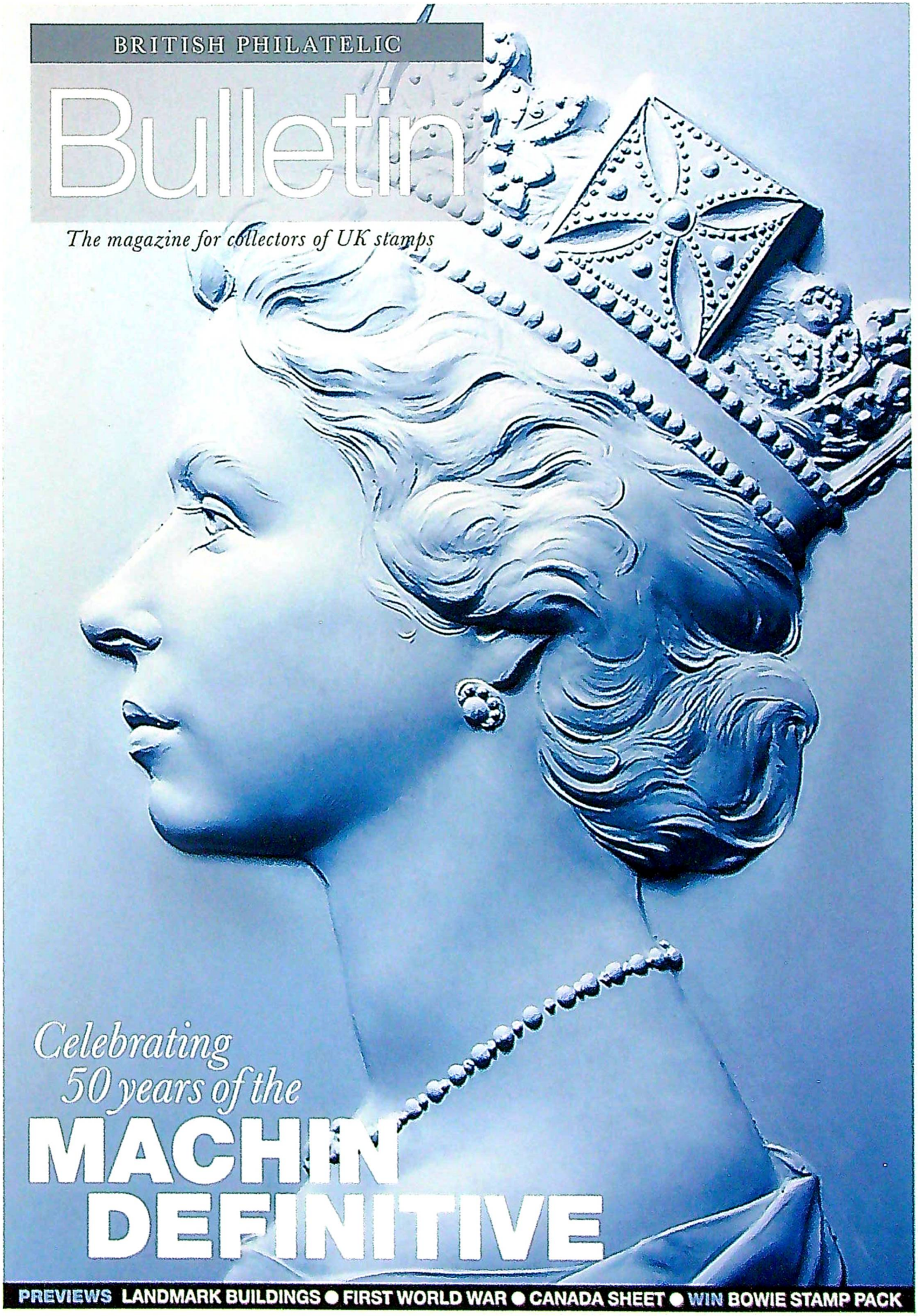
VOLUME 54 • NUMBER 10 • JUNE 2017 • £1.95

BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps



Celebrating 50 years of the

MACHIN DEFINITIVE

PREVIEWS LANDMARK BUILDINGS ● FIRST WORLD WAR ● CANADA SHEET ● WIN BOWIE STAMP PACK

BESPOKE ALBUM



History book

If you are collecting the Royal Mail First World War issues, you may enjoy the Preview on page 294 – and make a note of the date 31 July, when the the fourth of the the five-part collection is due for release.

Did you know there is a smart album tailor-made for your First World War stamps? With the poppy-red Great War Collector Album and Slipcase you can create a self-contained commemorative collection and keep it in pristine condition.

The special Collector Album will hold and display the entire five-year series of Royal Mail stamps, First Day Covers, Presentation Packs, Prestige Stamp Books, Postcards and Coin Covers being issued to mark the centenary of every year of the First World War from 1914 to 1918.

To order: contact Royal Mail at the address on page 236 or order online at. www.royalmail.com/firstworldwar. Simply type in Collector Album with the product code PA777 in the search box. The album and slipcover costs £24.99. Media Code 17BUL06 •



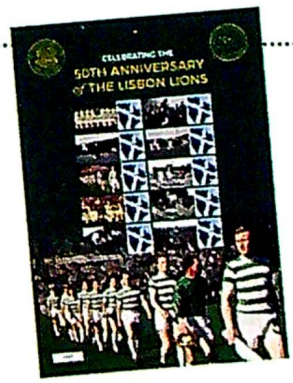
Contents



Centenary tribute Your preview of the fourth set in the stunning five-part Special Stamp series commemorating the First World War **294**

Preview Sneak peek of next month's pictorial issue, which celebrates iconic modern architecture of the past 20 years **292**





Lisbon Lions Royal Mail teams up with Glasgow Celtic Football Club for a sporting Sheet **296**

Stamp Scene Everything you need to know about the world of UK philately, from resident expert John Holman **297**

Definitive rainbow Richard West traces the colourful history of the Machin **301**

New this month Fifty years of an iconic stamp image **306**

Philatelist to The King Dane Garrod explores the legacy of John Alexander Tilleard **307**

This Month in History John Holman revisits stamps of June 1977 and June 1984, both marking government summit meetings **310**



The Young Victoria Continuing Colin Baker's A to Z of Postal Stationery **312**

Cover stories A right royal cover from BFPS and rare evidence of revenue misuse **314**

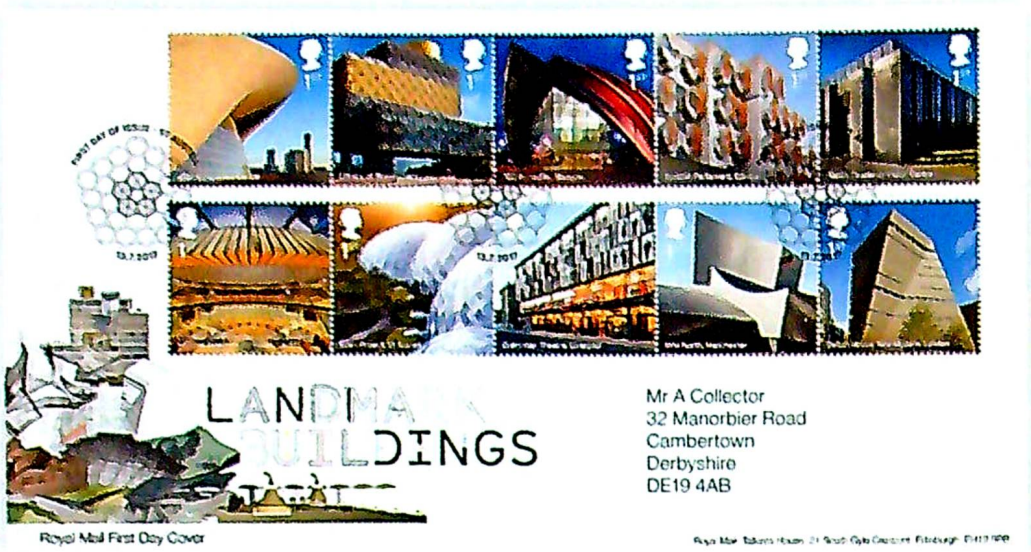
Thank you for your enquiries Steve Rooney answers readers' queries **316**

Doxford draw Your chance to win David Bowie Stamps **317**

Issues and withdrawals Details of the great stamping summer ahead **320**

● **Royal Mail Editor** William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, 26 Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AN ● Price £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Twelve months' subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of world. Subscribe online at www.royalmail.com/bulletin or write to Royal Mail Freepost, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp, as freepost is for UK only ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, are also available by post or online ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.





Landmarks of today Striking examples of modern architecture in the UK feature on a new Special Stamp issue released next month

A STAMP CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE in contemporary architecture and engineering is presented in Royal Mail's Landmark Buildings issue next month. The Special Stamp set features photographs of ten iconic buildings erected in the past 20 years, which have become popular landmarks for local communities and regions.

The stamps are printed by International Security Printers in two se-tenant strips of five, all First Class values, as follows:

Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh Opened in 2004 and designed by Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue (EMBT), using Scottish stone and timbers to echo the surrounding landscape.

Everyman Theatre, Liverpool In recreating this much-loved theatre, architects Haworth Tompkins used a tactile palette of concrete, reused bricks, timber, cork, red leather, copper and plywood. On the façade, 105 life-size portraits of Liverpool residents by local photographer Dan Kenyon are etched onto moveable aluminium sunshades.

Imperial War Museum North (IWM North), Manchester With its aluminium-clad angular shapes, this museum was designed by American architect Daniel Libeskind to represent the unsettling complexity and anguish caused by the First World War.

Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, North Antrim Heneghan Peng architects created a sloping grass roof cut into the ground in order to maximise function and minimise visual impact, to avoid distracting from the historic site that people arrive here to see.

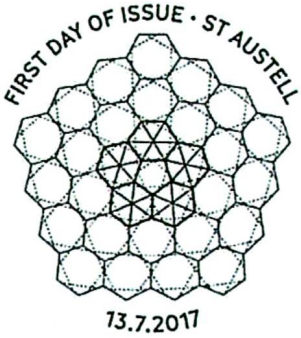
Library of Birmingham Designed to be a 'people's

Landmark Buildings – Specifications	
Date of issue	13 July
Number of stamps	Ten (2 se-tenant strips of 5)
Stamp design	GBH
Presentation Pack writer	Rowan Moore
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Landmark Buildings – Prices	
Mint Special Stamps	£6.50
First Day Cover	£8.22
First Day Envelope	30p
Stamp Souvenir	£8.22
Presentation Pack	£7.00
Postcards (set of ten)	
Framed Stamps	£29.99



FD1716-TH



FD1716-PL



FD1716-NP

Far left and above: the Landmark Buildings First Day Cover is available with a choice of three different postmarks – the Tallents House, alternative pictorial and plain special handstamps

palace' by Francine Houben, of the Dutch architectural practice Mecanoo, this stunning ten-storey building is wrapped in broad bands of gold. Its silver cladding is overlaid with a filigree pattern of thin sections of aluminium. The Shakespeare Memorial Room at the top of the building has an ornate timber interior dating from 1882.

