

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

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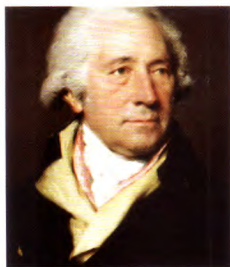
Bulletin

A Wind in the Willows theme
• Hidden dates on stamps



On sale 10 March: Royal Mail's
new issue honouring Pioneers
of the Industrial Revolution.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover A portrait of Matthew Boulton, by Lemuel Francis Abbott. Boulton, an engineer and innovative manufacturer, is one of the eight remarkable men featured in Royal Mail's new Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution issue, previewed in the November *Bulletin*. Portrait courtesy Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery ©

Availability All items available from Royal Mail Talents 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 Talents 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

26 February

Issue Celebrating Wales miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards (5)

27 February

Withdrawal Monarchs (Lancaster & York) press sheet • Smilers book (issued 17 October 2006)

2 March

Issue Concorde generic sheet and medal cover

6 March

Issue Brilliant Britain UK miniature sheet collection

10 March

Issue Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards • British Design Classics stamp book No 1: Telephone Kiosk and Routemaster Bus stamps and 4 × 1st definitives

12 March

Withdrawal Mayday – Rescue at Sea stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards

17 March

Issue Castles generic sheet No 1 – Northern Ireland

31 March

Issue 17p, 22p, 62p, 90p definitives, 56p and 90p Country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales and N Ireland. Pack containing four new definitives, pack containing eight new country stamps. (The 54p definitive, rust colour, goes back on general sale at Post Office branches from 31 March; it has remained on philatelic sale since March 2007.) • 1st and 2nd class definitives with security features: business sheets (standard and Large Letter); books (6 × 1st, 12 × 1st, 12 × 2nd standard, and 4 × 1st and 4 × 2nd Large Letter) • Post & Go stamps pack

31 March

Withdrawal Country stamps 48p & 78p for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and pack containing these stamps

21 April

Issue Monarchs – House of Tudor stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, coin cover, commemorative cover • Stamp book: 4 × 1st definitives, 2 × 1st Mini (Classic Design) stamps

23 April

Issue Castles Generic Sheet No 2: England

28 April

Issue Silver stamp collection No 3: 50p Gloucester Cathedral stamp

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HG • **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 and 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 1HG • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Westerham 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

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This month The Editor previews this issue

OUR STAMP ISSUE this month pays tribute to some of the great names of the Industrial Revolution, reminding us that Britain was once the 'workshop of the world'. It is poignant that a stamp features Josiah Wedgwood, founder of the famous ceramics firm which is now ceasing production in the UK as a result of the economic recession. Back in 1972 and 1980, the Wedgwood company sponsored two of the early prestige books. The company had another philatelic connection, in that Arnold Machin once worked there, and a Machin display was shown at the company's visitor centre in 2007. Furthermore, Josiah Wedgwood was Charles Darwin's grandfather, so both grandson and grandfather feature on stamps in successive months.

January's Classic designs issue included Concorde, and the Concorde generic sheet goes on sale this month, marking the 40th anniversary of the first test flight. We are pleased to feature this month some pages from the acclaimed Concorde collection of Brian Asquith.

We are also pleased that Glenn Morgan has taken over the popular Philately Online feature from the late Ron Negus – the first of Glenn's new series in published this month.

In the April *Bulletin* we will include the results of the 2008 Stamp Poll – always interesting and eagerly awaited ●

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



British Library Website www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic includes all of the newsletters to download, and much more.

ABPS Colin Searle, The Old Post Office, 1 Wellesbourne Road, Barford, Warwick CV35 8EL, or email searlecol@gmail.com

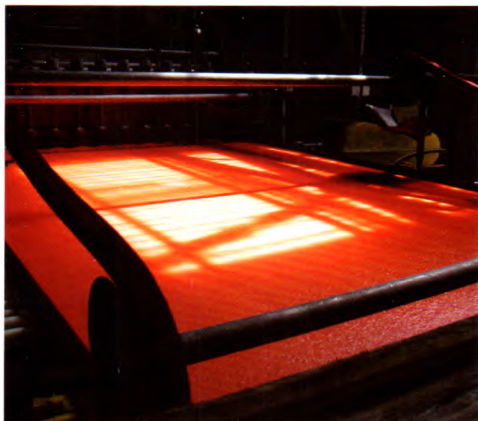
Publications The *Philatelic Collections Newsletter* is published by the British Library and comprises four full-colour pages keeping collectors updated on activities at BL's Philatelic Collections. Issue 14 includes details of the Johnson Collection of postcards relating to the Post Office, focusing on humorous cards that incorporate postal themes, and which illustrate the importance of the Post Office to the man in the street. Other features include details of the Row Collection of Siamese (Thailand) stamps, researcher's notes by Geoff Eibl-Kaye about his experiences of researching at BL, a news roundup and details of how to use the collections ●

