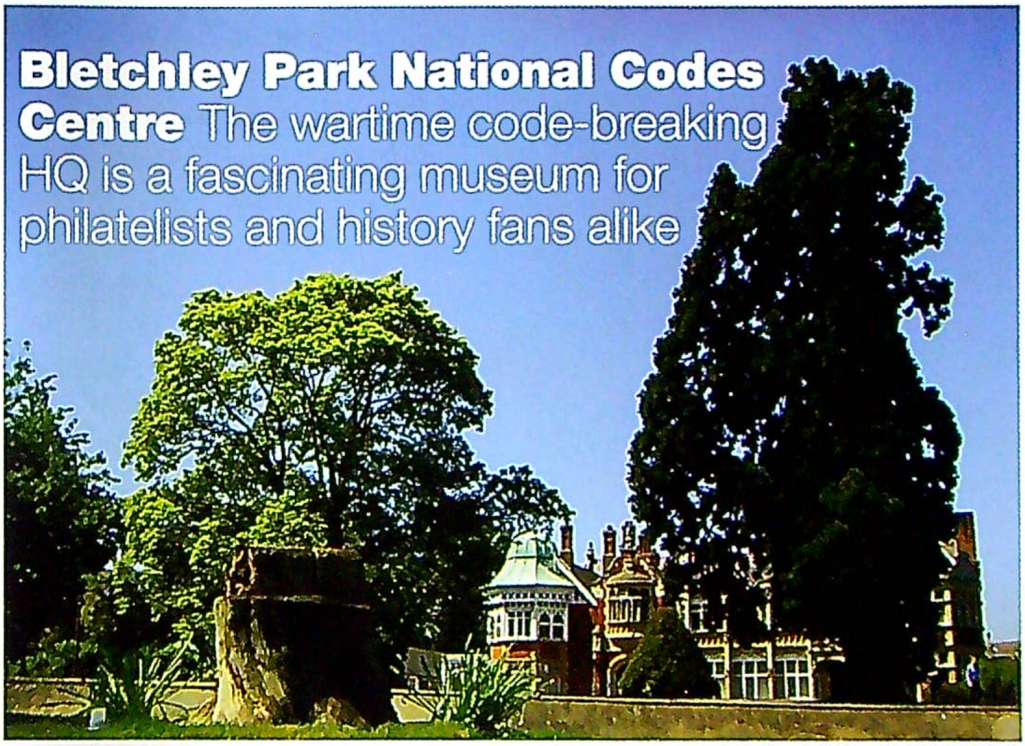
The country's postal service, Vanuatu Post, which runs the underwater branch, has also issued a series of stamps to promote the attraction, including a first day cover and miniature sheet. Water wonderful way to put your country on the map.

For more information, visit www.vanuatupost.vu •

Talk about postcards from the edge!

Vanuatu Post has set up a postbox by the rim of an active volcano. Brave folk who reach the top of 360 metre-high Mount Yasur on Tanna Island (it erupts up to 20 times an hour) can have their postcards cancelled with a special 'Volcano Post' mark.