London Aquatics Centre, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Dame Zaha Hadid, who died in 2016, was one of the most charismatic and influential British architects of all time. Her use of irregular angles of curves in this building was inspired by water in motion and has influenced the course of architecture around the world.

National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Following an international design competition, it was the Richard Rogers Partnership (now Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners) that designed this parliament building in Cardiff Bay, opened in 2006. The funnel in the Siambr (Debating Chamber) acts as a giant air vent – a significant strategy for ventilation using largely natural means.

Switch House, Tate Modern, London A ten-storey extension that has increased the area of the Tate Modern by 60 per cent, Switch House comprises a twisted brick pyramid with a magnificent interior staircase, described as a 'vertical boulevard' by its Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron.

SEC Armadillo, Glasgow Designed by architects Foster + Partners. An international conference centre with seating for up to 3,000 delegates, the structure comprises striking interlocking shapes that echo the shipbuilding heritage of the River Clyde. Its distinctive profile is floodlit by night and reflects sunlight by day.

Eden Project, St Austell, Cornwall Geodesic domes are structures of great lightness and strength that were originally developed in the mid-20th century by visionary US architect Richard Buckminster Fuller, with a view to providing shelter for humans. Led by Andrew Whalley, British architecture practice Grimshaw found a remarkable and creative use for such structures in creating the eight domes at the Eden Project, in which it has been possible to recreate different climates from across the world.

Also in the Landmark Buildings issue is a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir with insert card and a Framed Set of the ten stamps.

The Presentation Pack is designed in the style of architectural plans and written by architectural writer and *Guardian* journalist Rowan Moore. The Stamp Souvenir is a non-personalised version of the traditional First Day Cover which, unlike the traditional FDC, will not have the customer's name and address printed on the front. It will be available for sale for three months and is cancelled with the alternative St Austell postmark shown above ●

First day facilities

Orders for Serviced (i.e. stamped and postmarked) First Day Covers have to reach Royal Mail by 13 July. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue – to Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB – for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark shown above.

And the war goes on... The latest First World War set reflects how the conflict continued to take its toll on those struggling to survive the horrors

HUGE OFFENSIVES, MASSIVE CASUALTIES, horror in the trenches and hardships at home – the First World War 1917 issue marks another year of struggle and slaughter in the conflict: the carnage of Passchendaele, the bloody deadlock following the British armoured assault at Cambrai, air raids and food shortages on the home front. Yet the ten-stamp set also reflects hope and courage: one stamp shows the Bible that saved a soldier from a German shell; another remembers two British frontline nurses who earned bravery medals for tending the wounded and dying. Accompanying the issue, out on 31 July, is a Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Cards and Coin Cover. The set comprises three First Class and three £1.57 values.

The First World War 1917 Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	31 July
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Hat-trick
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Number per sheet	25/50
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

The First World War 1917 Stamps – Prices	
Stamps	£6.66
Presentation Pack	£7.20
Stamps First Day Cover	£8.41
Prestige Stamp Book	£15.41
Prestige Stamp Book First Day Cover	£6.66
Coin Cover Cupro-nickel/Silver/Gold Proof	£17.50/£67.50/£830.00
Stamp Souvenir	£8.41
Album and Slipcase	£24.99

Shattered Poppy, J Ross By freezing poppies with nitrogen and smashing them, photographer John Ross captures the fragility of life at the front. First Class

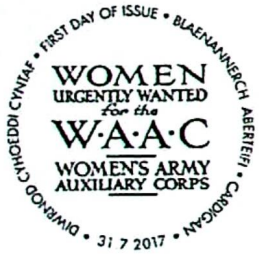
Dead Man's Dump, I Rosenberg Lines by war poet Isaac Rosenberg convey the horror of soldiers doomed to die in battle. First Class

Nurses Elsie Knocker and Mairi Chisholm These heroines treated 23,000 casualties at a front-line first aid post at Pervyse in Belgium. First Class

Dry Docked for Scaling and Painting, E Wadsworth This British ship's 'dazzle' camouflage disrupted its profile to confuse U-boat commanders. £1.57

Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium The Tyne Cot Memorial salutes almost 35,000 Allied soldiers killed at





FD1717-PL



FD1717-NP



FD1717-TH



Coin Cover handstamp



Passchendaele – the Third Battle of Ypres – who have no known grave. £1.57

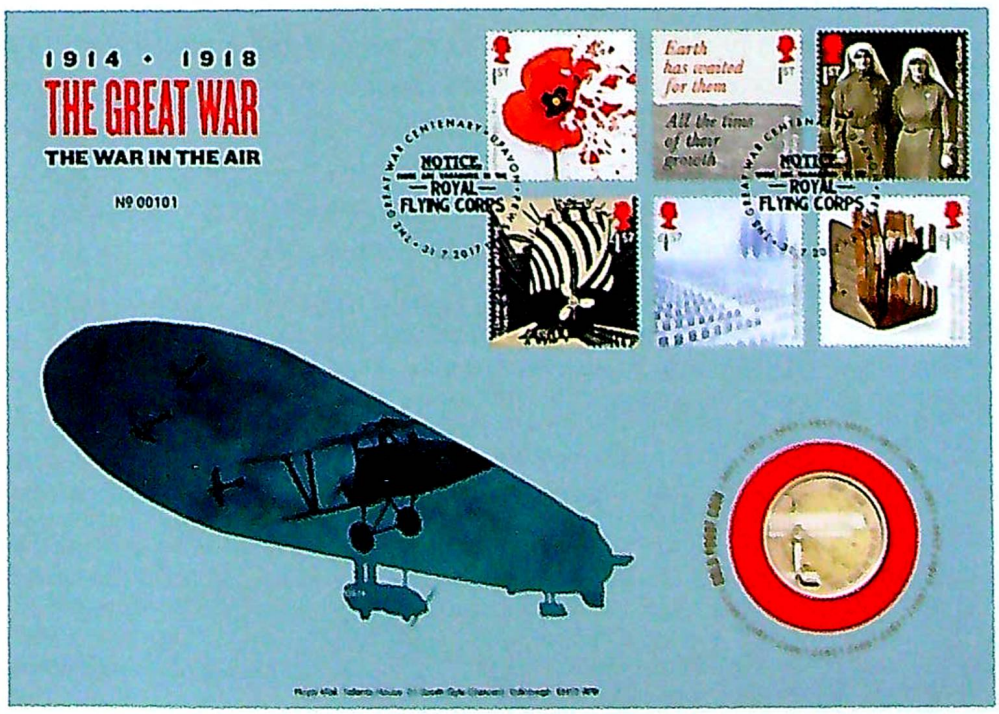
Private Lemuel Thomas Rees's Life-saving Bible Rees was saved from enemy shrapnel at Passchendaele by the Bible he kept in his breast pocket. £1.57

Also in the issue is a detailed Presentation Pack, telling the story of 1917. It reveals that while the British Army struggled in France, Flanders and elsewhere, German U-boats attacked Allied merchant shipping and civilians at home weathered enemy air raids on London. In addition, the Coin Cover offers a gold, silver or brilliant uncirculated cupro-nickel coin, and details the air war. Please quote the *Bulletin* media code 17BUL06 with your orders •

Above: First World War 1917 First Day Cover

Below: the First World War 1917 Coin Cover

Opposite page: the Prestige Stamp Book First Day Cover and Tallents House and alternative postmarks



First day facilities

Orders for Serviced (ie stamped and postmarked) First Day Covers have to reach Royal Mail by 31 July. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue – to Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB – for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark shown on opposite.



Pride of Lions A new Stamp Sheet marks Celtic's historic 1967 European Cup victory in Portugal that earned them the sobriquet the 'Lisbon Lions'

A SMART AND SPORTY STAMP SHEET celebrates the 50th anniversary of Glasgow Celtic's triumph against Inter Milan in the European Cup final in Lisbon on 25 May 1967 – the first British club to take the title.

Celtic beat the Italian opposition 2-1 at the Estádio Nacional near the Portuguese capital. In a limited edition of 5,000, the 50th Anniversary of the Lisbon Lions Special Stamp Sheet features ten First Class Scottish Saltire stamps with accompanying labels containing photos of the quarter-final, semi-final and the final as well as celebrations after the game.

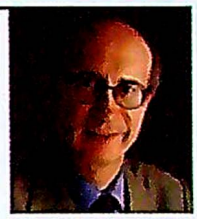
The Celtic Sheet's Presentation Folder narrates the extraordinary story of the match and the journey to the final, and includes key facts on team members, goals and scorers. The Sheet also pays tribute to Celtic's legendary manager Jock Stein, whose influence transformed Celtic's fortunes in just two years of running the Glaswegian side. When he arrived in the job in1965, Celtic were ranked eighth in the Scottish League; in the 1966/67 season, Celtic won the League, the Scottish Cup, League Cup and Glasgow Cup. In the Lisbon final, Stevie Chalmers clinched the winning goal in the 85th minute, a fine reward for Celtic's attacking football that saw them having 45 shots at Milan's goal compared to just three shots from the Italian team ●

You can order the 50th Anniversary of the Lisbon Lions Stamp Sheet at www.royalmail.com/stamps

50th Anniversary of the Lisbon Lions Special Stamp Sheet – Specifications

Issue date	25 May
Number of stamps	Ten First Class Scottish Saltire
Sheet design	Glasgow Celtic Football Club and Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles
Sheet format	Portrait
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive
Price	£19.95
Folder production	Zenith Print and Packaging

Image credits stamp sheet (first column) team photo of the Lisbon Lions © Rolls Press/Popperfoto/Getty Images, Jimmy 'Jinky' Johnstone in action against Dukla Prague in the semi-final © Paul Popper/Popperfoto/Getty Images, Billy McNeill leads out his team in the final (and main image) © Popperfoto/Getty Images, Celtic celebrate victory in the final © Colorsport/Imago/Kicker/Metelmann, Celtic's players parade the European Cup at Celtic Park © PA/PA Wire/PA Images; (second column) Celtic celebrate beating Vojvodina Novi Sad in the quarter-final © Paul Popper/Popperfoto/Getty Images, Celtic against Dukla Prague in the semi-final © Paul Popper/Popperfoto/Getty Images, a crucial save during the final © Central Press/Getty Images, Billy McNeill with the European Cup © VI Images/PA Images, the Lisbon Lions hold the trophy aloft (and folder front) © SNS Group/Alamy Stock Photo; European Cup final programme and ticket copyright of UEFA, used with permission.



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



2 June Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Admission free. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

3 June Ringpex Stamp & Postcard Fair, Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Colin Mount, 01425 474310.

10 June GB Philatelic Society display at Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. Early 20th century postal history (Michael Lockton, 11am), AGM and Members' Displays (2.15pm). Enquiries: www.gbps.org.uk; email membership@gbps.org.uk.

10 June SWINPEX, stamp, postcard and postal history fair, St Joseph RC College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR, 10am to 4pm. Specialist society meetings and displays.

10 June National Philatelic Society: The President's Display, Welsh Centre, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE. Enquiries: Peter Mellor, 01582 762284.

16-17 June Stafford Stamp Show, Staffordshire County Showground Ingestre Suite, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD. Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: 01785 259350.