The latest magazine *ABPS news* from the Association of British Philatelic Societies contains its usual interesting mix of items which should be of interest to (and read by) all philatelists in the United Kingdom within its 40 A5-sized full-colour pages. It is published four times a year in February, April, September and December. A feature article by Brian Sole reproduces the Kay Goodman Lecture which Brian presented to the 90th Philatelic Congress, entitled 'Social Philately: Coming or Going?' This was originally seen only by attendees at Congress, so now benefits from being available to a far greater audience. Five Greetings Telegrams are illustrated, including those produced for the Silver Jubilee of 1935 and the 1925 British Empire Exhibition ●

The Paper Trail The downturn in the world economy has resulted in The Paper Trail – which was featured here in February 2008 – experiencing funding difficulties. Jacky Bennett, the charity's Chief Executive recently stated: 'To ensure our sustainability for the future and for the benefit of schools, community groups and disadvantaged people we support, we were planning to sell a strip of undeveloped land this year, which would have supported current projects and future initiatives. This global economic catastrophe has meant that we are unable to sell the land, bringing about uncertainty over the future of The Paper Trail.'

If you can, why not plan to spend a day with them, and therefore help to continue their first-class work of preserving part of our industrial heritage? It is also possible to become a Friend, and for your donation (£12 single, £30 family membership), you are entitled to free entry to Frogmore Mill Visitor Centre during normal opening hours, 10% discount on Paper Trail courses and activities for the period of one calendar year from the date of registration. Friends are issued with a Passport to show their entitlements, which also include periodic invitations to special Friends events and circulation of special Friends publications.

The Paper Trail is an award winning Industrial Heritage Visitor Centre based at Frogmore Mill in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. It is open to the public Monday to Thursday from 10.30 to 16.30, and on Sunday from 11.00 to 16.00. The paper machine operates from Monday to Thursday only. Admission: Adults £6; Children & Concessions £5. The Visitor Centre also has a cafe, which serves a range of refreshments as well as home-made cakes and hot & cold snacks. There is also a gift shop which sells a variety of innovative and sustainable items, including a selection of products made at Frogmore Mill ●



Enquiries For details write to Apsley Paper Trail, Frogmore Mill, Fourdrinier Way, Apsley, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9RY, or visit their website at www.thepapertrail.org.uk

The Royal in the East The Royal Philatelic Society London has a range of regional groups that meet once or twice a year, and the Royal in the East (which comprises the counties of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Hertfordshire) holds an annual Christmas event at the Essex County Cricket Club ground in Chelmsford.

Fellows, members and guests took pleasure in a whole day of primarily one-frame displays, each fascinating subject being accompanied by a five minute talk. A stopwatch, ably wielded by the Royal's President Elect Alan Moorcroft, ensured that no-one overran! An enjoyable lunch and drinks breaks ensured that everyone had plenty of time to chat about the hobby.

If you get the opportunity to attend philatelic gatherings such as these, I can do no more than heartily recommend them. I saw several philatelic items among the displays that fit into my collecting interests that I was previously unaware of, so I will now be searching for them at dealers ●

Enquiries The Society's website can be found at www.rpsl.org.uk from where full details of the benefits of membership may be obtained.



Security-enhanced Machin stamps Last month saw the introduction of the new range of definitive stamps with slits in them to stop re-use. This revenue protection idea was trialled by the United States Postal Service back in 1974. Avery Dennison produced the first US self-adhesive stamps for the Christmas issue of that year, and these bore a plus sign (+) (above left) cut centrally through the design. Dummy stamps printed wholly in black were also produced during the pre-production trial period (above right). This idea was not, to my knowledge, ever repeated, and I suspect that the USPS concluded that so long as stamps are cancelled by the postal administration en-route to the addressee there is no need for any extra measures •

Enquiries Write to Essex Stamp Auctions, Three Ashes Cottage, Lanham Green Road, Cressing, Braintree, Essex CM77 8DR, see their website at www.essexstampauctions.com or send an email to rob@essexstampauctions.com

Essex Stamp Auctions The first auction by this company was held towards the end of last month, with pre-sale estimates of over £200,000. Remaining sales for this year are due to be held on 26 April, 21 June, 23 August, 18 October and 13 December.

