

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 45 Number 9

MAY 2008 £1.20

Bulletin

George VI coronation covers
• Franco-British Exhibition



Cathedrals: Royal Mail
celebrates some of the
country's finest church
architecture, in a new
stamp issue on 13 May.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover A detail from a window at Lichfield Cathedral. The new Cathedrals stamp issue was previewed in February's *Bulletin*. Photograph by Tom Allwood reproduced courtesy of Lichfield Cathedral.

Availability All items available from Royal Mail Tallents House (address below). Selected items are available at Post Office branches and Post Office philatelic outlets at the main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, Lichfield, London (Eastcheap & Trafalgar Sq), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Princes Risborough, Southampton (High St and Hedge End), Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro and York.

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30 - 17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/shop

13 May	Issue Cathedrals stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, press sheet, St Paul's medal cover
13 May	Issue 'Ice Cream' stamp book: 4 × 1st gold definitives, 2 × Beside the Seaside 1st class
14 May	Withdrawal Beside the Seaside stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
16 May	Withdrawal Wembley Stadium miniature sheet and Memories of Wembley generic sheet
22 May	Withdrawal England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland country coin covers. Please note that Country Coin Covers Collection remains on sale.
4 June	Withdrawal Definitives: 12p, 42p, 44p, 72p and £1 mauve. 2nd class definitive issued April 1997.
4 June	Withdrawal Standard size 1st & 2nd definitives in Pip design from coils and sheets of 200 (gummed) and business sheets of 100 and booklets (self-adhesive).
4 June	Withdrawal 44p & 72p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland; pack containing these stamps
4 June	Withdrawal Machin 40th Anniversary miniature sheet, presentation pack, generic sheet, stamp cards, prestige book and retail book of 6 × 1st definitives and Machin panel
5 June	Issue Machin 'Coin Medal' cover
10 June	Issue Classic Carry On and Hammer Films stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and stamp book with Carry On advert
17 June	Issue Edward VIII and George VI ingot pack no5

Contents



George VI Coronation FDCs Are there really 'over 400' different illustrations for the 1937 Coronation issue? Tony Sidell decided to collect as many as he could find **272**

Issues and withdrawals for May to June **258**

Stamp scene News and events in the philatelic world – Glenn Morgan keeps you posted **260**

Royal Mail news 2008 issues; Olympic Games centenary; Cathedrals and Monarchs covers; N Ireland issue launch; BPMA news **265**



Draw Win a Territorial Army cover **270**

London 2010 With two years left to go, plans are taking shape for an outstanding event **271**

1908 exhibition Bob Wilcock on the Franco-British exhibition and its philatelic history **276**

Auction Rare GB errors to be sold this month at Grosvenor **279**

Competitive displays Richard West explains the ins and outs **280**

Philately online Bhutan and electronic stamps, by Ron Negus **283**

My cover collection by Martin Robinson **284**



Obituary James Negus, by John Holman **285**

Competitions A chance to win a Yearbook **286**

Events **286**

Late news **287**

The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. ● **Editor** J R Holman ● **Price** £1.20 each from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets. ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above). ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK & Europe, £24.95 rest of the world. ● **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group Ltd, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any articles should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail Letters, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. ● **Design** Robert Maude. ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon Press. ● **ISSN** 0953 8119. ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.



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



Glenn Morgan

Stamps TV The French newsstand stamp magazine *Timbres* has an online tv station that it calls tvTimbres – Television for Philatelists, with new programming every month. In March, there were additions focusing on stamp engraving due to the new ‘Marianne’ definitive stamp engraved by Yves Beaujard, who is interviewed at work in his atelier by the magazine editor Gauthier Toulemonde.

To view the station, go to www.timbresmag.com then click on tvTimbres. Naturally everything is in French, but it is easy to follow, and at least one of the interviews is partly in English •

Harrogate 2008 The 8th ABPS National Stamp Exhibition takes place at Harrogate on Friday 2 May (10.00-17.30) and Saturday 3 May (09.30-16.00). The venue is Hall Q at the Harrogate International Centre located in Kings Road, immediately north of the main shopping area of Harrogate. All the 500 frames of competitive and invited exhibits, along with 40-50 dealers, will be housed in one hall of international standard that is flat and well lit.

HM The Queen has graciously agreed to display items of 20th century material from the Royal Philatelic Collection. This is expected to include GB George V and George VI rarities. The Court of Honour will include exquisite Line Engraved material including Penny Blacks drawn from the renowned collection of Alan Holyoake. For postal historians there will be a fine display of Yorkshire Postal History collated from the best collections in Yorkshire. Younger collectors may expect an entertaining programme and interesting exhibits by Stamp Active members.

Several societies are holding meetings, including the National Philatelic Society on 2 May, and the Postal History and Great Britain Philatelic Societies on 3 May. At the latter, James Grimwood-Taylor will present a talk on ‘Postal Reforms: the Origins and Effects of the Penny Black’.

So the GB collector should find a visit most rewarding and enjoyable. Harrogate is well connected by rail, road, bus, and air. For further information on the event and how to get there see the exhibition’s website <http://www.harrogate2008.org.uk> or put the postal code HG1 5LA in your favourite route-finder. You could even finish your philatelic indulgence with a therapeutic Turkish bath! •

Stampex Forthcoming Stampex shows will continue to have displays on a particular theme on the so-called Village Green. This autumn will relate to the ‘Defenders of the Skies’, a joint display by Bletchley Park Post Office, BFPO, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and the Vulcan to the Skies Trust. This is an invited display complementing the Royal Mail RAF Uniforms stamp issue. Spring 2009 is intended to cover cricket; the Spring 2010 display will be put on by the South Africa Collectors Society •



SVĚTOVÁ
VÝSTAVA
POŠTOVNÍCH
ZNAMEN
Praga
2008

POŠTOVNÍ
MUZEUM
PRAHA
.....
Místo konání
výstavy

ČESKÁ POŠTA



Prague exhibition An international exhibition incorporates not just stamps, but telephone cards, numismatics, old postcards, minerals and other fields is due to be held in the Czech Republic's capital city on 12-14 September. This year will see the 11th such fair, reputed to be the biggest collector's event in central Europe (the area covers the size of two football pitches) and, as an added attraction, it is being held in conjunction with PRAGA 2008, a world stamp exhibition.

PRAGA 2008 will incorporate philatelic exhibits from 63 countries and include two thousand frames in competition classes for traditional philately, postal history, literature and one-frame exhibits. Material from the collection of HM Queen Elizabeth II will also be on display, and thirty postal administrations and 20 mints are expected to be in attendance.

The exhibition is being held in honour of the 90th anniversary of the issuing of the first Czechoslovak stamps in 1918, the 90th anniversary of the Postal Museum in Prague, and the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Czech Republic, so they have much to celebrate this year.

The venue is the Exhibition Grounds, Prague and the city offers visitors an opportunity to also be a tourist by taking advantage of all that the 'golden city of a hundred towers' has to offer. It is a lovely destination, worthy of a weekend break and with WIPA 2008 being held four days afterwards, cooperation between the two shows is promised. Vienna is just four hours from Prague by express inter-city trains •

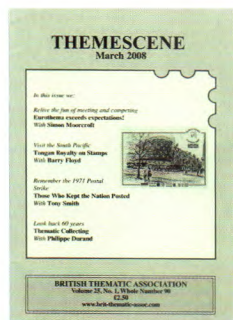
Kent Federation Bromley and Beckenham Philatelic Society will host the annual KFPS federation day and stamp fair at Langley Park Boys School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, Kent on Saturday 17 May, 10.00-16.00. Admission free. There will be displays, 25 dealers, a tombola, help and advice and refreshments available. Free car parking, and buses pass the school entrance, with Eden Park railway station close by •

For further information about the Prague shows see web-sites www.praga2008.cz and www.sberatel.info

For details of the Vienna exhibition visit www.wipa08.com

Stoneham GB Catalogue The new 2008 edition first appeared at Philatex in February. Covering all reigns from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II, this catalogue, published by the Machin Collectors Club, has been divided into sections covering all aspects of GB stamps. Features include: each section updated where applicable to include all issues to December 2007; printed in full colour throughout; extended stitched booklet section with prices for each edition; imperfs and 'printed on gum side' errors included in QV section; imperfs and tête-bêche errors included in George VI section; Wildings cylinder blocks listed and priced; window, counter, prestige and stitched booklets now in separate sections; updated GB 'Used Abroad' section; Smilers sheets included; page count increased to approximately 550 from 530; and more presentational changes to improve readability.