Getty Images/w; Dreamstime

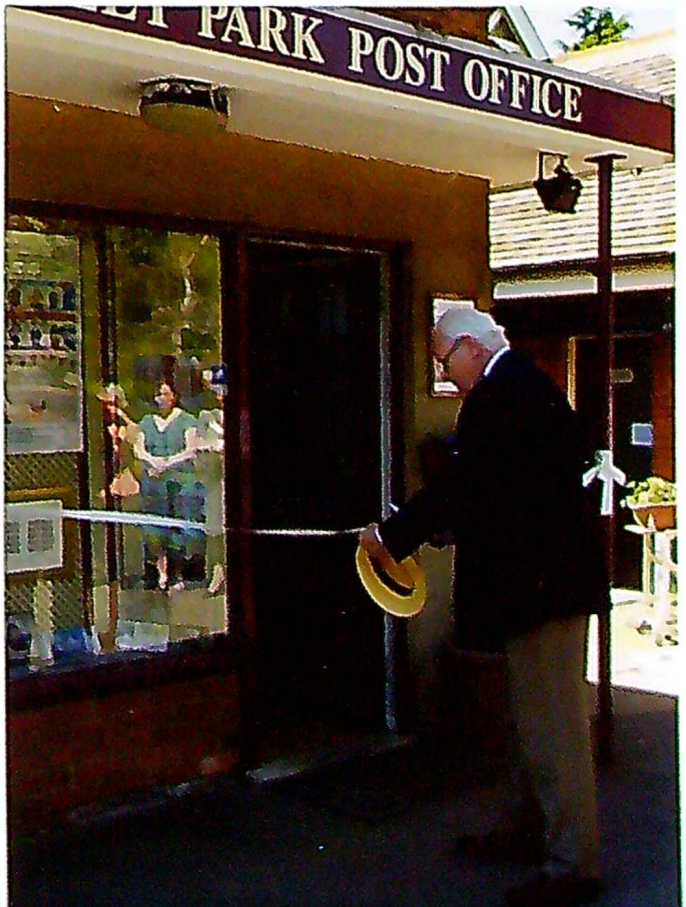




Above: the post office at Bletchley Park, whose secrets were so well kept that most of its wartime employees said nothing about their work there until a 1998 television documentary revealed all. Below: Michael Sefi cuts the ribbon at the opening of the refubished Bletchley Park Post Office

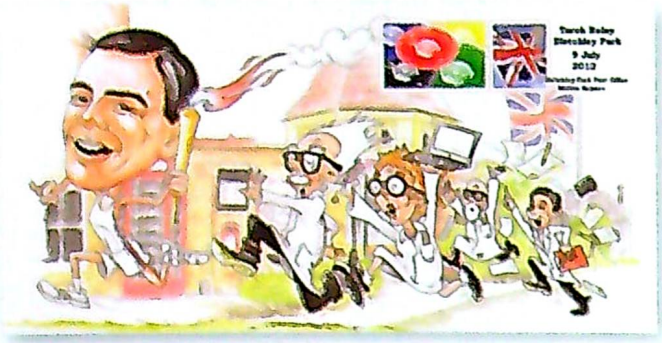
FORGET FIRST CLASS – only classified post will do when you are fighting a secret war against Hitler. So spymasters battling to break Nazi codes had their very own super-secure undercover 'post office' buried in the heart of leafy Buckinghamshire. In 1947 the GPO (British General Post Office) officially opened the sub post office in a tiny building attached to the Bletchley Park mansion, which had been the headquarters of the Allied campaign to decode the famously fiendish Enigma military cypher. Now it is a fascinating museum for a fascinating story (did you know, for example, that Olivia Newton-John's Wing Commander father worked there?).

Bletchley Park was saved from demolition in 1994 and opened as a heritage site. It has a special appeal for philatelists and postal buffs, as well as everyone interested in this extraordinary episode of the Second World War.



Little post office with big secrets The Bletchley Park post office was once the mailroom for the 10,000 cryptanalysts, mathematicians, scientists and support staff involved in the code-breaking operation. It even had its own secret postcode – PO Box 111 Bletchley. Today you will find a faithful recreation of a 1940s sub post office, which issues covers reflecting the work of Bletchley and its egghead heroes, cancelled by unique Bletchley Park Post Office handstamps.

This year four limited-edition first day covers have been issued in celebration of the centenary of Alan Turing, the leading Bletchley cryptanalyst (one of the heroes of Royal Mail's recent Britons of Distinction issue). The latest covers ▸



Above: a recent cover celebrating the Olympic Torch passing through Bletchley Park, depicting Alan Turing as the torchbearer

commemorate the visit of the Olympic torch to Bletchley Park last month. The Bletchley cover collection includes custom stamp sheets and Smilers™, and a wide range of themes such as cricket, historic aircraft, sports cars, Winston Churchill, the Second World War, sports and Royal Mail Christmas covers. Also on sale are fine art prints and covers specially mounted for gifts and display in the home or office. For those who are inspired by the displays to create their own charity or corporate covers, there is Bletchley Stamp Art, a marketing guide to using first day and commemorative covers as fundraising or promotional tools. It is available as a free download at www.bletchley.org.uk