Essex Stamp Auctions claims that 'it is one of the most experienced philatelic auction houses in the region. Our philosophy is to offer a great service and give great results for a low fee. We hold regular bi-monthly public sales of philatelic properties and we are willing to accept most properties if they have a value of £100 upwards.' •

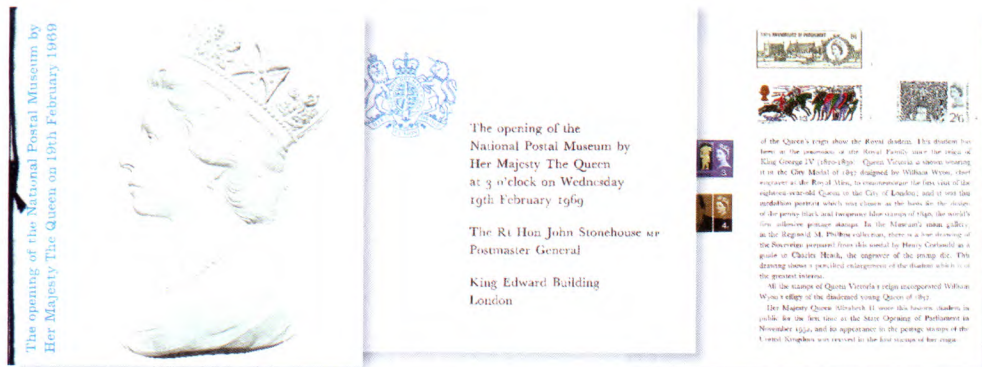
Congress enquiries Write to Colin Searle, Old Post Office, 1 Welleborne Road, Barford, Warwick CV35 8EL, or e-mail searlecc@gmail.com

Congress centenary This year sees the 100th anniversary of the holding of the first Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. It is scheduled to be held in Salford Quays, Manchester from 16-19 July, in the city that hosted the first Congress event. (Note that this is not the 100th event, as it was not held during the war years, so is being marketed as the Centenary Congress.)

There will be a full programme of displays, including rare Congress material. The RDP ceremony and presentation of the Congress Medal will take part at the historic Manchester Town Hall on the Friday afternoon, followed by a reception, while the Congress banquet will be at the Copthorne Hotel on the Saturday evening.

Although one of the delights of Congress is to attend the whole event, for those living locally, Day Delegates will be very welcome to attend on any day of the Congress to see the displays •

Collector priorities I was recently preparing an exhibit for Spring Stampex when I badly cut a finger with a craft knife. Non-collecting friends and family immediately asked after my well-being, while collector friends asked if I had damaged any philatelic items! Clearly, philatelists have a different set of priorities to other folk. The material is fine – thank you for asking •



National Postal Museum Reading the feature about 40 years of the NPM in last month's *Bulletin* reminded me that I own a copy of the lavish opening ceremony brochure. Rather than print the publication in colour, actual stamps from the reign of Queen Elizabeth II were mounted using stamp hinges; because of this, and the fact that the print run was probably miniscule, it sells for anything up to £150 when copies can be located •

Chelmsford PS I have regularly been invited to meetings of Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society, and finally made it to their Christmas evening, where well-known stamp designer Jennifer Toombs was the guest speaker.

It is 35 years since I last communicated by mail with Jennifer, and so it was good to finally meet her after all this time. It was a fascinating evening and we saw many of the Christmas-related stamps that she has produced (mainly for the Crown Agents) down the years, and the different approaches that she took for each commission grouped together by subject matter, such as silhouettes, origami, flora, stained glass, etc. What a shame that she has never designed a set of stamps for Royal Mail, as her unique style would surely go down well with collectors and the general public alike.

As with the Royal in the East event (see p197), there was a most convivial atmosphere with a large attendance for what was a freezing cold night and I really enjoyed myself, which must surely be what the hobby is all about.