Priced at a reasonable £17.95, an initial skim through it leads me to believe that it is a necessary purchase for all collectors of British stamps. Full review in next month's Stamp Scene ●



Themescene The newest issue of *Themescene*, the publication of the British Thematic Association, has appeared and it contains extensive coverage of the highly successful Eurothema show, held last November in London. There are also articles on Tongan Royalty, the 1971 British postal strike and a reprint of a 60-year old article by Captain Durand about thematic collecting, which is no less relevant today. There are also the usual features that are of interest to the membership at large, such as meeting details, library and new issue information. Write to Peter Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford CM23 2BY, email him at peter.denly@btinternet.com or see website www.brit-thematic-assoc.com for all BTA enquiries.

Thematica will be held on 28-29 June at the Carisbrooke Hall, 63 Seymour Street, London W2 (Marble Arch area). Contact Thematic Exhibitions, PO Box 8843, London N3 1HL for further details of this twice-annual show, or visit www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/spthemo6.htm ●

For further information or to join ATEEME, e-mail espatm@tinet.org or write to Variable Value Stamps Study and Collecting Group, Pl Prim, 9 A - 7-2, 43001, Tarragona, Spain. ATEEME offers options from 20,00 euros per year.

New ATM tournal A subject rarely covered in depth is the plethora of stamps now issued with variable values (often generically known as 'Frama' labels, much as we 'Hoover' a floor even when using another brand of machine). Indeed, its editor, Josep J. Jové writes in issue one: 'From the start, variable value stamps in general and ATMs in particular have systematically been ignored, if not rejected and despised, by most of the publications and philatelists around the world.' A new quarterly magazine, entitled *Variations*, aims to remedy this situation within its 36 full-colour pages by covering these issues from a whole-world perspective, but with an emphasis on Spanish issues, from where it is published bilingually in Spanish and English. Issue seven has recently appeared, and it is clearly building into a valuable resource that is written with both the specialist and the general collector in mind, just as I believe it should be.

Visit www.ateeme.net/angles/welcome_a.html where full details of the magazine can be found – and much more besides, for it is also the website for ATEEME. This is an international independent philatelic group created

in 1999 that specialises in the collecting and study of ATMs and variable value stamps in general. There are currently 278 members, collaborators and *Variations* subscribers in 20 countries. For more information, or if you would like to join ATEEME, contact them as shown on the opposite page. You can be an ATEEME member and receive publications and shipments of ATMs and covers, as well all the other options on offer.

Copies are deposited in the library of the National Philatelic Society, located in the Search Room of the British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, which is alongside Mount Pleasant mail centre in London •

Orbit No, not the chewing gum, but the publication of the Astro Space Stamp Society (the ASSS). This journal has just undergone a complete revamp and is now 40 pages of saddle-stitched A4 with four sides of full colour images and is much more readable as a result. Issue 77 includes features entitled Polish Copernicus Postmarks, From Atom to Nuclear Powered Spacecraft, Ariel Satellites, part two of How Hungary has Celebrated Soviet and Other Spacecraft, Shuttle Story, The World's Oldest Astronomy and Space Stamps, us Prime Recovery Ships and Covers, Designed by Alec Bartos, and I Hugged with Aliens! This listing shows the wide extent of members' interests in this collecting discipline.

Although beyond my own collecting interest, I discovered a stamp with a letter box on it that I never knew about, proving that it is always wise to read widely and to never dismiss a publication as having no relevance to your collecting areas without first checking •

Stamp Fair and Auction Diary This publication has been around for many years, but I have only recently rediscovered it. It is published six times a year and within its 92 A6-format pages is found what must surely be the most complete listing of UK stamp and postcard fairs and auction events. There are lots of useful advertisements, and contact details provide every opportunity to check that an event is still due to be held before setting out on what might be a long distance from home. It claims to be the only publication that incorporates the postcodes of every event, which is most useful if using an online mapping service or SatNav to plan your route •

Insurance and Banking PS This society, affiliated to the North West Federation of Philatelic Societies, exists for the benefit of those people employed in, or retired from, the financial services sector. The annual subscription is a modest £5. Its newsletter is edited by Brian Sole, and the latest issue to hand contains articles relating to British charity stamps, the latest new issues from Britain, slot machine insurance policies, and several other items of interest to members specifically and collectors generally •



Enquiries Write to the Honorary Secretary Brian J Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, Weston-Super-Mare BS23 4RE, email brian.lockyer@tesco.net or visit website www.asss.utvinternet.com

Subscription £4.50 (including UK postage) from: S Reeves, PO Box 109, Enfield EN3 5QF. For overseas subscriptions telephone 020 8292 5361, or email fairs@stampdiary.com

Enquiries Dudley Baker, 25 Bunbury Way, Downs View, Epsom KT17 4JP, or email dudley.baker1@ntlworld.com

Enquiries Subscribe for one year (12 issues) for £15.27 (approx \$29.99) by going to www.stampmagazine.co.uk/content/zinio.htm and following the links. Single complete issues of recent online back numbers are also available.

Stamp Magazine goes online The British publication *Stamp Magazine* has been covering the world of stamps for more than 70 years. Within the magazine's editorial mix are features and news on the great stamps of the world, showcase stories, behind the scenes reporting and guides to the fairs, exhibitions and stamp auctions around the globe. *Stamp Magazine*, winner of several international awards, has now joined a partnership with Zinio to deliver a new way of experiencing the magazine on your desktop wherever you are by making it available online. The publisher boasts of a range of interactive features including: immediate access – receive each issue immediately; keyword searches – have the areas of collecting that interest you at your fingertips; electronic notes – on things that matter to you; and easy storage – no more clutter.

For me, the best feature can be demonstrated on either a free download of the entire October 2004 '70th Birthday' issue or on a preview of a few pages from the current issue, which shows that the pages can be 'turned' when viewing on screen, in much the same way as when reading a printed paper copy. Simply hold down the left button of your mouse, and move it from right to left to progress through the pages, or from left to right to go back to the beginning. Watch the content curl as the pages are turned over, which is not only technically very clever, but also brings a sense of fun to the proceedings! •

Jeffery Matthews In my article on Jeffery in the March *Bulletin*, we illustrated (page 216) the numerals used on the Machin definitives, both the original versions and those redrawn by Jeffery. We are pleased now to show Jeffery's original drawings for his numerals which is now in the collections of the British Postal Museum & Archive •

$\frac{IP}{2}$ I 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

$\frac{IP}{2}$ I 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 £

$\frac{IP}{2}$. I 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 £

$\frac{IP}{2}$. I 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 0 £

Royal Mail news New issues and products

2008 issues The special issues are listed below, with the alternative First Day of Issue postmarks. Miniature sheet is abbreviated 'ms' •

13.05 **Cathedrals** London EC4

10.06 **Carry On and Hammer Films** Bray, Maidenhead, Berks

17.07 **Air Displays** Farnborough, Hants

22.08 **Olympics Handover** (MS) London E15

18.09 **RAF Uniforms** London NW4

29.09 **Country Definitives anniversary** (MS) to be announced

14.10 **Women of Distinction** Aldeburgh, Suffolk

04.11 **Christmas** Bethlehem, Llandeilo

06.11 **Lest We Forget** (MS) London SW1

The Cathedrals and the Carry On and Hammer Films issues were previewed here in February. The Carry On colours and cylinders are w1 silver w1 yellow w1 magenta w1 cyan (blue) w1 black w1 phosphor for all six values. The stamps are printed by Walsall using a high-screen litho process so that the text on the film posters can be read. The year '2008' has been added, in microprint, to the film posters. There will be a Carry On stamp book containing six 1st class definitives with a Carry On advert.

The Air Displays stamps, shown in March, will be issued to coincide with the Farnborough Air Show, 14-20 July 2008. An Olympics issue is planned for August. The special stamp programme then continues with RAF Uniforms (six stamps and a prestige book), to be launched at Stampex on 18 September. Further details next month.