18 June Welsh Postal History Society Weekend and AGM, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, Gwynedd. Membership details: Aled Rhys-Jones, a.rhys-jones@virginmedia.com.

7 July Strand Stamp Fair: see 2 June for details.

8 July Midpex 2017, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN, 10am to 5pm. See below for further details.

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

8 July National Philatelic Society AGM, Auction and Members' Displays, Welsh Centre, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE. Enquiries: Peter Mellor, 01582 762284.

15 July Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Summer Rally, Aylesford Community Centre, Forstal Road, Aylesford ME20 7AU, 9.30am to 3.30pm.



21-22 July York Racecourse Stamp & Coin Fair, Racecourse Grandstand, YO23 1GX. Friday 11am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: C Rainey, 01793 513431; K Puleston, 020 8946 4489; www.stampshows.net.

27-30 July Philatelic Congress of GB, Jury's Inn, Cardiff. See below for further details. Enquiries: Steven Harrison, 0121 313 0671, sharrison500@btinternet.com.

30 July Hampex 2017 (Hants Philatelic Federation), Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham PO17 5AL, 10am to 4pm ●

2017 events

Midpex, the prestigious biennial exhibition first held in 1995, takes place at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa on 8 July. It brings together specialist societies with local, national and international dealers covering all aspects of philately. The exhibition provides an opportunity for specialist societies to recruit members, identify common ground with other societies, promote their publications and research projects, and for members to meet informally. This year's event is expected to be one of the best yet, with over 50 dealers (stamps, postcards, thematics and postal history) and 40 specialist societies attending. The Opal, Pacific Islands, TPO, Malta, Meter Mail, Revenue and Iran societies will hold their regional meetings at Midpex. For more information visit www.midpex.wordpress.com.



Upcoming events also include the 99th Philatelic Congress of GB in Cardiff, from 27 to 30 July; this is only the third time Congress has met in Wales, previous venues being Llandudno in 1972 and Cardiff in 1991. The event will be at Jury's Inn, Park Place, Cardiff, with the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists ceremony at Cardiff City Hall. Alan Holyoake and Colin Tarbeart (UK) and John Hotchner and Steven Walske (USA) will be signing as the newest RDPs. Displays have a Welsh theme and there will be a lecture on the future of the Association of British Philatelic Societies. See the ABPS website – www.abps.org.uk – for further information. Autumn Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1 from 13 to 16 September, and Stampa – the Irish national stamp exhibition – takes place in Dublin from 6 to 8 October.

Major international exhibitions will be held in Bandung, Indonesia (3 to 7 August), Brasilia, Brazil (24 to 29 October), and Monaco (30 November to 2 December). Details will be given in the *Bulletin* nearer the time ●

The Postal Museum



The Postal Museum (formerly British Postal Museum & Archive) is due to open at its new home near the Mount Pleasant Mail Centre in London in July. Already in place are some of the larger exhibits, such as a mail coach, postbus, 1930s Morris postal van, and telephone box. Smaller items are being placed in display cases. The new museum will include a cafe and a courtyard with a living wall of plants – the area can be hired for private events. Details of opening times and admission charges will be announced shortly. Keep a watch on The Postal Museum website – www.postalmuseum.org – for further progress in the construction of the new museum and the Mail Rail experience. Visitors will be able to take a 15-minute journey in specially constructed trains on part of the former Post Office Underground Railway which carried mail beneath the streets of London from 1927 until 2003. For Postal Museum enquiries, phone 020 7239 2570, email info@postalheritage.org.uk, or write to: The Postal Museum, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. The museum's online shop offers a wide range of cards, DVDs, CDs and gifts ●

Obituary

I am sad to report the death in March, following a road accident, of Professor Iain Stevenson, a noted collector of telegraph stamps and forms, Belgium and France, postal stationery and Canadian Pacific Railway material. His booklet, *The Man for the Post – Henry Fawcett and Postal Reform*, was published as a supplement to *The London Philatelist* (December 2001). Fawcett was the Postmaster General who

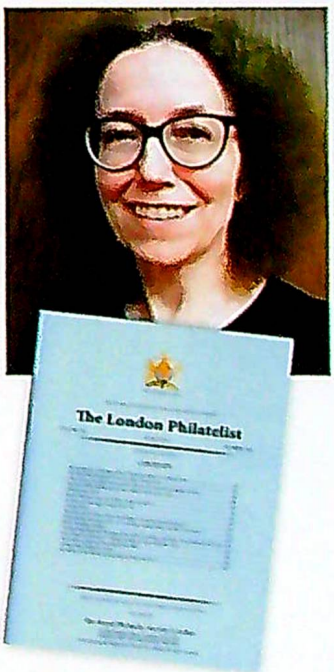


introduced the parcel post and postal orders. Prof Stevenson rightly pointed out that Fawcett's reforms deserved more attention, the history of postal reform having been dominated by Sir Rowland Hill, not least because 'his genius for self-publicity has cast a long shadow over the work of others'. Prof Stevenson served the Royal Philatelic Society as Council member, Chairman of the Publications Committee, and Museum Curator. His death has been greatly mourned in the academic world and he will also be much missed by the philatelic community ●

Stamp-related exhibitions

In relation to the Royal Mail stamps celebrating Pink Floyd in January 2011 and July 2016, the exhibition, Pink Floyd: Their Mortal Remains, is at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London until 1 October. It chronicles the music, design and staging of the band, from the 1960s through to the present. Stamps honouring Jane Austen were issued in 1975 (bicentenary of her birth) and 2013 (bicentenary of *Pride and Prejudice*). To mark the bicentenary of her death on 18 July 1817, an exhibition called The Mysterious Miss Austen is on show at Winchester Discovery Centre, from 13 May to 24 July. It includes first editions, items from Austen's wardrobe, personal letters and portraits. For details and other anniversary events in Hampshire, visit www.janeausten200.co.uk ●

Society news

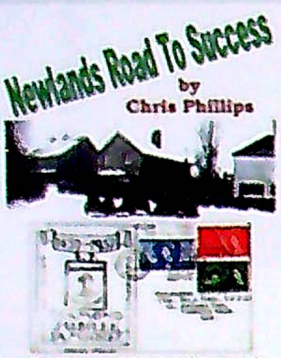


The March issue of *The London Philatelist* (journal of the Royal Philatelic Society London) reports that Seija-Riitta Laakso of Finland (right) will take over as editor from Steve Jarvis in July. Ms Laakso has considerable experience in editing philatelic and business journals. The March *London Philatelist* includes an article on the Lovegrove Collection of Free Franks, formed by Jim Lovegrove and given to The Queen in 1982; it now forms part of the Royal Philatelic Collection. The author, Robert Galland, provides a comprehensive account of the collection with good illustrations of postal markings and covers. Some biographical information on Mr Lovegrove would have been welcome. For details of the Royal Philatelic Society, visit www.rpsl.org.uk. Visitors are welcome at meetings by prior arrangement – phone 020 7486 1044.

Sadly, after nearly 40 years, the British Royal Portraits Stamp Group is being wound up. Its final *Newsletter* (Winter 2016/17) included listings of recent issues, including stamps for The Queen's 90th birthday and for her becoming the longest-reigning monarch. The Group was founded in 1977, The Queen's silver jubilee year. Editor Cyril Parsons recalls the important work of the late Lois Young (editor 1982 to 1984) and recent research on George VI stamp portraits by Brian Livingstone. Thanks are due to Cyril who has edited the *Newsletter* for the past 13 years.

The Scarborough Philatelic Society welcomes new members. The AGM will be held on 6 June and guest speaker on 4 July will be Paul Skinner from the British Library Philatelic Collections. Contact Chris Phillips on 01723 368475 or email chris@philatelic.org.uk for further information.

Chris Phillips has also written an interesting account of his early years in Newlands Road, Tunbridge Wells, which will also appeal to philatelists. His book, *Newlands Road to Success*, chronicles the activities of the children who lived there from 1947 to 1967. Events included the annual street Olympics and firework displays which were opened by the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells. However, it ▸



is as the location of a philatelic society, formed in 1953, that Newlands Road is best known. The story of this society takes up 120 of the 200 pages of the book. Throughout its 14 years the society was run entirely by children, never by adults. They held over 300 meetings, ran their own FDC service (from 1957), organised stands at the annual Tunbridge Wells Hobbies Exhibition, and produced a newsletter. A number of prominent philatelists visited, including Kenneth Chapman (Editor of *Stamp Collecting*), Cyril Harmer and James Watson of Stanley Gibbons. The society's officers were adept at getting the society mentioned in the philatelic and local press, and even in an Italian stamp magazine and one national UK newspaper.

Of particular interest in the book is chapter 19, which records the campaign to change Post Office stamp issuing policy. Letters were sent to the Prime Minister and other political leaders, whose replies are reproduced. Responding in May 1959, Harold Wilson noted that when he 'opened the National Stamp Exhibition (Stampex) last year I made the same plea that your Society is making', that is for more colourful and interesting stamps. In October 1964 Wilson became Prime Minister and appointed Tony Benn as Postmaster General. Benn's eagerness to develop the stamp programme is well-known, though Post Office policy really changed in 1963 when it was decided to issue more commemorative stamps and set up a Philatelic Bureau, and introduce the *Philatelic Bulletin*. However, the Post Office did not budge in its refusal to issue pictorial definitives, the subject of a number of letters reproduced here. Although the Society ceased in 1967, Mr Phillips continues to promote its ideals, not least in giving talks about the club and producing anniversary souvenirs (including Smilers®), particularly this well-written and profusely illustrated account. Price is £8.50, UK postage £2 from: Christopher Phillips, 19 Alexandra Park, Scarborough YO12 5JN •

New from the islands

Jersey Post will issue stamps marking 200 years of kaleidoscopes on 10 July, followed by the fourth part of its First World War series (War in the Air) on 4 August. Stamps commemorating Lillie Langtry will be issued on 1 September. Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, www.jerseystamps.com.

The Isle of Man Post Office issued six stamps on 11 May commemorating the 300th anniversary of English Freemasonry's first Grand Lodge. The stamps depict badges of senior offices within the lodge. Another new issue, entitled Green Mann (below), features the island's landscapes and horticultural, farming and fishing heritage, by Nicola Dixon. Enquiries: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, phone 01624 698430 •





The Machin rainbow

As Royal Mail issues two Miniature Sheets celebrating the Machin definitives, Richard West looks at how their colours have changed over half a century

THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO ADMIRE the definitive stamps of the UK, created by Arnold Machin and first issued in 1967. As well as their simple, iconic design and the timeless portrait of HM The Queen, of great appeal to collectors is the wealth of colours that have appeared over the years.



1

In the beginning During the development of the colours and final design of the very first Machin definitives, the printers Harrison and Sons worked in close collaboration with Arnold Machin. At the end of 1966 and beginning of 1967, they produced essays in a range of colours, with input from Machin. When the essays were shown to The Queen she expressed a particular preference for the olive-brown sepia. Her Majesty suggested that this colour be used for the 4d stamp, then the most commonly used denomination (1), because it was reminiscent of the Penny Black. The final choice for the remaining colours of the 1967 definitives was made by the Post Office.