Walking with code-crackers Pass through the doors of the ornate Victorian mansion that is Bletchley Park and you will discover a world of secrecy, deception and mind-boggling counter-espionage. Once the country house of a successful financier, it was commandeered by MI6 in 1939 as a safer home

TURING: story of a genius

Alan Turing was a mathematical genius whose time at Bletchley ended in triumph – but his life ended in scandal and mystery. Turing was awarded the OBE for his code-breaking work, and his star rose rapidly after the war. A Cambridge graduate who took a PhD at Princeton, he joined the Royal Society Computing Machine Laboratory at the University of Manchester in 1948, where he created a programming system for the Ferranti Mark I, the first commercially available electronic digital computer.



Above: slate stature of Alan Turing by Stephen Kettle. Below: the Bletchley Park postmark is used on this Buckingham Cover commemorating Turing

Turing's subsequent work on the function of the brain led him to be hailed as a founder of cognitive science and a pioneer of artificial intelligence. In 1951 he became a Fellow of the Royal Society. But disaster struck the following year when Turing was prosecuted for homosexuality, which was then illegal. As a result he lost his security clearance, which prevented him from carrying out prestigious government projects. Turing continued to work at Manchester until his apparent suicide in 1954, when he is said to have eaten an apple poisoned by cyanide.

Yet his final days remain uncertain, and one of the last men to work with him has revealed Turing could have been under surveillance by MI5 before his death. Computer engineer Owen Ephraim recently told the BBC how an engineer called 'Frank' started working in Turing's office, but that no one at Manchester had previously met him. He also behaved oddly, staying in the office at the weekend when it was locked to all staff.

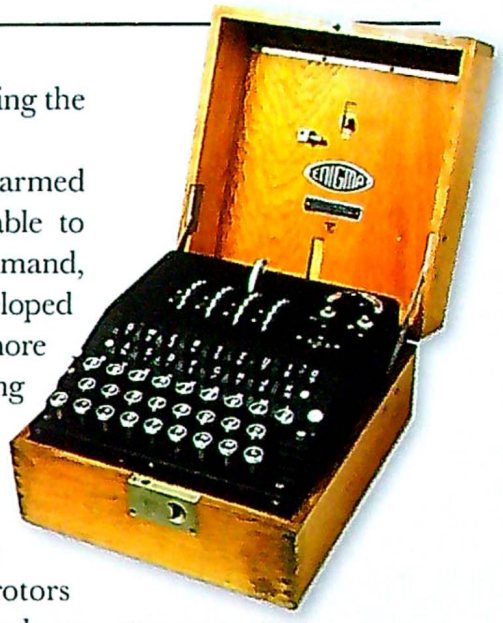


Ephraim said: 'I came to the conclusion that he very possibly worked for somebody like MI5. I imagine that MI5 would be very aware that this man [Turing] should not leave the UK and go to Russia.'

Ephraim was also surprised at the speed with which Turing's death, on 7 June 1954, was investigated. 'He died on the 7th, was discovered on the 8th, and the

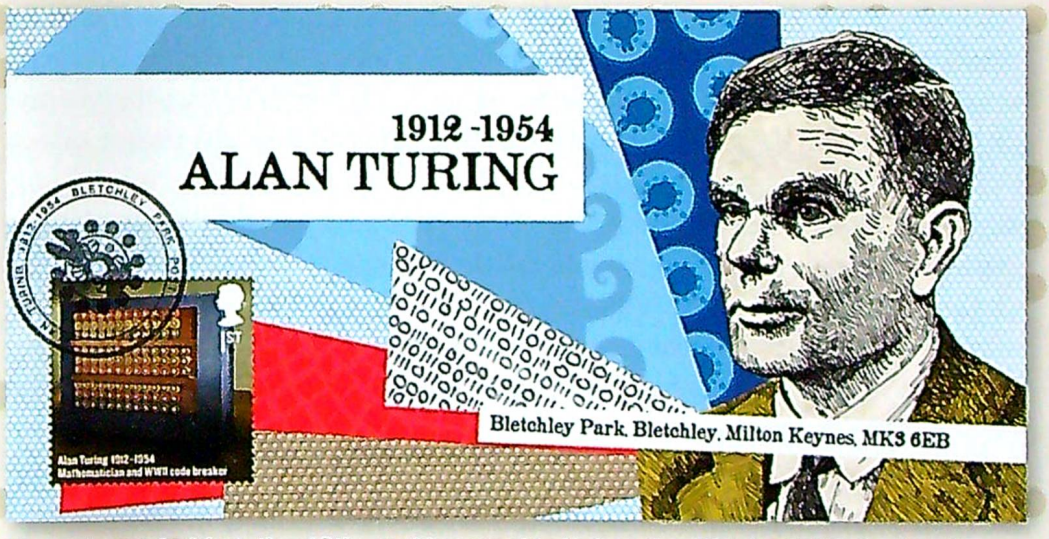
away from London for the Government Code and Cypher School, leading the famous fight against the Enigma code.