A miniature sheet marking the 50th anniversary of Regional (Country) stamps follows on 29 September. Six stamps featuring Women of Distinction go on sale on 14 October. These feature a noted suffragist, physician, pioneer, campaigner, activist, and politician. A previous set, bearing portraits of a famous scientist, ballerina, sculptress, novelist, and sports administrator, was issued in 1996.

The Christmas issue (4 November) features pantomines. The Madonna and Child stamps, issued last November, will again be available for those who prefer religious-themed Christmas stamps. The 2006 Christmas air-letter will again be reissued.

The year ends with the final Lest We Forget miniature sheet (6 November) marking the Armistice ending the First World War, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Remembrance Day will be especially poignant this year, marking the 90th anniversary of the ending of the War in which over eight million soldiers died •

RAF Uniforms Drum Major, RAF Central Band, 2007; a Helicopter Rescue Winchman, 1984; a Hawker Hunter Pilot, 1951; Lancaster Air Gunner, 1944; a Plotter, WAAF, 1940; and Pilot, 1918. The stamps are designed by Atelier Works and printed by Walsall.

New Postage Paid PostPak

Please note that PostPaks are not available from Royal Mail Tallents House.



New postal stationery On 7 April Post Office Ltd issued a new product – Postage Paid PostPak – a plastic envelope available in three sizes in identical design with 1st class postage indicia at top right: Large Letter format up to 500g, £1.89; Packet up to 500g, £3.19; and Packet up to 1kg, £4.59. These prices include postage. The envelopes are on trial sale for a period of 12 weeks at 20 offices: 19a Borough High Street, London SE1; Trafalgar Square, London WC2; 54-56 Great Portland Street, London W1; 112-114 Camden High Street, London NW1; 1 Broadway, London SW1; 17-19 Crown Walk, Milton Keynes; 10 High Street, Croydon; 34-36 Central Way, Paisley; 45-46 Queens Arcade, Cardiff; Queen Street, Nottingham; 32 Bridge Street, Andover; 27 Hargreaves Street, Burnley; 175 High Street, Dorking; 75 Stricklandgate, Kendal; 103 High Street, Newmarket; 39 Bridge Street, St Helens; 19 Grove Road, Sutton; 1-3 Providence Street, Wakefield; 9-10 King Street, Carmarthen; and 7 The Boulevard, Crawley. Please note that PostPaks are not available from Royal Mail Tallents House •



New stamp books Shown here are the new 6 × 1st class stamp books to go on sale on 13 May and 10 June. The first contains two of the Beside the Seaside stamps and four definitives, printed gravure by Walsall. This is a new version of the Beside the Seaside stamp, now on self-adhesive paper. The second book, also printed by Walsall, includes an advertisement for the Carry On Film stamps on the inside front cover •

Royal Mail win awards Royal Mail's design team received two prestigious awards at a ceremony at the Park Lane Hilton in March. They collected one of six Design Week Hall of Fame Awards, a new award for organisations who demonstrate an exemplary commitment to design. Other winners were Apple Computer, Land Securities, Thrislington Cubicles, the Science Museum and Virgin Atlantic. Royal Mail was described as having a 'phenomenal heritage in design and a penchant for invention'. The Award was presented to Royal Mail's Head of Design Marcus James and Design Manager Catharine Brandy. The Beatles stamps won the Print Design Award presented to Design Manager Catharine Brandy and to designer Michael Johnson of Johnson Banks. The 2006 *Let's Not Forget Poppy* stamp, designed by hat-trick, was also short-listed for the Print Design Award •



Royal Mail's design team at the Design Week Awards.



Northern Ireland stamps launch The Celebrating Northern Ireland miniature sheet was launched at Parliament Buildings, Stormont on 11 March •

At Stormont for the launch: Clare Melinsky, illustrator of the St Patrick stamp; Jeffrey Donaldson MP MLA, Junior Minister and Michael Kennedy, Area General Manager, Royal Mail Northern Ireland.

Definitive withdrawals The 12p, 42p, 44p, 72p and £1 (mauve) definitives will go off sale at Tallents House and philatelic outlets on 4 June, as will the 2nd class stamp in sheets of 200, printed by Walsall and issued in 1997, and the 6 × 1st stamp book with a Machin panel, issued June 2007. The 2006 44p and 72p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and the pack containing these stamps, will also be withdrawn from sale on 4 June.

The 1st and 2nd class standard-size definitives in the PIP (Pricing in Proportion) design of 2006 are to be withdrawn from philatelic sale on 4 June. This comprises the stamps issued in coils, business sheets (self-adhesive), and standard sheets of 200 (gummed); also the 6 × 1st, 12 × 1st and 12 × 2nd stamp books issued 12 September 2006. The 'Large' PIP 1st and 2nd class stamps remain on sale •



Some of the stamps due to be withdrawn on 4 June: the 12p, 42p, 44p, 72p, and £1 (mauve) definitives.



Monarchs cachet cover Shown below is the commemorative cover for the Monarchs stamps with a Palace of Westminster cachet (shown below left at actual size). The Palace was at one time a primary residence of medieval monarchs, and the Houses of Parliament are still officially known as the Palace of Westminster. Shown at left are the Palace of Westminster Postmaster, Mark Morrish (left) with the *Bulletin's* John Holman, launching the new cover in front of the Palace's clock tower, familiarly known as 'Big Ben'. The cachet cover is now available from Tallents House, priced at £9.99. 'Parliament and the Post', an article about the Palace of Westminster's Post Office, was published in the *Bulletin* in December 2007 (p116). ●



The Commemorative Cover for the Monarchs issue and its Palace of Westminster cachet.



THE COURT OF
KINGS AND QUEENS
PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

Royal Mail commemorative cover
ROYAL MAIL TALLENTS HOUSE 21 SOUTH DYLE CRESCENT EDINBURGH EH12 9PB



Pensioners boarding the new Lutterworth postbus with their shopping on 29 February, two days after it was delivered.

Postbus news Four LDV Maxus postbuses have been ordered by Royal Mail, and three went into service in February 2008 on the Skipton-Malham, Lutterworth-Peartling Parva and Pitlochry-Rannoch Station routes. The Lutterworth service is well used, and the change from the 14-seat LDV Convoy to an 8-seat Maxus may cause problems. It was brought about by legislation requiring vehicles carrying more than eight passengers to be fitted with a tachograph. Passenger accommodation consists of a seat next to the driver, a row of three and a row of four seats. Martin Robinson, who supplied the photograph, wanted to ride on the bus, but it was fully laden on that day. Martin's listings of postbus services were published here in May and June 2007. ●



The St Paul's Cathedral medal cover features a detail of one of the cathedral's magnificent carvings.

Medal Covers and Ingots A new joint Royal Mail-Royal Mint medal cover marking the 300th anniversary of St Paul's Cathedral will be available from 13 May, price £14.95. The cover design features some of the Cathedral's magnificent carvings. It bears the St Paul's miniature sheet cancelled with a special London EC4 handstamp. The well-illustrated filler card provides an account of the building of the cathedral. The illustrations include the great fire which destroyed the earlier cathedral, and a portrait of Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of the new. The medal commemorates 300 years since the final stone was laid by Wren's son in 1708. The filler card includes a timeline from 604 when St Mellitus founded St Paul's to 2008 and the 300th anniversary of the current building, which has undergone a £40 million cleaning and restoration programme.

A Machin 'coin medal' cover will be available from 5 June, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the first decimal coins designed by Arnold Machin. A 40th anniversary Machin stamp cover was issued last June – see the May 2007 *Bulletin* for illustrations of the 2007 Machin products •

Olympic commemoration A new commemorative sheet and a Royal Mail/Royal Mint coin cover are now in preparation to mark the centenary of the 1908 London Olympics. The proposed date of issue is 24 July. This supersedes the June date given for the commemorative sheet in the April *Bulletin*. The Olympic miniature sheet will now be issued on 22 August, not 26 August as given in earlier issues of the *Bulletin* •

Coming off sale The Beside the Seaside stamps, pack, and stamp cards will be withdrawn from sale on 14 May, and the Machin miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, generic sheet, and prestige and retail books on 4 June •



British Postal Museum & Archive A BPMA Machin exhibition, titled 'Timeless & Classic: Elizabeth II, Queen & Icon', is currently on display at the Wedgwood Visitor Centre, in Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent – see Events listing on p286 for details of opening times.