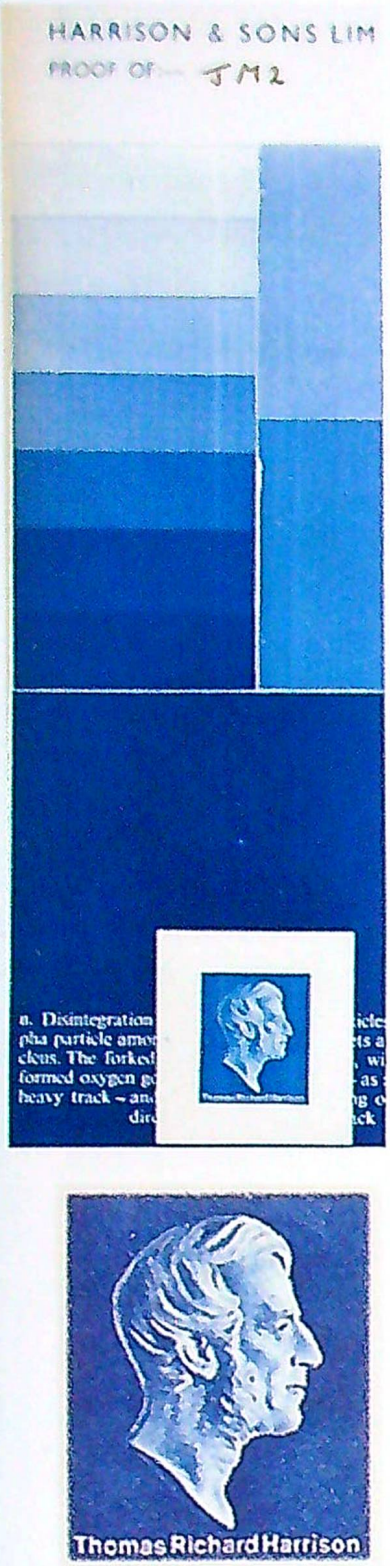
When the stamps were issued it became evident that the phosphor bands sometimes spoiled the effects of the colour ▸



2a



2b



Above: Harrison and Sons produced essays for each colour of the Jeffery Matthews palette, using a portrait of the printer Thomas Richard Harrison and strips of different weights of colour. At first the colours were unnamed and categorised by number, for example, the JM2 essay

gradation from dark to light (2a). Consequently, an early change was made to the 1/-, reducing the gradation in colour across the stamp (2b), while an experiment with the 1s 6d saw the phosphor bands eliminated and phosphor incorporated into the coating of the paper.

Some of the colours proved too difficult to differentiate under artificial light. Unfortunately the preferred olive-brown sepia impeded a strong phosphor signal, so the colour of the 4d had to change. A memorandum at the time advises that the colours of the existing 6d, 7d or 8d would all be suitable. The red of the 8d was chosen for the 4d and the 8d changed to turquoise-blue.

Cambridge trials Not long after the issue of the first Machin stamps, with the deadline for decimalisation looming, the Post Office needed to plan a new range of values (3, page 304). It was decided to take a more scientific approach to the choice of colours. Don Beaumont of the Post Office engaged the Applied Psychology Unit of the Medical Research Council at Cambridge University to determine a suitable range. The basis of the research was to ask a group of volunteers to compare pairs of colours. A practice run used the existing colours plus a few alternatives.

The main trials, conducted during 1969, were based on an initial 75 options (both single and bi-coloured) that were tested for strength of phosphor signal. From these, 51 were shortlisted in order of suitability. A further review by Post Office engineers reduced these to 25, of which one was from the initial rejected colours, and another was the orange-brown used for the ½d.

These new colour options were arranged in pairs, each paired with itself, and with each of the remaining 24 colours. Each volunteer, having viewed each pairing for under a second, was asked to state for each whether the colours were the same or different, and how confident they were in their response. Some of the comparisons were made in daylight, others under artificial light. The outcome was a shortlist of 14 colours. These were shown to Machin who was not entirely happy on aesthetic grounds; he amended the selection, thereby creating his own 14 colours.

Dr I D Brown, of the Medical Research Council, conducted a similar exercise, offering his choice of 14 colours. Further tests including these new groups were conducted with the team of 26 housewives and ten postmen.

With all the conclusions at hand, Don Beaumont selected 12 colours to be used for the new decimal values from ½p to 9p. These were essayed on 20 November 1969.

The Matthews palette Despite all the efforts described above, the resulting colours did not meet requirements, and they deviated from Machin's concept of the portrait shown against a strong background colour. The idea was put forward of each main postage rate having its own designated colour, which would alternate in tone whenever there was a tariff change. The problem was passed to Jeffery Matthews, who was asked to create a dozen colours that could be used in six pairs (one pair for each of six postal rates).

By carefully considered mixing of colours, Matthews produced: dark blue and light blue, intended for second class stamps; dark green and light green, for first class stamps; and four pairs for airmail zones – dark brown and sand; rust and light tan; purple and ash pink; crimson and flame. Soon after he produced two further pairs, to be held in reserve: dark grey and light grey; dark turquoise and sea green. However, it was realised the idea would not work: customers could be using old stocks of stamps, but nevertheless in the current colour, while stamps with the same face value could over the years appear in more than one colour (for example, an airmail rate one year could later be the first class rate). Nevertheless, Matthews' colours were admired and introduced in 1988

Even these 16 colours were not sufficient, so Jeffery Matthews was asked to create a further 15: mauve, shocking pink, old gold, rhododendron, dark maroon, salmon pink, terracotta, red, sage green, slate blue, ultramarine, emerald green, lime green, stone and olive green. (Although Jeffery developed the colours, he played no part in their naming.)

It was decided to drop crimson from the original 16, leaving a total of 30 colours that could be used. Then, in February 1996, he was asked for three more: orange, pink and grey-blue. Matthews' involvement went beyond his influential palette: he chose the pairs of colours that were used for the 'high value' versions of the Machin head introduced in 1977 and printed in photogravure. For the 40th anniversary of the Machin definitive in 2007 he was asked to create a new colour for the £1 definitive and came up with the appropriately named ruby. Finally, when asked to design new definitives for the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black (with both the Machin portrait and that of Queen Victoria) he recommended black and cream for the 20p value to resemble the look of the Penny Black (4 overleaf).

21st century colours Since 2013, as new values have been added, further colours have been introduced. Following celebrations of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee year in 2012, thought was given to creating a new range, to be called the ▸





3

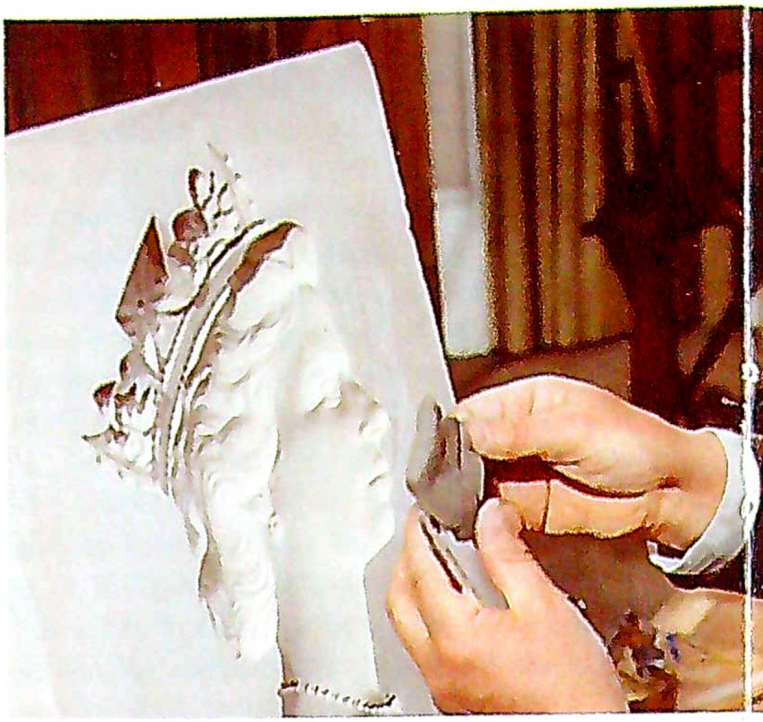


4



5

'Jubilee palette', but this idea was abandoned and different colours are now selected as and when required.



Commemorative colours Some definitive colours have also been used as commemoration in their own right. Not long before the Penny Black anniversary definitives were issued in 1990, non-value indicator stamps were introduced in 1989 – the first class in brownish black, and the second class in blue, to resemble the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue. In





1997 the first class value was changed to gold (5) to mark The Queen's Golden Wedding anniversary. This gold was later reintroduced as appropriate to signify a 'first class service'. In 2012 the first-class definitive appeared in Diamond blue for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and in amethyst purple to celebrate Her Majesty becoming Britain's longest reigning monarch in 2015. For the 65th anniversary of The Queen's accession in February this year, a £5 definitive in sapphire blue was issued (6).

From 1990 for a while the second-class became a deep blue, reverting to bright blue in 1993. Meanwhile, the first class has been more complex: from 1990 in orange-red, then gold, reverting to orange-red, then back to gold, before becoming Royal Mail red in 2013 and a deep red in 2016.

This month, for the 50th anniversary of the Machin definitive, a £1 is being issued in gold as a part of a miniature sheet and in the Prestige Stamp Book. And so the Machin colour story continues ● *Richard West FRPSL received an MBE in2012 for services to philately.*



6

☛ **Turn over for a reminder of this month's Royal Mail Special Stamp issue marking 50 years of Machin definitives**



Every Machin ever

Adrian Bradbury has created an appropriately colourful cover to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Machin definitive. It features one of the two new Royal Mail Miniature Sheets, franked with a special first day postmark that has the words '50 Yearsof a Design Icon' at its centre.

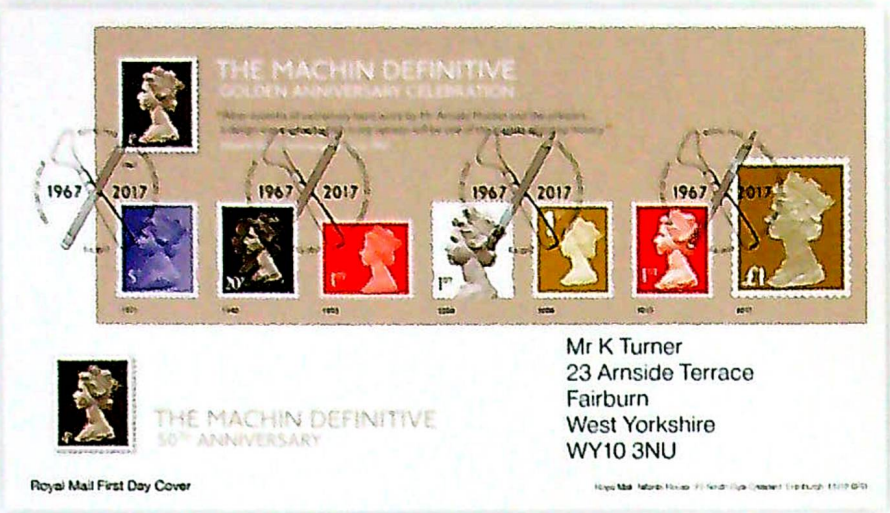
Surrounding the Miniature Sheet are small images of a complete collection of all the basic Machins issued tariff changes and new colours since 1967, including this year's new values. They are arranged in dated groups in chronological order, with just enough space to fit the address at bottom right. The envelope is the standard size of 220mm x 110mm.