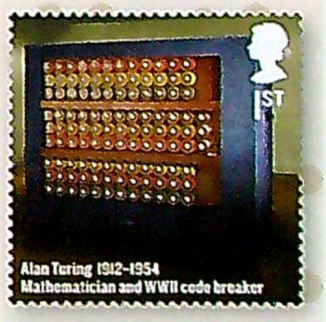
It was vital to break Enigma, as the code was used by all the German armed forces and intelligence services. Cracking it meant the Allies were able to anticipate enemy operations and get inside the mind of the Nazi high command, shortening the war by two years according to experts. Turing's team developed a brace of brilliant computing devices to smash Enigma, and an even more complicated code called Lorenz. You can see these and a host of intriguing displays at Bletchley. Here is just a snapshot of what is on show...



Above: one of the typewriter-like Enigma machines, as used in the Second World War, on view at Bletchley Park

Enigma machine collection The Enigma machines were typewriter-like devices based on a simple idea that made messages too complicated to decrypt. Type a message in and the Enigma machine's wheels or rotors scrambled the words into 'cypher text'. The message's recipient had to have their Enigma machine rotors set in the same way. If so, they only needed to type the message's cypher text back in and their device would decode it. An easy exercise for two loyal Nazi signallers – but a brain-acher for British ▸







Above, stamp honouring Alan Turing: this year's Royal Mail tribute in the Britons of Distinction issue and a stamp issued by St Helena in 2005

inquest was held on the 10th, and he was buried on the 12th,' said Ephraim. 'It seemed very short to me, coupled with the fact that the police didn't seem to make any great investigations. They didn't do any forensics on the apple that was found by the bedside. I think the story is still to come out.'

In 2009 Gordon Brown issued an unequivocal apology to Alan Turing, stating that the nation owed him a huge debt.

Turing on stamps The first philatelic reference to Turing was in the Royal Mail booklet issued in 1999 in the Millennium series. In 2000 a portrait of Turing against a background depicting the binary system appeared on a St Vincent stamp and in 2005 St Helena issued a stamp showing Turing and the Enigma machine, as part of a series marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Turing also appears on a set of 2008 from Guinea.

Earlier this year, on the 23 February 2012, Royal Mail's Britons of Distinction. celebrated the anniversary of Turings death, with a picture of the Bombe •

boffins at Bletchley trying to decode messages without the right rotor settings. The museum has machines operated by the German army, air force and the navy's U-boat division, as well as a model given to the Italian navy and once owned by Mussolini.

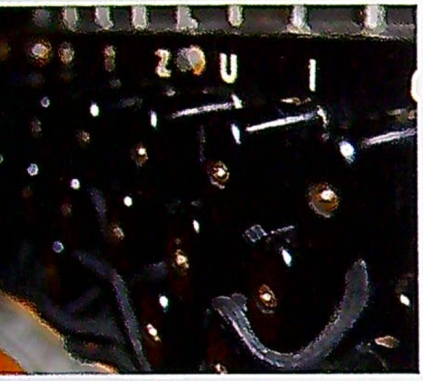
The Bombe Turing and his team developed the 'bombe' machine to help them work out German rotor settings. The Nazis gave them a head start: their coded messages often contained common words, such as generals' names and weather terms, so Bletchley could guess small parts of the text. These guesses, called 'cribs', were fed into the bombe, which used them to discover Enigma settings by deduction. A restored machine is now on display.