This year, the BPMA will be marking the 50th anniversary of the first issue of 'Regional' stamps for the various countries and islands comprising the British Isles, with a new exhibition. The exhibition will be on display at the BPMA, in Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL from 6 May (National Stamp Day) for one year. It will be entitled 'Lions, Leopards, Unicorns & Dragons: the first "Regional" stamps'. The exhibition will feature some of the many stamp designs submitted in 1958 (including the unaccepted design for Scotland by J B Fleming at left), and how the final designs developed. All the various countries and islands will be represented, as will the initial

ideas from the reign of King George VI. The graphics for the exhibition are being designed by Rupert Denyer of Sedley Place, who also created the new stamps for the forthcoming miniature sheet and the panes for the prestige stamp book which will be issued in Autumn 2008, also to mark the anniversary.

The BPMA contains the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives. For further information, contact the BPMA on 020 7239 2570 or see website www.postalheritage.org.uk •

Stamp cards The price of Royal Mail stamp cards (PHQ cards) will be increased to 40p from the Cathedrals issue (13 May). The set of Cathedrals cards will thus cost £4.40 and the Films and Air Displays cards £2.40 per set. These prices supersede those given in the February and March issues of the Bulletin •

Prize draw Win Territorial Army medal cover



FOR THIS MONTH'S draw we have a Territorial Army Medal Cover and a Commemorative Sheet as the main prize for the sender of the first card drawn on 30 May. Four runners up will be sent a TA Commemorative Sheet. To enter simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send to: TA Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ •

London 2010 Plans fall into place for an outstanding event

It is amazing how quickly time flies. Organisation of the London 2010 international stamp exhibition began four years ago. Everything is now on track with the planning and organisation, but even so, the coming two years will be very busy.

The main event, the international stamp exhibition, will take place at the Business Design Centre in Islington on 8-15 May 2010, using not just the main hall, the familiar venue for Stampex, but also the adjoining Gallery Hall and Conference Centre. The exhibition has been granted FIP Patronage, and will have about 2500 frames of top quality competitive exhibits from around the world. There will be about 140 international dealers, along with a number of postal administrations. Royal Mail will have the major stand.

A limited number of society tables will be available, plus a limited number of rooms on site for society meetings. A significant amount of additional catering and seating will be available in the Conference area. Societies and individuals continue to provide financial support by sponsoring exhibition frames, or becoming a personal Patron of the event, but there is still need for additional support. Volunteers from the collecting community will be vital to help during the show.

London 2010 will open at 10.00 on 8 May, and on all days of the show. It will close at 18.00 on all days except the last day, 15 May, when it will close at 17.00.

This will be an outstanding event, which all can look forward to with great anticipation.

Information on website www.london2010.org.uk will be regularly updated and expanded. For further information on the exhibition, and enquiries about booking a society table or a meeting room, or to sponsor frames, become a Patron or to offer yourself as a volunteer, please contact Susan Ellis on 020 7688 8431, e-mail susanellis@btconnect.com or write to: Stamp World Exhibitions, the Business Design Centre, Suite 101, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH.



Festival of Stamps For the London 2010: Festival of Stamps, the BPMA and the Royal Philatelic Collection are working with the Guildhall Art Gallery to produce 'Empire Mail – George V & The GPO, a unique exhibition exploring the reign of King George V. It will be open from 7 May to 25 July 2010 at the Guildhall Art Gallery, off Gresham Street, London EC2.

An era of conflict and great change, the reign of King George V (1910-36) saw the development of communication methods which brought the world closer together. Featuring posters, vehicles, pillar boxes, philatelic rarities and gems from the GPO Film Unit, 'Empire Mail: George V & The GPO' will explore themes from the King's reign such as innovations in mail transportation, the first Atlantic crossing, the rise of graphic design in the 1920s and 30s, and wartime memorabilia. Items on display will comprise of a unique collection sourced from the treasures of the BPMA and the Royal Philatelic Collection, including a display of exquisite stamps and stamp artwork. The Royal Philatelic Collection was started in the late 19th century by Royal stamp enthusiasts, and its present structure – including a large amount of material rarely seen in public – was the creation of King George V, a keen stamp collector, and his adviser Sir Edward Bacon.

Marking the centenary of the accession of King George V, this exhibition is just one of a number of exciting events happening across the capital as part of the London 2010: Festival of Stamps – a year-long programme of exhibitions, events and activities, complementing a major international collector's fair at the Business Design Centre in Islington. Events will be held at the British Museum, Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum, Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, and other locations. Visit www.postalheritage.org.uk/london2010 to find out more about the Festival.

We hope to give further details of the London 2010 Festival of Stamps in the *Bulletin* later in the year •

George VI Coronation covers How many types exist? Tony Sidell decided to find out

CAN ONE be an anorak cover collector? I had collected all the modern covers for far too many years, but I gradually realized that I was becoming bored. There were too many and I found some of the issues gaudy and of little interest. I decided to stop at the end of the Millennium issues and go back to George VI and early Elizabeth covers.

It was at this point I read in one of the stamp magazines: 'It has been said that there are over 400 different illustrations for the 1937 Coronation issue.' Well, this was a red rag to a bull, and I decided it had to be checked. I have certainly found a wide variety, but I do not believe there are 400. So far I have found about 40 different covers, but some are very similar so I count about 25 major styles, as described on the following two pages. Thus there are many covers for just the one issue, and even very similar covers have differences in wording or colour or layout. Covers come in different sizes and some have one, two, three or even blocks of four stamps. Apart from the special 'Centenary' covers, a number have other George stamps.

This has kept me quite busy for some time now. I just hope there isn't a rumour that 400 Silver Wedding covers exist – so far I have only four! ►

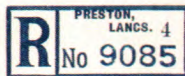


Queen Victoria
1897-1901King Edward VII
1901-1910King George V
1910-1936King George V
1910-1936King George VI
Dec. 11, 1936

1837 Centenary of
of Queen

the Accession
Victoria 1937

COVER POSTED ON THE
First Day of Issue of the Great Britain Stamp
COMMEMORATING THE
Coronation of Their Majesties
King George VI & Queen Elizabeth
May 12th, 1937.



DAY OF ISSUE COVER



Mr. Lloyd T. Hayward,
25 Marvin St.,
Montpelier, Vermont.



TON'S STAMP CORNER
T. EATON CO
OF MONTREAL LIMITED
MONTREAL CANADA

IRST DAY COVER

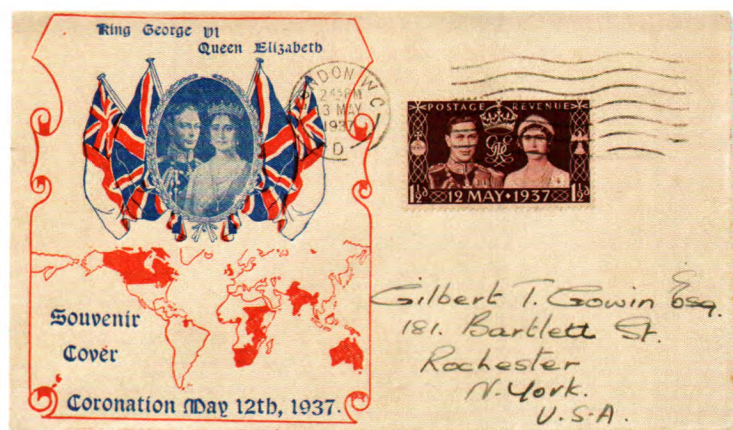
THE CORONATION
OF THEIR MAJESTIES
KING GEORGE VI
AND QUEEN ELIZABETH

Right: an example of a 'type 11' cover. Note that the date stamp has been covered by the small gold crown and two standards. It has been this is to cover a pre-cancellation date, but this seems unlikely.