This remarkable cover is available in a limited edition of 200 and can be ordered online: www.bfdc.co.uk/machins. **Price:** £22.50.

BFDC Ltd
3 Link Road
Leicester
LE2 3RA
brad@bfdc.co.uk
www.bfdc.co.uk

Cheques should be made payable to BFDC Ltd. Please quote BPB0617.

The Machin Definitive 50th Anniversay issue.
Top: Golden Anniversary Miniature Sheet (the other new Miniature Sheet, named 50th Anniversary of the Machin Definitive, is shown on the previous page)
Below: First Day Cover with Pane 4 of the Prestige Stamp Book, with the PSB front page





The Machin Definitive 50th Anniversary – Prices	
Golden Anniversary Celebration Miniature Sheet	£3.85
50 Years of a Design Icon Miniature Sheet	£3.90
First Day Cover Golden Anniverary Celebration	£5.04
First Day Cover 50 Years of a Design Icon	£5.10
Stamp Sheet Souvenir Golden Anniversary Celebration	£5.04
Stamp Sheet Souvenir 50 Years of a Design Icon	£5.10
Presentation Pack	£8.25
Postcards (6 in set)	£3.60
Prestige Stamp Book (PSB)	£15.59
Limited edition Prestige Stamp Book	£99.95
First Day Cover PSB Machin Head	£3.35
First Day Cover PSB Double Head	£5.58
First Day Envelope	30p each
Stamp Book 50 Years of a Design Icon	£3.90
Press Sheet Golden Anniversary Celebration (8 Miniature Sheets)	£33.88
Press Sheet 50 Years of a Design Icon (8 Miniature Sheets)	£34.32
Medal Cover with 50 Years of a Design Icon Miniature Sheet	£15.50
Limited edition Solid Sterling Silver Medallion	£89.95



5 June issue

This month Royal Mail releases The Machin Definitive Anniversary, celebrating 50 years of the world-renowned stamp design.

There has been a reconfiguration of Pane 4 of the Prestige Stamp Book (PSB) since we compiled your full philatelic Preview on page 260 of the May *Bulletin*. So, to ensure you have all the correct details of this key issue, here is the complete price list (left) and PSB Pane 4 First Day Cover (above) •



RIght: The Royal Society established the coveted award of this Tilleard Medal in 1914, in tribute to the contribution to philately of John Alexander Tilleard, who died the previous year

Philatelist to The King...

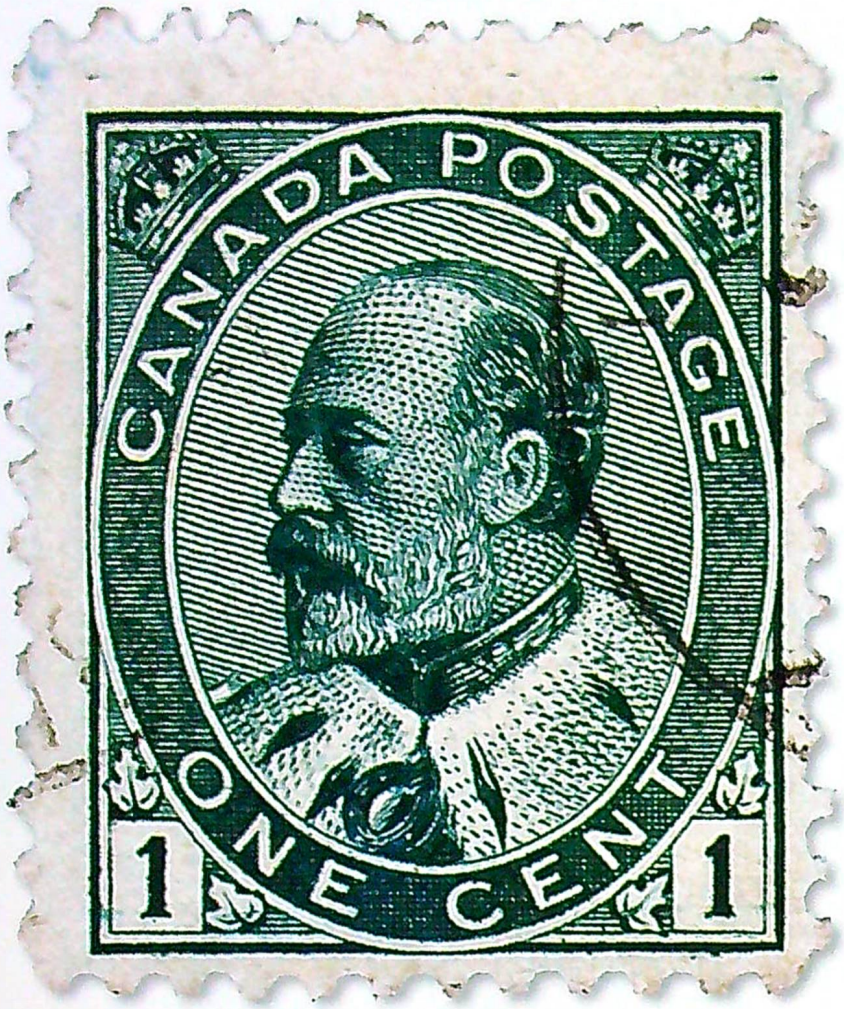
John Alexander Tilleard

Dane Garrod explores the life and legacy of the first curator of the Royal Philatelic Collection

Born in the Royal Borough of Kensington, West London, in the last quarter of 1850, John Alexander Tilleard was educated at Marlborough College, not long after its founding as a school for sons of Church of England clergy. Whether he particularly excelled in his studies is not known, but his academic achievements were evidently enough to gain him entry into the legal profession.

Tilleard's stamp collecting hobby grew over the years into a dedicated focus on philately, which set him on the path to becoming a principal force behind George V establishing the Royal Philatelic Collection.

His career and collecting As a solicitor in London, working in partnership with others as Watney, Tilleard & Freeman in Lombard Street, Tilleard devoted much of his free time to collecting stamps. He was 37 years old ▸



when, in order to meet with other collectors, he joined the Philatelic Society, London (which had been formed in 1869 and is now the RPSL – Royal Philatelic Society London). Within two years, Tilleard was offered and accepted the position of Honorary Assistant Secretary. He held this post for the next seven years until his election in 1894 to the Honorary Secretaryship, a position he held until his death.

By royal appointment According to the diary of George, Duke of York, Tilleard first met him on 28 February 1893. He agreed to become George's advisor and to help manage his stamp collection. From this time onwards he was a frequent visitor to the Duke of York's palace and their formal relationship steadily developed into a friendship between an enthusiastic collector and a true and trusted advisor. They worked together to design the Canada stamp series showing King Edward VII, issued between 1903 and 1912 (above).

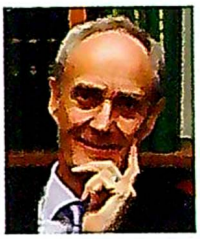
After the accession of the Duke as King George V in 1910, Tilleard was appointed as 'Philatelist to The King' (with an annual salary of £750) and he enjoyed this unique curatorship for the few remaining years of his life. In 1911 The King made him a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) for his services to The King and philately.

Collecting style Tilleard's main specialism was a collection of stamps from the Prince Edward Island (incorporated from 1873 within the Dominion of Canada). His other specialism was stamps of British India, which he wrote about in *Notes on the De La Rue Series of Adhesive Postage Stamps and Telegraph Stamps of India'*, published in 1896. In this publication he was shown to be a philatelist of note, the work being described in RPSL records as 'ordered, lucid, well proportioned, and accurate'.

Tilleard's legacy Also described as being thorough, able, earnest and having an attractive personality, Tilleard had an energetic and thorough approach to philately. His high-energy output and perhaps a disregard for his own health may have contributed to shortenning his life – Tilleard died in 1913 aged 63 years.

Apart from his philatelic publications, which were few in number but characterised by fine discernment and clarity of expression, his legacy has been

his influence on the curating of the Royal Philatelic Collection, and the society for which he was secretary for nearly 20 years. Undoubtedly, John Alexander Tilleard was a prime mover in creating the most comprehensive collection of British and Empire stamps in the world, which became the Royal Philatelic Collection. Personal ownership of the Royal Collection is handed down from British sovereign to sovereign under the management and guidance of the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, the post created for Tilleard and currently held by Michael Sefi LVO.



On Tilleard's death King George wrote to the RPSL saying that he mourned the loss of a personal friend ●

Dane Garrod FRSPL is a social historian and philatelist

Tilleard Medallists

Below are the first three recipients of the Tilleard Medal and the three most recent. Although the Royal Philatelic Society established the award of the Tilleard Medal in 1914, no awards were made until 1920 owing to the intervention of the First World War. Today the Medal is awarded by the Royal Philatelic Society London for the best five o'clock display.

The first three Tilleard Medal winners:

1920 Lt-Colonel A S Bates for his display of pre-1840 essays of Great Britain.



1921 Louis E Bradbury for his display of the postage stamps of the Bahamas.

1922 His Majesty King George V for his display of four Annas, first issue stamps of India.



The most recent three Tilleard Medal winners:

2014 Gustaf Douglas FRPSL for his display of Classic Sweden.

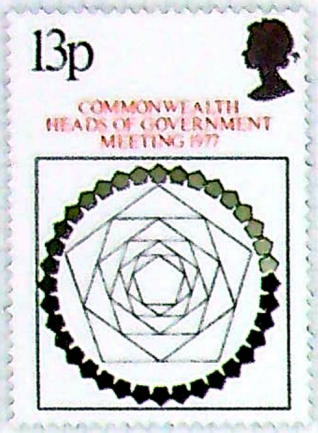


2015 Edward Klempka FRPSL for his display of Great Britain Postal History 1840-1854.



2016 Peter Kelly FRPS for his display of France, *L'émission au type Sage*.







Above: Peter Murdoch's stamp design for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and Paul Hogarth's work for the Economic Summit stamp

Below: a Heads of Government Meeting first day cover

This month in History

John Holman does a double trip back in time to revisit two Special Stamps marking two important political meetings that took place in June at London's Lancaster House

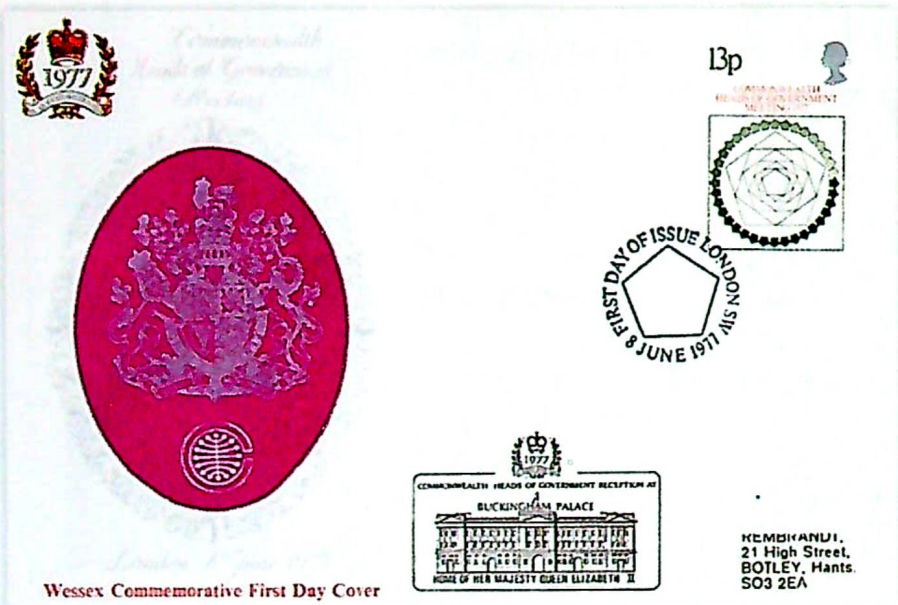
In June 1977 and June 1984 the Post Office issued stamps for important international events held at Lancaster House in London – the 4th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the 10th Economic Summit of the G7 countries.