Colossus You will be impressed by Bletchley's Colossus machine, the world's first large-scale programmable computer, designed by a GPO engineer to tackle the Nazis' Lorenz code used for high-level messages between Hitler and his generals. It broke down messages by carrying out statistical tests on their text, and read 5,000 characters a second. The Colossus gave the Allies insight into major German strategy and confirmed that the Third Reich had fallen for the deception that D-Day would not take place at Normandy.

Gloat at the enemy Look over the reconstructed transmitting station for the 65th Nachrichten Abteilung, a German signals unit, and you cannot help but smile. While these men were merrily sending coded messages, the Bletchley team were systematically reading them. The display includes uniforms, weapons and medals, as well as the personal radio of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, one of Hitler's most senior officers.

Legendary huts Much of Bletchley's most important decryption activity took place in the complex of huts in the grounds, not the mansion itself. Huts 3 and 6 worked on German army and Luftwaffe messages, with Huts 4 and 8 tackling German naval intelligence. Those that remain are near-derelict, but you can still see them and 3 and 6 are to be restored. Hut 4 is now a café. During the war, a German bomb landing nearby blew one of the walls two metres off its foundations. It was quietly repaired and the busy intelligence team working inside were oblivious...

Below: original 1940s code-breaking equipment and the huts in the grounds of Bletchley Park where the intelligence team put in thousands of hours of decryption work





Computer culture Colossus is housed in the Home of the Codebreakers museum at Bletchley, where you can view a collection of 'historic' PCs, from Sir Clive Sinclair's ZX80 to Sir Alan Sugar's Amstrad models. You can also become an instant pilot on one of four flight simulators.

Fun for the children The little ones will enjoy the colourful collection of traditional toys, dating from the Thirties to just after the war – from lead soldiers and model trains to dolls and teddy bears. There is a play area in Bletchley's extensive grounds, including a giant chess set •

For more information about Bletchley Park Post Office, National Codes Centre and special events, phone 01908 640404 or visit www.bletchleypark.org.uk. Summer opening hours are 9.30am to 5pm; winter opening hours are 9.30am to 4pm, 1 November to 28 February. Family Fun Wednesdays are held during school holidays. The annual Enigma Reunion and Armed Forces Weekend is on 1 September •

Alamy

Super smashing stamp Comic Jim Bowen shares childhood memories of holidays in Blackpool – stirred by the UK A-Z series

DOES A BRIEF FLIRTATION with the stamp club at Nelson Grammar School 60 years ago qualify me to write for *Bulletin*? Maybe not. But I think my close relationship with Blackpool, and a rather special stamp, does. You see, the minute I saw the Blackpool stamp [in the UK A-Z issue] I knew the little beauty had to be mine. I could talk about its personal significance until the Post & Go cows come home, so I accepted a kind invitation from one of *Bulletin's* editors to write for this 'holiday special'. As readers may have realised, said editor is as mad as a bag of frogs and she's also mean enough to give me only one single page to write on.



Above: B for Blackpool, this stamp is part of the UK A-Z part 1, issued in 2011. Below: another stamp with a depiction of the Blackpool Tower, from the set marking the centenary of pictorial postcards in 1994.

Bottom: Blackpool's Comedy Pavement

Blackpool has a lot to answer for in the early chapters of my life. After the war ended I went there with my parents every year for a week during the Accrington Wakes workers' holiday. There was no question of going anywhere else, Skegness being regarded as too far off and foreign. Now I only have to look at the image of Blackpool Tower on the stamp and the years roll away – again I'm jumping off the train onto the platform at Blackpool North station. There is a heady aroma that is forever Blackpool and mingles together the steam from the trains, the slightly musty leather of our suitcases on their annual outing, a bracing top note of ozone and a tantalising base of freshly fried haddock.