King George VI Coronation covers The 25 styles identified so far

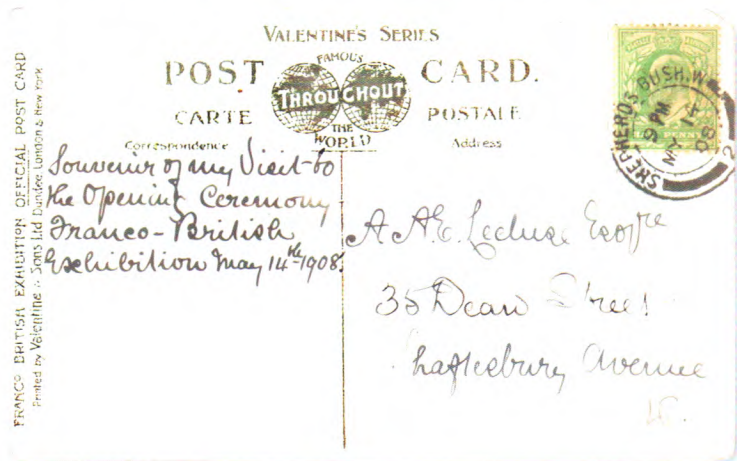
- 1 Covers commemorating the 1837-1937 centenary. These have stamps from all the previous monarchs and one cover has all their dates printed.
- 2 Pictures of George and Elizabeth in a frame.
- 3 An oval frame (with a picture of George) surrounded by six flags. These are rubber stamped 'Via ss Bremen' or 'Via ss Normandie'.
- 4 Framed envelope with line drawing of the King and Queen.
- 5 Red, white and blue frame with a crown.
- 6 Framed envelope with a small 'stamp' showing a sword hilt.
- 7 'TV screen' picture of King and Queen and two daughters.
- 8 Small picture of King with crown above and dates.
- 9 King in circular frame with two flags.
- 10 Frame divided to show King and Queen and map of Commonwealth.
- 11 Pictures of King and Queen on opposite sides of envelope. Most intriguing is the fact that the date stamp has been covered by a small gold crown and two crossed standards. Someone suggests this is to cover a pre-cancellation date but this seems unlikely.
- 12 King and Queen in adjoining oval frames with various wordings.



- 13 Large crowns with no wording at all.
- 14 Words only – some framed.
- 15 Home-made? Small shield bearing King and Queen added to cover. Large gold map and portrait added to cover.
- 16 Two small crowns and Union flags and various wordings.
- 17 Royal Coat of Arms and appropriate wording.
- 18 Words in circular frame forming crown at top.
- 19 Selfridge envelope with small picture and flags.
- 20 Two small joined rings and the dates.
- 21 Home-made? Gold circular picture of King and Queen. Medallion with bright rose and dates. Large picture of Tower of London in circular frame and dates.
- 22 Square frame with dates and 'God Save The King'.
- 23 Small photograph of King fitted into elaborate framework with dates.
- 24 Large frame with trumpeter on horse and inscription '1936 Unique in British History' (It isn't – we have had three monarchs in one year three times!)
- 25 Large medallion with figures of George and Elizabeth in relief •

The Franco-British Exhibition 1908 Bob

Right: a postcard sent on the Opening Day. The Exhibition post office had not received a specific canceller for ordinary mail in time for the opening.



Above: Die 1 and Die 2 from the Impressions Book. They can be differentiated by the position of the star, or by the absence of the star in Die 1.



ON 8 APRIL 1904 Britain and France signed a friendship treaty, the *Entente Cordiale*, and it was decided to organise a grand international exhibition to celebrate Anglo-French friendship and cooperation, on land that was then on the edge of London at Shepherd's Bush.

The Franco-British Exhibition was opened, belatedly, and in pouring rain, by the Prince and Princess of Wales on 14 May 1908. Construction was not complete, not all buildings were open, and the postal facilities were not fully in place, although a Post Office Circular of 5 May reported that the Post Office was to open on (Monday) 11 May, to be known as 'Shepherd's Bush Exhibition B.O.W.'

The Impressions Book in Royal Mail Archives records the production in April of a handstamp for registered mail, parcel post labels and Certificates of Posting, with a second die being recorded on 14 May and issued on 20 May (see left, above).

Two regular single ring handstamps were issued on 26 May, which fortuitously coincides with the date of the Royal and Presidential Visit, and inauguration of the Olympic Stadium, by King Edward VII and President Fallières of France. Shown at left are Die 1 on the first day of use, and Die 2 on the opening day of the Olympic Games. The dies are difficult to distinguish. The easiest test is perhaps the relationship between 'BRITISH' and 'LONDON'. In the Impressions Book, Die 1 has a wide o8, and Die 2 a smaller and narrower o8. However, actual examples show that the year slugs were swapped at some stage. Missing or inverted date and time slugs are also known.

The Exhibition was open during the whole of the summer and into the autumn, and was immensely popular – daily attendances were regularly in excess of 100,000 people. It closed its doors on 31 October, although the post office remained open until 14 November, for the benefit of workers on the site.

Wilcock on the celebrations of 100 years ago

Post Office mysteries 1908 was in the heart of the postcard era. There were numerous postcard booths around the grounds, and numerous post-boxes, yet a mystery remains: where was the post office? Postcards cover virtually the whole exhibition, but it does not appear on any of them. Numerous plans of exhibition buildings survive, yet all attempts by many researchers have failed to find evidence of its precise location.

A second mystery relates to parcel post. A rubber handstamp for use on parcels is reported and illustrated by G R Pearson in *Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom 1851-1962* (edited by Peachey and Swanborough, British Postmark Society 1991), with the text: 'SHEPHERDS BUSH / EXHIBITION B.O.' (right). It has no date. Pearson says its use is to be confirmed, and the source of his illustration is unclear. A search in Royal Mail Archives at Freeling House failed to find it in surviving Impressions Books.

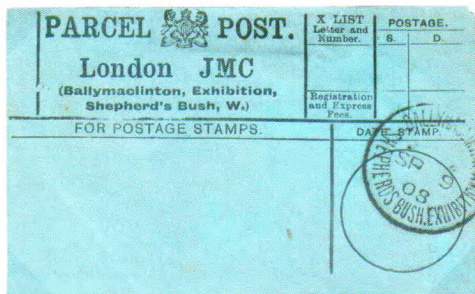


The rubber handstamp shown in G R Pearson's book.



Die 1 and Die 2, as recorded in the Impressions Book.

Ballymacclinton Post Office Within the exhibition an Irish Village was created, called Ballymacclinton. It opened on 10 July, and among the village buildings was a post office. Two handstamps were issued. Both had a clock time aperture, but the Impressions Book records for Die 2 'no clock supplied'. Die 1 was used for regular mail, but Die 2 was reserved for registered mail, parcel receipts and certificates of posting. Only a handful of copies are recorded.



The Stadium Mobile Telegraph Office The Impressions Book records a hand stamp, but no actual example has ever come to light, and there has been considerable speculation as to whether it was ever used. One rumour was that there was a space for a post office in the stadium, but in the end the

Die 2 on a parcels receipt. No postage is recorded, so this example would appear to be philatelic.



Above: a Stadium handstamp is recorded in the Impressions Book; the planned stadium on a 1996 St Vincent stamp; a vignette by A Bague of 4 R St Laurent, Paris; and a British label overprinted by a firm of athletic outfitters.

space was used for changing rooms. However the *Post Office Circular* of 7 July 1908 records a telegraph office in London open from July 13 to 25 for the 'Sports at the Franco-British Exhibition'.

These sports were the Olympic Games. The British Olympic Association reached an agreement with the Franco-British Exhibition organisers for the building of a stadium on the edge of the exhibition grounds, principally for the staging of the Olympic Games, the fourth since they had been revived in 1896. The stadium was larger than the Coliseum in Rome, and had an official capacity in excess of 60,000. There was a 660 yard running track, outside of which was a banked cycle track. In front of the Royal Box was a swimming tank with a collapsible diving tower, and platforms were erected at each end for wrestling bouts. The stadium was to have been clad in white marble, like the rest of the buildings in the White City, as the exhibition grounds came to be known, but it was never fully finished and remained a rather stark steel and concrete structure.

The Olympic Games were opened by King Edward VII on Monday 13 July, and a mobile telegraph office was installed beneath the stands, primarily for the benefit of the world's press and Olympic officials. The International Olympic Committee publication *Revue Olympique* for July 1908 reports (in French) 'The telegraph was installed in a large and prominent postal vehicle [under the stadium seating]. One approached the lowered windows, and, after having written by resting on the monumental mudguards, one passed the dispatches to the employee sitting inside.' The stadium cancel will therefore have been used on telegrams and on telegram receipts but, to date, no example has come to light. There were further Olympic events, soccer, lacrosse, hockey and rugby, in the stadium in October but the telegraph office did not return.