1977 Commonwealth Heads of Governement meeting

This has its origins in the Colonial and Imperial Conferences first held in 1887. In its current format, as Heads of Government meeting, it dates from 1971 when the first meeting was held in Singapore, followed by Ottawa in 1973 and Kingston, Jamaica in 1975. The London meeting, on 8 to15 June 1977, was hosted by UK Prime Minister James Callaghan and 33 of the 35 Commonwealth nations were represented. Absent was President Idi Amin of Uganda and President James Manchan of the Seychelles who was overthrown on the eve of the meeting. Among the many matters discussed was South Africa (including sporting contacts), relations between rich and poor countries, and the problems in Cyprus, Belize and Uganda. An agreement on sporting contacts was reached at the meeting's retreat at Gleneagles in Scotland, hence known as the Gleneagles Agreement. The meeting coincided with events marking The Queen's Silver Jubilee.

The Post Office issued a 13p stamp (the rate for overseas mail) on 8 June. Designed by Peter Murdoch, the graphic 'Gathering of Nations' design (as shown left) symbolised round-table discussions. The pattern of pentagons represented the individual countries and the five continents over which they are spread. The Queen's head, in silver, was positioned at top right, with value top left and caption 'COMMONWEALTH/HEADS OF GOVERNMENT/MEETING 1977, over the main design. Peter Murdoch also designed the stamps for the UK joining the EEC in 1973 and the Energy Resources issue of 1978. With Lance Wyman of New York, he designed the graphics for the Mexico City Olympics in 1968.

The stamp was printed by using photogravure and recess for the inscription and pentagon lines with 'all-over' phosphor. No printing errors or constant varieties are recorded. The Post Office First Day Cover and Presentation Pack both featured the façade of Lancaster



Wessex Commemorative First Day Cover

House in London. The Philatelic Bureau and London SW First Day of Issue postmarks reproduced the pentagon shape from the stamp design. Posting boxes were provided at about 200 main post offices for collectors to post covers for local First Day of Issue postmarks. There were no sponsored special handstamps of direct relevance though some special handstamps were used on the day of issue.

A PHQ stamp card was issued, sold at 7p. This is known with the grey inner border omitted. Some stamps were sold in error on 3 June and are known with Stevenage postmarks of the following day. The stamp sold out at the Philatelic Bureau in December 1977 and the Presentation Pack in March 1978. Numbers sold were: 8,560,000 stamps and 162,582 packs. The number of stamp cards printed was 39,600.

The latest (24th) Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting was held in Malta in 2015. The 25th meeting will be held in the UK in spring 2018 and the 26th meeting in Malaysia in 2020

1984 Economic Summit

The Economic Summit of the G7 countries at Lancaster House in June 1984 was the 10th such meeting. Taking part were Presidents Ronald Reagan and François Mitterrand of the USA and France, Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher, Pierre Trudeau of Canada, Yasohiro Nakasone of Japan, Bettino Craxi of Italy, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, and Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission. Over 20 important subjects were discussed including world economic problems and recession, unemployment, growth and creation of new jobs, the growing strain of public expenditure, developing countries, oil and the Gulf, environment, and the manned space station.

The special 31p (airmail rate) stamp went on sale on 5 June, two days before the meeting started. It features Lancaster House and the flags of the seven participating countries. The Queen's silhouette, in silver, was positioned top left and value top right flanking the caption 'LONDON/ECONOMIC SUMMIT/1984'. The words LANCASTER HOUSE were positioned at the base of the design. The stamp was designed by Paul Hogarth (1917-2001) who later designed the 1985 350 Years of Royal Mail, 1990 Europa/Glasgow City of Culture, and 1994 Golf stamps. His obituary in *The Guardian* described his work as at worst 'sentimental, twee-English, like a graphic John Betjeman', but at best 'he was a shrewd commentator on postwar life'.

The stamp was printed by Harrisons in seven colours on phosphorised paper. No printing errors or constant varieties are recorded.The Post Office FDC envelope featured the pediment of Lancaster House and the flags of the participating nations. The Bureau First Day postmark featured the meeting's 'round table' logo, and Lancaster House was shown on the London SW postmark. Local First Day postmarks were used at about 200 offices. Three special Economic Summit sponsored handstamps were used together with a number of other sponsored handstamps available on the day of issue. No presentation pack was produced although a stamp card was available, price 13p. The stamp was withdrawn one year after issue, the number sold was 8,145,600. Some 165,000 stamp cards were produced •







From top: Paul Hogarth, Peter Murdoch and Lancaster House

Below: Margaret Thatcher and Pierre Trudeau



Y is for… young Queen Victoria's stamps

Colin Baker explains how an engraving of Queen Victoria's profile helped Rowland Hill to persuade the public to use postal stationery



Fig 1



Fig 2

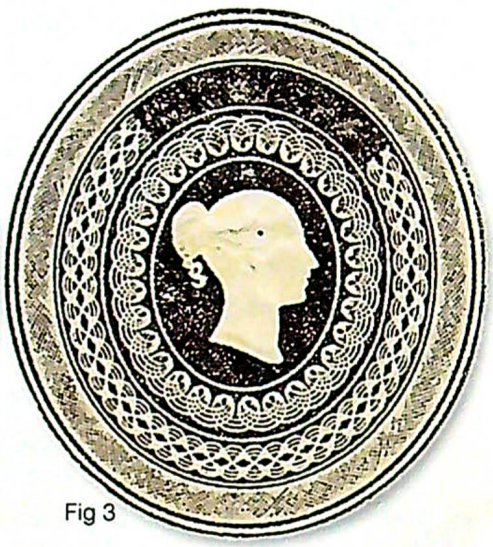


Fig 3

Fig 1 Queen Victoria sketched just before her Coronation in 1838 (taken from *VRI Her Life and Empire*, Harpers Brothers, 1901)

Fig 2 and 3 Charles Whiting's essays for a stamp border

Fig 4 Victoria's profile on the City of London medal created by William Wyon

IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO the start of the Uniform Penny Post in 1840 and the introduction of stamps and postal stationery, Rowland Hill (who was in charge of all these changes) wanted to allow the public to have their own paper impressed with postage stamps. Hill believed that the public would take to using postal stationery rather than stamps and this proposed facility would allow them to have envelopes and letter sheets made to their own specification. The Treasury was opposed to his idea, believing it would lead to all sorts of forgery and fraud, and so the scheme was shelved for a while. However, Hill continued to make arrangements for stamping paper submitted by the public and commissioned William Wyon to produce a stamp essay.



Fig 4

Wyon had produced a bronze medal for Queen Victoria's first visit to the City of London in 1837 and he used this as a basis for his essay. The preparation of the border of the stamp was entrusted to Charles Whiting. And it was Alfred Deacon, one of Whiting's employees, who undertook the engraving process known as engine turning – where a mechanically driven tool created regular, intricate patterns using a system of cogs and cams. The patterns were impossible to reproduce without having access to a similar machine and without knowing the combination of gears originally used. Even the most skilled of engravers



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7

would have been unable to copy the pattern by hand. Thus it was an excellent anti-forgery device and it is often used for exactly the same reason today – on security documents such as cheques.

Wyon's master engraving of The Queen's head for the stationery stamps omitted the hair bun, which was added later to each separate master die. Different styles of hair bun were made and these can be seen in the stamps that followed over the course of Queen Victoria's reign.

Rowland Hill commissioned all this preparatory work in 1840, the year in which the first prepaid stationery carrying Mulready's flamboyant design was put on sale. The Mulready stationery was a disaster for Hill because a large portion of the public hated it (see M is for Mulready, *Bulletin* Vol 53, page 186). Hill quickly realised that a new design was needed and the new stamp dies intended for future use were completed so that 1d and 2d envelopes could be produced to replace the Mulready issue. These were well received by the public and the 1d envelope remained popular for the next 60 years.

However, it would be 15 years before the new embossed stamps were finally put to their intended use, when the stamped-to-order facility was introduced in 1855 •

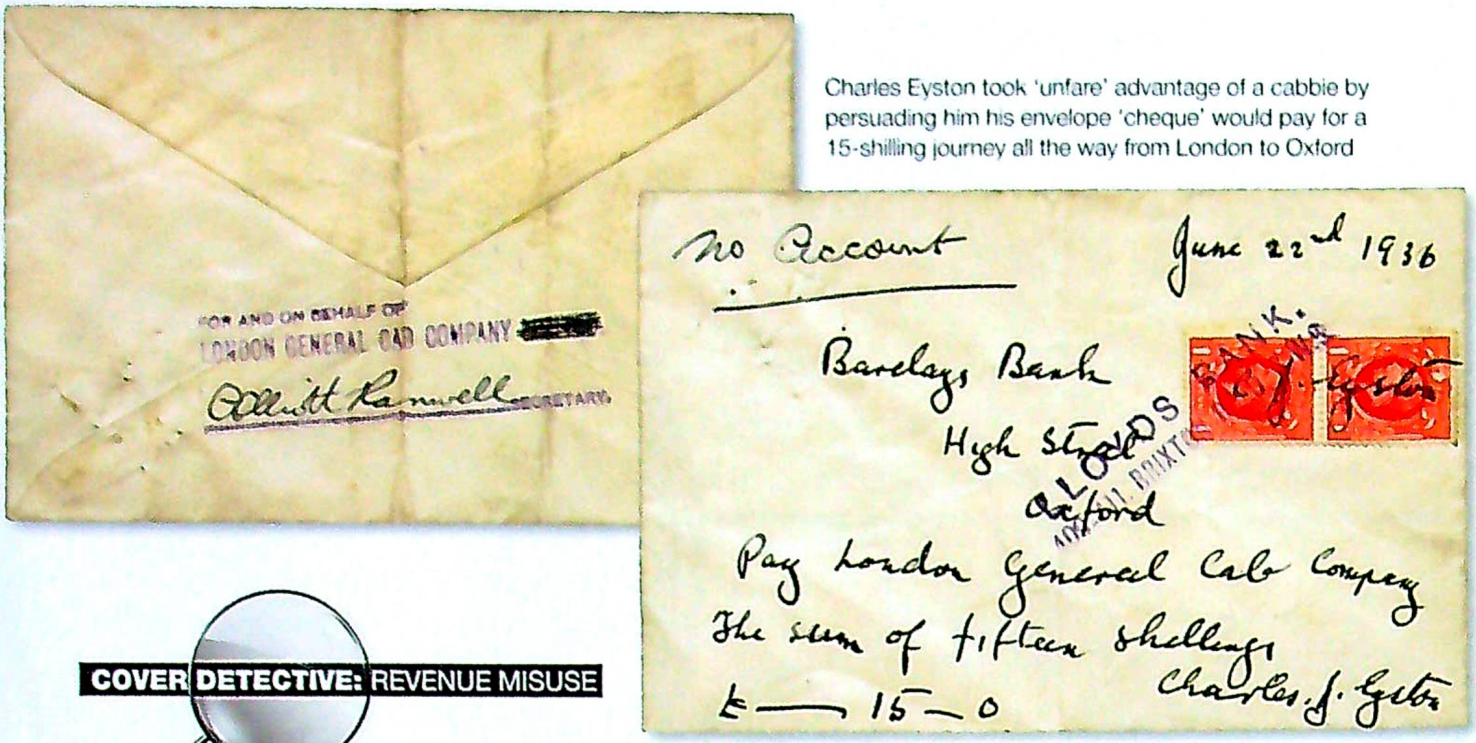
Next in Baker's A to Z of Postal Stationery: Z for Zululand connections