After the first thrilling glimpse of the sea and Blackpool Tower, we would always spend the first afternoon of our holiday finding out what shows were on, choosing three of them and booking the best seats we could afford. Once that was done, it didn't matter how much sea my knitted swimming trunks absorbed or how low they drooped with the weight of the water: I was happy as a sandboy in anticipation of the evenings ahead. I saw all the stars of the day live in Blackpool. There was Yana, the singer full of Eastern promise; South African songstress Eve Boswell performing her hit *Pickin' a Chicken...*; the great juggler Rudy Cardenas; Leslie Welch the Memory Man, the shy, unassuming but brilliant pianist Semprini; and Betty Driver, singing her songs in Blackpool long before she pulled pints as Betty Turpin at the Rovers Return in *Coronation Street*.



I heard Gracie Fields sing *Sally*, Michael Holliday's *The Story of My Life* and Josef Locke singing *Goodbye*. Great comedians included (in no particular order) Sandy 'Can you hear me mother?' Powell; Jimmy Jewel and Ben Warris, Frank Randle, George Formby, Freddie Frinton, Norman Evans, Robb Wilton, Morecambe and Wise, Mike and Bernie Winters, Al Read, Ted Lune, Nat Jackley and the best timer of a line in the business – Jimmy James, who created a hilarious trio with Eli Woods and Roy Castle.

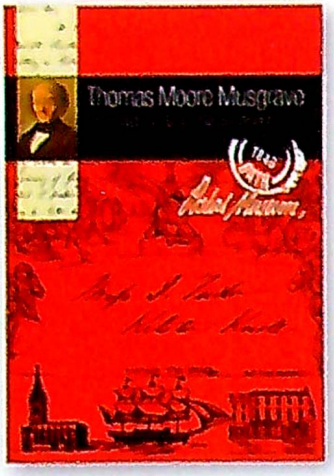


The theatres, more than the Tower, were the big attraction in those days: the Hippodrome, the Winter Gardens, the Opera House, Central Pier, South Pier and Feldmans (later to become the Queen's Theatre). If there is ever a Great Theatres stamp series, these would all be serious contenders.

Blackpool was our greatest shown on earth, the 1950s equivalent of today's Disney World but with human performers, big fat British chips and scraps with your superior fish, and a Golden Mile of fun. Was that okay, Mr Doherty? •

Image courtesy why not associates

Reading matters John Holman reviews a new book by Audrey Swindells and a classic catalogue



Swindells' biography of Musgrave contains many interesting illustrations, including a portrait of Thomas Moore Musgrave (1774 – 1854)

Below: the cover of the *Great Britain Concise Catalogue* includes images of a remarkable 'double black' printing on the 1982 19½p Cars stamp and the Penny Red Plate 77 stamp recently sold by Stanley Gibbons £550,000

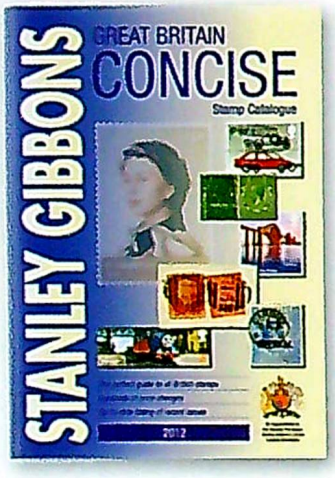
New museum book The Bath Postal Museum has published a biography of Thomas Moore Musgrave, who was Postmaster of Bath and something of a secret agent. The book is by Audrey Swindells, who with husband Harold, founded the Bath Postal Museum in the 1970s (see page 346 July *Bulletin*).

In a foreword, author Sir Terry Pratchett writes: 'To read the known history of Thomas Moore Musgrave is to wonder if James Bond had a great-great-grandfather... He certainly was an enigma and he is known to have indeed been a Government Agent, which was probably par for the course in those days when the Post Office was such an important organ of the state.'

Musgrave was born in London in 1774. As a young man he lived abroad, learned several languages and met men of influence. At the age of 23 he was admitted to the Middle Temple, five years later he became Private Secretary to the Home Secretary, and then to the Chief Secretary in Ireland. In 1816 he was appointed by the Post Office as Mail Agent in Lisbon, gathering information from distinguished families there for the government in London. In 1821 he became Packet Agent & Postmaster of Falmouth and four years later Comptroller of the Two-Penny Post in London.