1908 was long before the Post Office was to issue its first commemorative stamp, but there were a number of vignettes issued. The Fine Arts Palace features on a miniature sheet issued at the end of 2007 by Palau to commemorate the centenary of the 1908 London Olympics.

This article is adapted by the author from his recently published book *The 1908 Olympic Games, the Great Stadium and the Marathon*. E-mail marathon@societyofolympiccollectors.org for details. Assistance is acknowledged from Douglas Muir, Curator, Philately, BPMA and Jack Murray ●

Auction Rare errors to be sold at Grosvenor



For more information about this month's sale and future auctions, contact Grosvenor on 020 7379 8789, or see www.grosvenorauctions.com



GROSVENOR AUCTIONEERS are to sell the second portion of the fabulous 'Davenport' collection of Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Errors this month. This auction will give collectors another opportunity to acquire some of the very rarest modern errors.

Many of the errors occurred in the 1960s, the early days of multicolour printing. Highlights of the sale include: 1961 CEPT 2d with orange omitted, about five known (SG 626a cat £15,000); 1962 National Productivity Year 1s 3d light blue (Queen's head) omitted in a progressive pair (SG 633a, £8500); 1964 Botanical Congress 3d sage-green omitted, only six known (SG 655b, £12,000); 1966 Birds 4d block with four colours omitted (SG 696ab, £9000); 1966 Technology 6d deep blue (Jaguar and inscription) omitted in progressive pair (SG 702b, £7500+); 1967 British Paintings 4d new blue omitted, only five known (SG 748b, £9500); and 1968 Christmas 9d turquoise-green omitted in cylinder pair with normal, only one known (SG 776b, unpriced).

Errors from the 1970s include 1970 Philypia 5d grey-black (Queen's head) omitted, the only known example (SG 835a, unpriced); 1971 Universities 3p with black (windows) omitted, one of only two known (SG 890b, £10,000); and 1976 Roses 13p value omitted in pair with normal, the only example in private hands (SG 1009a, £35,000). The only other examples of this spectacular error are in the Royal Philatelic Collection. Later errors include 1980 Liverpool & Manchester Railway 12p strip with lemon omitted, one of only two known (SG 1113ac, £30,000) and 1998 Princess of Wales 26p imperf top marginal strip of five (SG 2021ab, £15,000).

For details and results of the first part of the Davenport sale, last November, see the *Bulletin* November 2007, p69 and January 2008, p159 •

Competitive displays The process behind

WITH London 2010, the next international stamp exhibition to be staged in London, only two years away, there may be some collectors who are wondering just what all the competitive displays are about, and whether they can enter. The second part is the easier to answer: to exhibit at an international exhibition, you first need to have reached the required qualification, a vermeil, otherwise known as silver-gilt, medal awarded at a national exhibition. A moment's thought shows this is perfectly logical. One would not expect to enter an international sporting event without first having demonstrated your skills by representing your country. In fact, some countries take a far more rigid stance than the United Kingdom: you need to progress from local and Federation level, to national, and then onto international, qualifying at each level before progressing to the next.

As with most 'internationals', applications to enter have to be submitted many months before the exhibition takes place. There is much work to be done, as often there are requests for many more frames than are available to house the exhibits. Sorting out the applications to ensure that the result provides a balanced display takes much thought. So, in reality, if you are not already qualified to exhibit at London 2010, you have now left it too late. The exhibition organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies at Harrogate on Friday and Saturday, 2 and 3 May, provided the final opportunity for any potential exhibitor to reach the required medal level.

However, it is worth mentioning that for some years in the UK our national competitions have been arranged in two groups. There have been the 'national' and the 'international' exhibits. A collector initially enters the national section, and, if a silver-gilt medal is achieved (the qualification to enter an international exhibition), is strongly recommended first to put the exhibit into the international section, before applying to enter an international exhibition. In the international section the exhibit is judged to international standards, thereby allowing the exhibitor to determine if any changes are advisable before taking that next, major step.

The competitive displays themselves are divided into several 'classes'. Some at London 2010 are fairly obvious, although, as with all the classes, it is essential for anyone entering first to read the regulations very carefully, to see what can and cannot be included. The Literature Class is for those who have recently published handbooks and/or catalogues. The Youth Class is open to young collectors up to the age of 21, although unusually in London they are being restricted to just one frame.

The two best known classes are Traditional and Postal History. The Traditional Class refers mainly to stamps, and is so named because this was for many years the traditional way of collecting – the focus being on the stamps. So the Traditional Class provides for the study of stamps, perhaps just a single issue, maybe even a single stamp, or a specified period relating to a country's stamps. Items such as proofs and essays, error and varieties will often be included, as may well be covers that demonstrate the correct usage of the stamps during their period of validity.

the frames at an exhibition, by Richard West

Postal history, as its name implies, refers to the history of the postal system, and can include the routes taken by the mail and the rates that were applied. Within postal history will be included a study of cancellations and other postal markings. Some profess that unused stamps have no place in a postal history exhibit. However, if relevant to the story being told, then an occasional unused stamp might be appropriate.

The next major class is Thematic Philately. This is the telling of a story through stamps and other relevant philatelic material. It is not an accumulation of stamps that simply depict a particular subject. Producing a thematic exhibit is extremely exacting, and the judges expect to see a carefully thought-out plan, which is not only adhered to, but also fully developed throughout the exhibit. It is important that a careful choice is made to ensure that all the items included are appropriate to the story being told.

In recent years experiments have been staged to widen the horizons, hopefully to encourage more to exhibit, and as a result, either an Open Class or Social Philately Class has been introduced. These both permit the inclusion up to a specified limit of non-philatelic material, again as long as it is relevant to the story being told. In the case of social philately, this story will show the development of an aspect of social history told primarily through the use of items of philatelic importance, such as appropriate covers. However, these two classes are experimental, so will not be included at all international exhibitions. It also seems that the balance of favour has gone for the Open Class, although at London 2010 there will be no Open or Social Philately Class.

Aerophilately is a part of both postal and social history, but is, understandably, primarily concerned with the transmission of mail by air. While in the main this will feature covers that have been carried by air – and not just by aircraft – it can also include stamps that were specifically issued for airmail use.

Other separate classes now found at most exhibitions are Postal Stationery and Revenues. Again, these are fairly self-explanatory, the latter being for those stamps not only issued for revenue purposes, but more importantly serving the fiscal function for which they were issued.

When entering an international stamp exhibition, the requirement is to submit five frames of material: the majority of frames hold 16 album pages. Once a large vermeil medal has been achieved, exhibitors are expected to increase the exhibit to 8 frames. In recent years a new class has developed for One Frame exhibits, which, as the name implies, will fill just one frame



Display frames at the ABPS National Stamp Exhibition in Torquay, 2006.



Display frames at Croydex, an exhibition marking Croydon Philatelic Society's centenary, held in 2007.

potentially with 16 pages. The idea behind this is to assist those who might find it difficult to produce a larger exhibit. However, it is not a case of simply bringing together the 16 pages of one's best material. The idea is still to tell a cohesive story within the 16 pages; indeed, it can be as difficult as with a larger exhibit, selecting the material, and then determining what can be included to provide the complete yet comprehensive story. At the moment, pre-qualification is not required for One Frame entries. At London 2010, entries in the One Frame Class will be restricted to material of the reign of King George V (who came to the throne in 1910).

Some exhibitions also include *Astrophilately* – for items sent into space – and *Maximaphily* – for entries of maximum cards. However, these two classes will not be included at London 2010.

Whether you feel you wish to enter or not, always remember that those who do have spent hours, days and weeks refining their exhibits. The results of their labours can provide you with pleasure and much useful information. Therefore, never neglect the exhibits; make sure you look at those of special interest, and as many of the others as you have time for.

In recent years many British collectors have achieved success at international exhibitions, with a number having been awarded the highest level of a Large Gold medal. Such medals have been gained by Dr Alan Huggins with *Great Britain Wrappers* at St Petersburg in 2007, by Dr Arthur Woo at Malaga in 2006, and by Alan Griffiths (*Prince Edward Island*), Joseph Hackmey (*Ceres*) and Alfred Khalastchy (*the British Occupation of Iraq issues*) at Washington in 2006. A number of special awards are also presented at international events, recognising the outstanding exhibits of the exhibition and the best in the various classes. At Belgica in 2006 Birthe King won the award for the best exhibit in the Open Class with her exhibit 'Denmark: Conscience, Conflict and Camps, 1932-1949'.