Fig 5 One Penny Pink envelope used in 1841

Fig 6 Twopenny Blue envelope

Fig 7 Essay for the one penny stamp in blue

For more inspiration about collecting postal stationery: www.postalstationery.org.uk. The Postal Stationery Society welcomes enquiries by email at pps.secretary@gmail.com



Charles Eyston took 'unfare' advantage of a cabbie by persuading him his envelope 'cheque' would pay for a 15-shilling journey all the way from London to Oxford

COVER DETECTIVE: REVENUE MISUSE

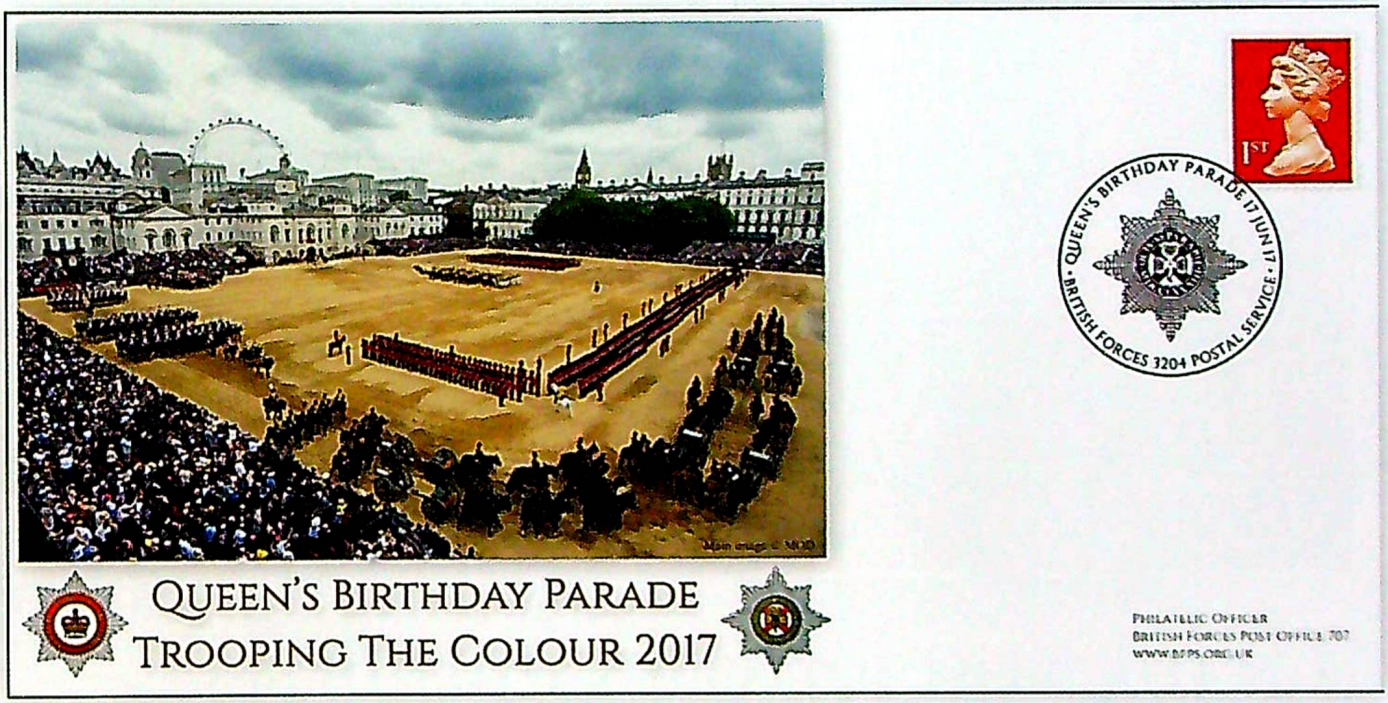
Stamp fare

Dane Garrod collars a philatelic fraudster who conned a cabbie out of his fare with just two penny stamps and an envelope

The cover shown above tells a cheeky tale. My detective work on this reveals the very persuasive skills of one Charles John Eyston, who had neither the cash nor the inclination to pay his 15-shilling taxi fare from London to Oxford on 22 June 1936. But he *did* have two stamps, both one penny and showing the recently deceased King George V, a blank envelope and, it seems, lashings of devilish charm. For he convinced the cabbie to take him home by paying for the 60-mile journey with a 'cheque' written on the envelope, 'guaranteed' by his signature across the stamps.

He provided extra 'security' by adding the address of his local bank – Barclays in High Street, Oxford, who would, the taxi driver was presumably informed, honour the cheque. And so the cabbie probably took the cheque away with him, believing all would be fine. But all was not fine.

The driver's employers, the London General Cab Company, would not have been amused: with its secretary's signature on the reverse, the cover was duly presented for payment through the firm's bank, Lloyds in Brixton. But this was a con. Eyston was not a Barclays customer; the cover was returned marked 'No Account', as shown above. I was sufficiently intrigued to build an offender profile of Eyston via his marriage certificate and other records. His birth was registered at Faringdon in Oxfordshire in 1897, and in 1936 he was a married man aged nearly 40 – so surely he should have known better! • *This cover is an unusual example of revenue misuse using an envelope. Do you know of another? Or know of Eyston? All evidence is welcome at info@CoverDetective.london*



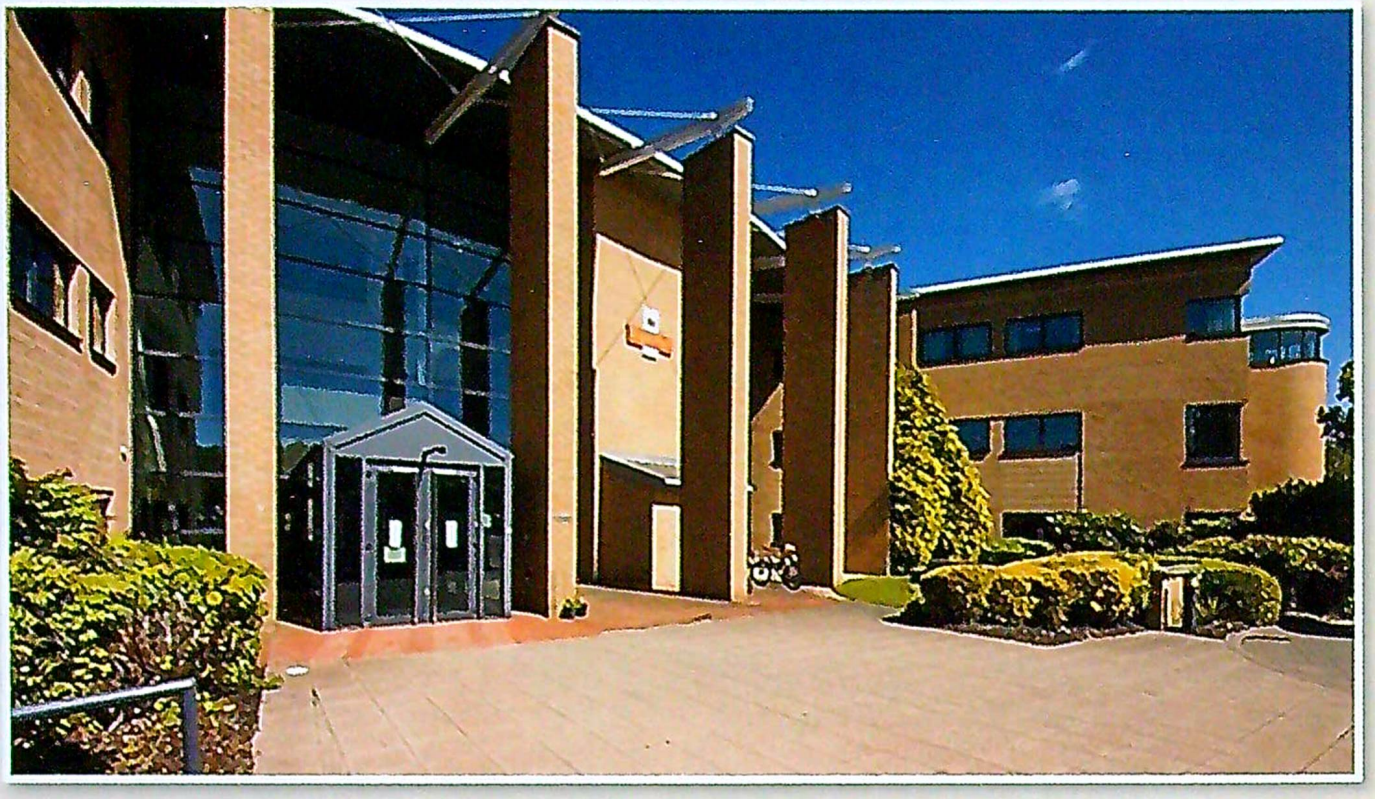
Royal salute We parade the official commemorative cover of the glittering Trooping the Colour ceremony that celebrates The Queen's official birthday

Happy birthday, Ma'am! This truly majestic cover captures the pomp and circumstance of the Trooping the Colour parade celebrating The Queen's official birthday. It is the official commemorative cover for the ceremony, produced by the British Forces Philatelic Service – BFPS – in partnership with the Household Division Charity (the parade is performed by the Household Division – The Queen's personal troops). The cover will bear one First Class stamp, cancelled using a unique British Forces Postal Service special handstamp (No. 3204). The cancellation features the regimental cap star of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards, the unit 'trooping the colour' during this year's event at Horseguards in central London on 17 June.