Musgrave's main claim to fame came after he was appointed Postmaster of Bath. Supplies of the Penny Black were sent to a number of main offices outside London ready for use on 6 May 1840. On 2 May one (with AA corner letters) was affixed to a folded letter and sent from Bath to London. A Bath datestamp was applied but not used to cancel the as yet invalid postage stamp. Mrs Swindells writes: 'What did Musgrave have to do with this? We cannot be certain but we are pretty confident that he must have applied that 2 May cancellation. Who else would have dared?'

Well written and handsomely produced, the book costs £3.95 plus £1 postage, from Bath Postal Museum, 27 Northgate St, Bath BA1 1AJ, phone 01225 460333, or e-mail info@bathpostalmuseum.org •



New Catalogue The new 2012 edition of the *Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise Catalogue* is now available. Collectors of modern material have benefited from the introduction of colour illustrations of every stamp design, and regularly updated indexes of commemoratives and Machin definitives.

The Machins are now listed in a separate section with a blue strip at the edges of the pages to make it easy to locate by flicking through the catalogue. The booklet diagrams have been extended to include NVI stamps and panes of stamps with elliptical perforations. Details are now provided of the year codes found on current Machins and revisions to the Machin section have been made with the help of Machin specialist dealer John Deering, who has also advised on the extended listing of Post & Go stamps.

The listings are complete to the Comics special issue of March 2012 and the Diamond Jubilee Definitive and Miniature Sheet of 6 February.

The 440-page catalogue costs £29.95. Enquiries to Stanley Gibbons on 01425 472363 or email orders@stanleygibbons.com •

Stamps by the seaside



a



b





c



d

Seaside quiz

Answer the following questions about stamps and seaside locations – and you could win a collection of London 2012 stamps.

a) Name and date the special issue that included these cute beach huts.

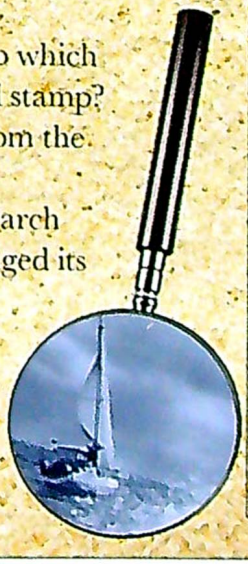
b) White Sands Bay is adjacent to which town featured on a recent special stamp?

c) In what county is this scene from the 2002 Coastline stamps series?

d) When a stamp-collecting monarch convalesced here, this town changed its name... to what?

Name that stamp

From the detail shown right, identify the stamp with its name and year of issue.



How to enter Send your answers, marked 'August Seaside quiz' and/or 'August Name that stamp' to: Philatelic Bulletin, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Closing date: 3 September 2012.

The first correct entry drawn in each competition after the closing date wins a collection of London 2012 stamps. Five more winners drawn receive runners-up prizes •

June solutions and winners

Identify: £1.28 Diamond Jubilee pictorial.
Winner: Ms L Bowater, Enville.

Knowledge: a) St Edward's Crown. b) Harry Eccleston. c) 5 June, 1967. d) 1972. e) and f) Burmese. g) Kings and Queens, House of Windsor, Gotha and Saxe-Coburg.
Winner: Mrs M D Bolton, Warwickshire

Coming next month: It's time for a new crossword series, as well as your regular Identify challenge.

Prize draw rules and regulations

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

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Note July issue included a 12-page Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee supplement ●



Friday 28 September sees the arrival of the new Post & Go British Farm Animals 3, Cattle. Special posting facilities are available for first day covers and for the special Stampex postmark

Next month at Stampex...

Autumn Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1, from 26 to 29 September 2012. Organised by the Philatelic Traders Society, the exhibition offers about 90 trade stands, interesting displays and a number of popular activities.

Opening hours are: Wednesday 26 September 11.30am to 7pm, Thursday 27 and Friday 28 September 10am to 6pm, and Saturday 29 September 10am to 5pm. Admission is free.

The Business Design Centre is a short walk from Angel underground station (Northern Line), and the area is well served by buses. Refreshments are available at the exhibition.

For further details of Stampex phone 01273 594110 or email info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk •

Royal Mail

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