Similar awards are made at national exhibitions, although the number is being reduced, and thus at Croydon in 2007 recognised only outstanding exhibits, namely those from Joseph Hackmey and Alan Holyoake. At Torquay the previous year, the awards for the outstanding exhibits went to Steve Boorn, Alan Holyoake and Idor Gatti.

Do not forget that London 2010 will take place at the Business Design Centre in Upper Street, Islington, on 8 to 15 May 2010. The two years will go by very quickly, so make a note of the dates now. Unusually the exhibits will be shown in two sections, with half on display during the first four days, then a changeover for the final four days. As yet the special awards for London 2010 have not been finalised, but based on previous experience are likely to be sponsored by major organisations in the philatelic world, such as Post Offices, dealers, auctioneers and national Federations and Associations ●

Philately online Ron Negus on Bhutan's electronic stamps



www.bhutanpostagestamps.com This site gives information about the new 2008 issue of CD-ROM stamps from Bhutan, but includes limited details about other issues from the country. Despite its name, the site belongs to an American agency who produce and market Bhutan stamps.

8 centimetres in diameter, as opposed to the 11.75 cm of conventional CD-ROMs. The disc will also have a link that will take internet users directly to a website at www.BhutanToday.net that gives general information about the country.

One of the March 2008 issues marked the last 100 years of Bhutan's monarchy. This had a face value of 225 ngultrums, the local currency, which equates to about £2.50. The design showed portraits of the five kings who have reigned since 1907. At the same time as these CD-ROM stamps appeared, Bhutan released five paper self-adhesive stamps individually portraying the five kings.

The second CD-ROM issue produced in March was entitled 'In Harmony With Nature'. This captured the enormous range of flora and fauna found in Bhutan, where two thirds of the country is designated as a national park.

Details of the subjects for the September CD-ROM issues have not yet been announced, but it is possible to add your name and address on the website to obtain further information about the stamps when they appear.

The decision of Stanley Gibbons to place large numbers of the Bhutanese stamps into their catalogue Appendix means that many collectors will ignore all the issues from this country. Others, particularly those seeking completion for topical collections, will welcome them.

Whatever your own view might be, the appearance of these new electronic 'stamps' requires to be noted in the philatelic record. In my opinion, it is unlikely that any other stamp issuing country will follow the example set by Bhutan. The fact that access to the country is still restricted to small organised groups of tourists means that very little mail comes from the country. For the serious collector, the real challenge is to locate genuine commercial covers bearing Bhutanese stamps and postmarks ●

THE REMOTE Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is well known amongst collectors for issuing stamps in unusual formats. One of these, issued in 1973, was known as the 'talking stamp' because it incorporated a miniature record, which could be played on a standard gramophone. The tune was a version of Bhutan's national anthem. Having no postal validity, it was ignored by the main Gibbons catalogue, and only listed in an Appendix.

The website for the creators of these 'stamps' (address above) claims that Bhutan has had other philatelic firsts, with scented issues, steel issues, three-dimensional issues and stamps printed on silk. Unfortunately, whilst the site provides spaces for displaying these so-called stamps, no actual images are shown in them.

Since the country of Bhutan was effectively closed to the outside world until 1960, their prolific stamp output since then is the creation of an American public relations firm. Burt Todd set up his company in the 1960s and was the originator and wholesale selling agent responsible for most of the Bhutanese issues. Mr. Todd died in 2006 and his daughter, Frances Todd Stewart, now manages his firm, Creative Products International of Pittsburgh.

Mrs Stewart produced a press release stating that Bhutan will release four stamps during 2008 that incorporate a CD-ROM. Two were issued in March, and the remainder will appear in September. Each of the CD-ROM 'stamps' comprises a small, decorated, self-adhesive envelope with a mini CD-ROM inside. The mini disc will measure

My cover collection by Martin Robinson



Above: the four Nicklin labels produced in America under licence. Above right: the 1950 London International Stamp Exhibition cover.



International Stamp Exhibition, 1950 In an earlier article in this series (March 2008 *Bulletin*, page 217) mention was made of the Stamp Centenary Exhibition held in London on 6-14 May 1940. Since then it has become traditional for Britain to host an international stamp exhibition every ten years, starting with that held in 1950 at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, from 6 to 13 May. At the time I was only a child at primary school, and the first International I attended was in 1970, accompanied by a coachload of schoolboy members of the stamp club I ran, who happily went round all day seeing how many freebies they could collect.

In 1950, as at most exhibitions, several mementoes were available for collectors, like the souvenir cover shown above, with a design of St George and the Dragon. There were three postmarks: one applied by machine with a wide gap between the circle and the Maltese Cross; a similar handstamp version but with a narrow gap between the circle and cross and without time, used on registered mail; and another similar handstamp version but with time, used on aerogrammes and other items unsuitable for a machine postmark, and for covers with misplaced stamps or those missed by the machine. Each of these bore numbers 6 to 13 in the centre of the cross, changed daily to correspond with the date.

There were other souvenirs to be had, including an imperforate sheet printed by the colotype process by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. It was inscribed 'The London International Stamp Exhibition 1950 Souvenir Sheet' and depicted five classic rare postage stamps in colour: the 1840 Penny Black, New South Wales 1850 1d Sydney View, Nova Scotia 1851 1s, Cape of Good Hope 1853 4d triangular and Ceylon 1859 4d. Less well-known are the publicity labels (above, left) depicting St George and the Dragon, produced in America under licence by a dealer, John W Nicklin, typographed in gummed sheets of 15, perf 15 and in four colour combinations •

Obituary James Negus, 1927-2008, by John Holman

JAMES William Negus, the doyen of philatelic literature studies, a former Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Editor, and consummate bibliographer and indexer, died on 22 February (his 81st birthday).

Jim (as he was usually known) was born in London in 1927. After studying chemistry at university, national service, and a short spell in the civil service, he spent his career in book editing and technical information. He worked at several well-known publishers, including Heinemann, where he produced six philatelic titles. In 1975 he joined Stanley Gibbons, first as Managing Editor, introducing the popular SG *Guide* series, then two years later as Catalogue Editor; rearranging the catalogue into 21 parts covering the main collecting areas, rewriting the introductory notes, and initiating the 'Catalogue Column' in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. Sadly his tenure was cut short early in 1981 when, with other staff, he was made redundant when the company hit hard times. This hit him hard, but he was soon writing and editing again for Robson Lowe, *Stamp World* magazine, and the *Connoisseur Catalogue of Machine Stamps*.

In the 1990s he wrote for this *Bulletin* – on philatelic organisations, stamp exhibitions and their souvenirs, and flags and heraldry and Sherlock Holmes on stamps. He skilfully edited the minutes of the Stamp Advisory Committee for *British Stamp Design 1993*, No 2 in the Bulletin Publications series. He began work on a book on British stamp designers which would have been an important addition to the literature on GB issues.

He wrote for the philatelic press for over 40 years, and was always willing to help and advise others on philatelic literature projects. He served the National (formerly Junior) Philatelic Society as Librarian and Editor, and wrote an interesting piece for the NPS Centenary Handbook in 1999. He regarded the NPS highly and was delighted to receive Honorary Life Membership in 2000. He edited the *Journal of Chinese Philately*, was Associate Editor of the prestigious US journal *Philatelic*



Literature Review, and was a member, *inter alia*, of the Royal Philatelic Society London (elected fellow 1968), Philatelic Writers Society, London & Provincial Stamp Club, the British Society of Russian Philately, Persian Study Circle, and the Friends of the NPM. His name was added to the Hall of Fame of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit in 1992.

He collected, at different times, Mongolia, Tannu Tuva, China and Provinces, Soviet Russia, Persia, Portugal, Hungary, Ryukyu Islands, Central America, Ifni, and the Columbian States. In the 1980s he built an impressive collection of GB exhibition souvenirs, and contributed the introduction to Glenn Morgan's catalogue *British Stamp Exhibitions Sheets, Cards and Labels* (1995). His final project was a 'back to basics' collection of used definitives of European countries, with particular interest in shades. In 2000 he sold his collections and extensive library, to concentrate on his other interests – Victorian art and local history.