To order, visit www.bfps.org.uk/shop. The price is just £6 for the standard version and £12 for signed limited edition versions (UK/BFPO p&p free). You can also order the cover by post by sending a cheque payable to 'BFPS CIC' to the address shown right. These annual covers have become popular with collectors and are available only while stocks last •

BFPS
The Old Post Office
Links Place
Elie
Fife
KY9 1AX
www.bfps.org.uk/shop

Correspondence



Thank you for your enquiries

We have received a number of questions from readers since the team that answers your phone calls about philatelic products has expanded. We trust that this report from Steve Rooney casts the required light...

Your stamp orders are still dealt with at Tallents House, but the call handlers there are now supported with a parallel customer service from Royal Mail Call Centre team at Doxford Park in Sunderland (above). And we can offer customers just one phone number for all their Royal Mail orders and queries.

Following the demand for philatelic products from issues such as Star Wars and David Bowie, we have used the wider Royal Mail call centre services more and more and, as a result, now have another fully functioning philatelic service operation running at Doxford Park.

This operation runs parallel to the Philatelic Operation in Edinburgh and gives Stamps and Collectibles the extra resources and the contingency needed to cope with demand for new stamp issues. The large-scale function of Fulfilment and Systems at Tallents House remains mostly unchanged.

So, while Tallents House remains the 'mother ship' of Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles and your stamp orders are still despatched from there, a phoned order can be raised by an employee in Edinburgh *or* in Doxford Park.

Doxford Park now has 66 staff operational and trained across all aspects of Stamps and Collectibles, an increase in staff numbers of almost 80 per cent. Call waiting times for

Photographs courtesy of Royal Mail Group





Left: philatelic stock at Tallents House, waiting for despatch to all corners of the nation and beyond
Above: the bright new Call Centre at Doxford Park

orders during the high demand stamp issues have reduced by over 200 per cent. The normal average call-wait time is around one minute.

An IT system upgrade ensures that orders made at the Royal Mail Shop website are despatched within a maximum of 48 hours, so freeing up more people to deal with telephone and paper orders.

Our target is that 96 per cent of all stamp orders are completed and despatched within three days of them being placed. However, these are times of change and we would ask customers to bear with us. Our objective, as always, is to provide you, our customers, with the best possible service. To that end we are always happy to hear opinions of *Bulletin* readers. So do keep the letters coming to Tallents House and emails to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com and I will keep you posted.



Steve Rooney is Director of Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles AMU (Address Management Unit) Operations

WIN A DAVID BOWIE PRESENTATION PACK

The Doxford draw...

Answer these questions about Doxford Park and you could win a David Bowie Presentation Pack.

1 Doxford Park is a suburb of which Tyne and Wear city?
a) Newcastle upon Tyne
b) Sunderland
c) Wunderland

2 How many orders were despatched on the day before the Bowie issue?
a) 175,000
b) 17,500
c) 1,750

3 A Doxford Park shopping centre is named after which American who opened it?
a) Neil Armstrong
b) Fred Flintstone
c) President Jimmy Carter

4 On which of these phone numbers can you order Royal Mail philatelic material *and* track a parcel?
a) 03457 641 641
b) 03457 641 000
c) 03457 641 111

How to enter email your answers to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com or post to Bulletin Doxford, Royal Mail Stamps, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG.



Prizes Senders of the first six correct entries drawn after the closing date win the David Bowie Presentation Pack, as shown above.

Closing date 21 July 2017.

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. 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 promotion 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. Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date.

Correspondence

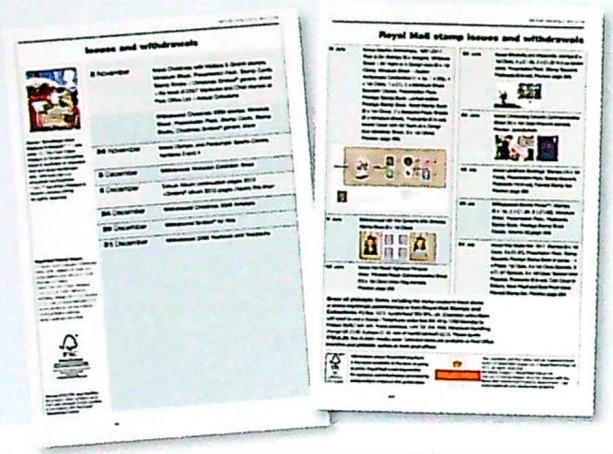
Front, back and sides

Ever since you moved the Issues and Withdrawals page from the inside front to the outside back of the *Bulletin*, the information has been inadequate. It is time to overhaul this page and produce a decent product summary with prices as you used to do. Think customer! But at least being on the back cover it is legible.
R C Wake, Hindhead

Please see below an Issues and Withdrawals page published on the inside front cover in 2011. You will see – perhaps through a magnifier – no prices. The reason we moved it to the back cover is that we noticed staff at philatelic counters and handstamp centres often keep the *Bulletin* folded open at the Issues and Withdrawals page to display the product lists. So why not make the page even handier on the outside back cover!

We will consider your suggestion about prices. They are listed regularly on Preview pages, published in the *Bulletin* about a month before issue dates – sometimes so early that we risk preceding a change in the Stamp Programme, like the slight change from Preview details in this month's Prestige Stamp Book (see page 306).

Happy to hear you find the Issues and Withdrawals legible. The type sometimes gets quite small, as we have added some extra information referencing details of stamp issues in archived *Bulletin* editions •
Kate Shaw, Publishing Editor





c

b

a

Stamp shop shuffle

An error in the May *Bulletin* saw a photograph of the philatelic counter in Gordon Carroll's Glasgow Stamp Shop (a) used to illustrate a diary item about the short courses that Robert Murray (b) runs in his own shop (c).

Mr Murray has no philatelic counter. Mr Carroll currently runs no courses in his shop. Their shops are very different. We hope the photos above resolve any confusion caused •

Perth Post & Go pre-orders

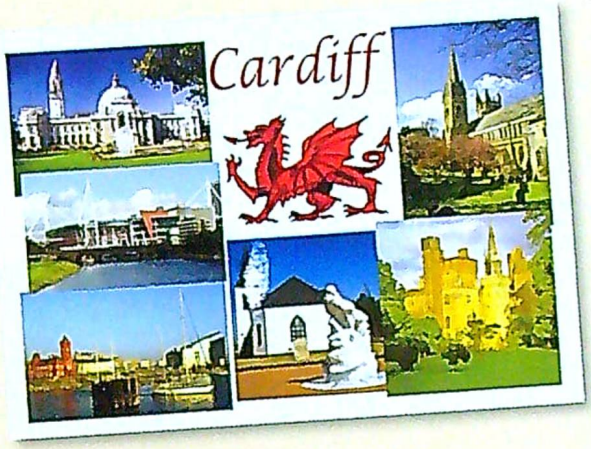
Royal Mail attended the 88th Scottish Philatelic Congress in Perth in April with our Post & Go machines. To reduce queues at the opening of the show, pre-orders were invited from collectors and dealers. The minimum pre-order value was £150. Due to production issues this pre-ordered stock was not sent to the show and instead was despatched after the show ended. Unfortunately, these orders were printed on the new Post & Go Machin stamps due for issue on 5 June 2017 and not on the existing Post & Go designs. After careful review of the circumstances, we have decided not to replace these orders. Customers are free to retain and sell these stamps. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused •
William Doherty, Royal Mail Marketing Manager



It's good to hear from you...

The Editor welcomes your correspondence by email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com and by post to the Tallents House (address on page 291). The senders of letters published will receive one of the latest Royal Mail Presentation Pack as a thank-you.

Cardiff Congress calling...









Above: the Jurys Inn hotel, Cardiff
Far left: Glorious Wales, Society Stamp Sheet of Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society
Left: Cardiff City Hall, where the RDP ceremony takes place next month

27 to 30 July 2017

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is organised annually by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS). This year's 99th Congress is hosted in Cardiff by the Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society and the Cardiff Philatelic Society. It offers a unique opportunity to meet fellow collectors, newcomers and experts in an informal atmosphere with a busy programme of talks, convivial dinners and a wide range of displays.

There is still time to book your place. The Congress is to be held at the Jurys Inn hotel, Park Pace, Cardiff CF10 3UD, beginning on Thursday 27 July. The Jurys Inn is just a 15-minute walk from Cardiff railway station and the terminus of the Cardiff airport bus.

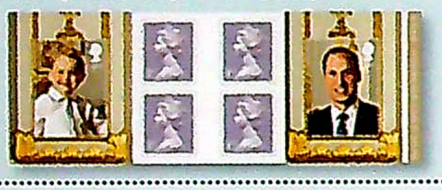
Find out more about the Congress programme of events on page 300 and at www.gbcongress.uk/2017. For booking and details of day visitor charges, contact Gerald.Marriner@gmail.com •

Royal Mail stamp Issues and Withdrawals

5 June — **Issue** Machin Anniversary, 1967-2017: Post & Go Stamps (6 x designs), Miniature Sheet – 50 Years Of A Design Icon (6 x 1st Class), Miniature Sheet – Golden Anniversary Celebration (1 x 5p, 1 x 20p, 4 x 1st Class, 1 x £1), 2 x Miniature Sheet Souvenir Covers, Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Limited edition Prestige Stamp Book, Retail Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class), 2 x Bespoke Press Sheets (8 x Miniature Sheet), Postcards (8 in set), Medal Cover with 50 Years Of A Design Icon Miniature Sheet, 6 x 1st Class). Preview: page 260.



9 June — **Withdrawal** HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Stamp Book 2 (6 x 1st Class).



13 June — **Issue** Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, Princess Royal: Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class Union Flag stamps). Preview: page 282.

20 June — **Issue** Windmills and Watermills: stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.40, 2 x £1.57 in 3 se-tenant pairs), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards (6 in set). Preview: page 266.



30 June — **Issue** Celebrating Canada Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class Firework stamps). Preview: June *Bulletin*.



13 July — **Issue** Landmark Buildings: Stamps (10 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards (10 in set), Framed Stamp Set. Preview: page 292.

28 July — **Withdrawal** Beatrix Potter™: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33, 2 x £1.52), Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Postcards, Stamp Book, Prestige Stamp Book.Details: Volume 53, page 340.

31 July — **Issue** First World War 1917: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.57), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Prestige Stamp Book (4 panes – 4 x Poppy 1st Class, 3 x 1st Class Specials, 3 x £1.57 Specials, 8 x 1st Class 'Barbed Wire' Poppies), Postcards (6 in set), Coin Cover in Brilliant, Silver Proof and Gold Proof coins, Framed Stamp Set. Preview: page 294.

Order all philatelic items, including the stamp products listed above, at **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from **Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles** PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Please quote **17BUL06**, the *Bulletin* media code. Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices.

5 014721 144078 >

FSC MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C019670

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

Royal Mail

The cruciform and the colour red are registered trade marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd, © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2017, all rights reserved.
All stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.
Any use of stamp images must be cleared with the Royal Mail Intellectual Property department – see www.royalmail.com/intellectual-property