I worked with Jim at Stanley Gibbons in the early 1980s. We got on well, sharing a quirky sense of humour, and interests in the less popular areas of philately, and for biographical information. We later worked on a number of projects, a friendship and collaboration I greatly cherish.

His younger brother Ron, the Archivist of the Royal Philatelic Society, is a regular *Bulletin* contributor. Jim's marriage to Hilary Uvery ended in divorce, but they remained on good terms, and Hilary was a great support in his final months.

Jim's greatest legacy will be his books *Good Bibliographic Practice*, later expanded as *Philatelic Literature: Compilation Techniques and Reference Sources* (1991) – *vade-mecum* for all intent on improving the scholarly standard of philatelic publications. In a foreword to *Philatelic Literature*, Ron Butler, former Librarian and President of the Royal, summed up Jim's contribution as 'acknowledged internationally as an indexer...an excellent Editor, the best of bibliographers and...most competent of researchers' – not a bad way to be remembered ●

Competitions Enter for a chance to win the 2007 Yearbook



February identify The detail was from the 72p Sky at Night stamp. The winner was Mrs O Willcock, Suffolk.

February knowledge The answers: 1) rhododendron or bright mauve; 2) Fire & Light; 3) Mike Czuczman. The winner was J Capitão, Belgium.

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

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

1 In which year did Sir Martin Frobisher feature on a stamp?

2 What colour was the George V 5d definitive?

3 Where is the ABPS National Stamp Exhibition being held this month?

Send your answer (addressed to either the May *Identify* competition or the May *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 13 June will receive a Yearbook. Runners-up in each competition will receive presentation packs, FDCs or stamp cards. Royal Mail employees are not eligible for the competitions. ●

Events

Until 30 May 60th anniversary of Glasgow Thematic Society thematic exhibition, at Winter Gardens, the People's Palace, Glasgow. Also at Mitchell Library, Glasgow from 6 to 31 May.

Until 24 December 'Timeless & Classic: Elizabeth II, Queen & Icon', BPMA exhibition: Wedgwood Visitor Centre, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent. Weekdays 09.00-17.00, weekends 10.00-17.00. **Enquiries** 01782 282 986 (Wedgwood), 020 7239 2570 (BPMA)

2-3 May 8th National Philatelic Exhibition, Harrogate International Centre. See p260.

3 May Federation of South Wales PSs 39th annual convention at Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. 15 dealers, annual competition entries, Kids Activity Area, souvenir card (see the April *Covers Review*), refreshments. **Enquiries** G N Prior, 01656 740520

6 May - April 2009 'Lions, Leopards, Unicorns & Dragons' at BPMA, London WC1. See p270.

11 May Modern British Philatelic Circle meeting at Rhodia Social Club, Langley, West Midlands.

Enquiries Henry Coward, 020 7652 6579

14-21 May Israel 2008, Tel Aviv. Organised by Israel Philatelic Federation and Israel Post. **Enquiries** Israel Philatelic Federation, PO Box 4523, Tel Aviv 61045, Israel

16-18 May North East Philatelic Weekend at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Talks, displays, banquet. **Bookings** Val Beeken, 0191 3861931.

17 May Kent Federation of PSs Federation Day and Stamp Fair, Langley Park Boys School, South Eden Park Rd, Beckenham, 10.00-16.00. 25 dealers, displays, refreshments, free car parking. ●

Late news

Rescue at Sea stamps In the past, new issues of special stamps were announced and discussed in Parliament. Mentions are now rare so Royal Mail was delighted that the Rescue at Sea stamps were praised in an early day motion shortly before the stamps went on sale. The motion read:

'That this House congratulates the Royal Mail on the launch of six commemorative stamps featuring the rescue work of RNLI lifeboats and Coastguard helicopters and particularly praises the inclusion of the Barra Island Lifeboat on the first class stamp; notes poignantly that the launch of the stamps, coincidentally is the day after the funeral of a former Barra lifeboat coxswain, Iain (John) Allan MacNeil, who on 18th November 1979 was coxswain of the Barnet Class Lifeboat which capsized at 3:46 am but which righted successfully due to an RNLI inflatable balloon modification which followed earlier lifeboat losses; further notes that two hours earlier on the same night the Islay lifeboat also capsized and righted itself in what were described as 'diabolical' 30ft to 60ft seas; and applauds the Royal Mail for making such a public tribute to the work of the RNLI volunteers who manifestly can face extreme dangers in their calling.' ●

Spring Stampex The organisers were pleased with the number of visitors, although 'essential maintenance' to some tube lines delayed the journey to Islington. The Royal Mail stand was busy on the Thursday selling the Monarchs stamps, and some used the Smilers equipment to have their photograph on one of a pair of the new small stamp 'Smilers' which incorporated the Stampex logo in the margin and on one of the tabs. Visitors received a free limited edition postcard (no 14 in the series) of an unadopted design by David Gentleman for the 1969 Concorde issue. On sale was the 11th Stampex Business Customised sheet entitled 'A Century of Travel' with labels featuring *The Flying Scotsman*, H4 Hercules flyingboat, Airbus A380, The Mini, Model T Ford, RMS *Mauretania*, a Rover bicycle, Transrapid maglev train, USS *Los Angeles* airship, and Henri Farman's Voisin bi-

plane. The sheet sold well, as did single stamps with Airbus and Rover bicycle labels attached. Some 3000 sheets were produced. The Austrian Philatelic Society provided a fine display on the Village Green; the Stamp Active Network stand attracted enthusiastic young collectors with many taking part in the usual noisy Saturday Auction. The organisers thank all Stampex workers, especially the National Philatelic Society members who run the Information Stand.

Autumn Stampex, 17-20 September, will include a 'Defenders of the Skies' display by Bletchley Park PO, British Forces Post Office, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, and Vulcan to the Skies Trust, to complement the Royal Mail RAF Uniforms stamps, on sale from 18 September ●

Royal Mail update Please note that the Territorial Army commemorative sheet (1 April) is only available from Tallents House. A new product – 'Postcard & Stamp Set' – for the Films issue (10 June), comprises a special printing of the six stamp cards with three 1st class (Carry on Sergeant) and three 56p (Frankenstein) stamps, within specially designed packaging. Aimed at film buffs and tourists, these packs will be available from Tallents House and at Post Office philatelic and postshop outlets, priced £4.39. A new printing of the 'Red white & blue' Smilers sheet (for personalised images on the labels) bears the imprint Royal Mail Group Ltd instead of Group plc; it will be available as the previous printing is used up ●

Obituary John Henry Levett, who died in March, signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1979. He was President of the Royal Philatelic Society London 1986-88, and a member of the Expert Committee 1982-2008. He collected GB stamps, but was best known for studies of France – 1870 Siege of Paris, 1870 Bordeaux, and 1871-76 Ceres issues. A National and International exhibitor, awarded the Grand Prix d'Honneur at AUSIPEX in Melbourne in 1984, he was much involved with the British Philatelic Exhibition in the 1970s ●

Royal Mail and Royal Mint Country coin covers

Left: Scotland (issued 30 November 2004); order code AN036

Below: Wales (1 March 2005); order code AN037



Above: Northern Ireland (17 March 2006); order code AN043

Right: England (23 April 2007); order code AN048



Order code for set of four: PG005

Royal Mail and Royal Mint produced four attractive Country Coin Covers for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England. Each cover bears the four country stamps cancelled by the appropriate patron saint's day postmark, and has a relevant £1 coin encapsulated. The coins feature: the Forth Railway Bridge, Scotland; Menai Bridge, Wales; Egyptian Arch, Northern Ireland; and the Millennium Bridge, Gateshead, England. The covers bear colourful illustrations of maps showing the location of each bridge.

Price £13.50 each. Covers will be available individually until 22 May 2008. After that they will be sold only as a set of four, price £54. Handling charge £1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 elsewhere.



Royal Mail, Tallents House,
21 South Gyle Crescent,
Edinburgh EH12 9PB

Telephone orders:
UK 08457 641 641
overseas +44 131 316 7483
www.royalmail.com/shop

Royal Mail, the cruciform and the colour red are registered trade marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd.
© Royal Mail Group Ltd 2008.
All rights reserved.