Chelmsford PS is currently celebrating its 90th season, and on Wednesday 11 November, the date of their first meeting, there will be a dinner to celebrate this important milestone. Any members who are lapsed for any reason are invited; details are available from Secretary Allan Boyce •

Chelmsford PS For details telephone Allan Boyce, 01245 476989. Meetings are held at the United Reformed Church, New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0AW on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 19.00 for 19.30.

For further information about member societies connecting stamp collectors and postal historians in Essex, Hertfordshire, London and Suffolk via the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies (AEPS), visit www.aeps.org.uk

Thematix The Jester Suite at Harlequins Rugby Club in Twickenham will be the venue for a new thematic trade fair. (Midpex will contain the competitive entries for the John Fosbery competitions previously held at Thematica.) The dates had not been agreed at the time of writing, but will either be 26-27 June or 3-4 July. It is hoped that this event will go some way towards filling the void left by the demise of Thematica. Further details will be provided when received, but in the meantime, why not keep the two weekend dates free if thematic collecting interests you •

Thematix Joint organisers: Paula and Philip Cant (01256 415699) and Bob Lee (020 8397 2332).

Royal Mail news New issues and products



The new Machin and Country definitives for the change in postal rates, to be issued 31 March.

New postal rates New postal rates will come into effect on 6 April. Basic 1st and 2nd class inland rates (standard size to 100g) will increase to 39p and 30p, letters to Europe (up to 20g) 56p, and worldwide airmail to 62p (10g) and 90p (20g). UK Large Letters to 100g will cost 61p and 47p, 1st and 2nd class.

Four new definitives will go on sale on 31 March – 17p olive green, 22p stone, 62p red and 90p ultramarine, and new 56p and 90p country stamps in existing 50p and 81p designs. First day covers for the four new definitives cost £2.66 UK, £2.32 overseas, and for the new country stamps £2.15 UK, £1.87 for each country – England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Two presentation packs will be available – one for the new definitives (£2.45) and one containing the eight new country stamps (£6.35). All of the new stamps are printed in gravure by De La Rue in sheets of 200.

As usual Tallents House, Windsor, London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast first day of issue cancels will be provided. Except for Tallents House, these will be in pictorial and non-pictorial designs. All are available for use on covers bearing any of the new stamps ●

Special issues The new rates affect the values of the Tudor Monarchs set to be issued on 21 April. The values will now be 1st, 62p and 81p. Prices of this issue will now be: mint set £3.64, miniature sheet £2.58, FDC stamps £4.65 UK, £4.05 overseas, FDC miniature sheet £3.43 UK, £2.99 overseas.

The prices for the Endangered Species/Plants issue (19 May) will now be: set of stamps £3.90, miniature sheet £2.58, pack £7, FDC £4.95 UK, £4.31 overseas, FDC miniature sheet £3.43 UK, £2.99 overseas.

The plate numbers and colours of the Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution issue are: E1 gold E1 black E1 cyan (blue) E1 magenta E1 yellow ●

VAT changes The reduction in VAT in December results in changes to the prices of the Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution issue (10 March). The FDC for UK customers will be £5.39, overseas £4.69. Stamp cards will be £3.12 the set ●



ROYAL MAIL DEFINITIVE STAMPS



ROYAL MAIL DEFINITIVE STAMP



Security definitives New definitives (1st and 2nd class, 50p, £1, £1.50, £2, £3 and £5) with security features were introduced on 17 February. It was originally intended that business sheets and books containing 1st and 2nd class stamps with these new features would also go on sale on 17 February. Subsequently these were delayed and will now be available from 31 March. There are four business sheets containing 1st and 2nd class standard and Large Letter stamps, and five books – 6 × 1st, 12 × 1st, and 12 × 2nd standard definitives, and 4 × 1st and 4 × 2nd Large Letter stamps. Please note that stamps with security features will not be available in coils (rolls) •

Low-value and high-value packs for the security Machin stamps issued 17 February.

Please note: the stamps are self-adhesive and will be on backing paper, not as shown above.



The first of three new books containing Design Classics stamps will be issued on 10 March, price £2.16 (£2.34 from 6 April).

New stamp book series Three stamp books are being issued containing Design Classics stamps as well as 1st class definitives (with security features). The first (shown above), containing four 1st class definitives and the Telephone Kiosk and Routemaster bus stamps, go on sale on 10 March, price £2.16 (£2.34 from 6 April). The second book, which goes on sale on 21 April, contains two Mini stamps (£2.34). A third book, with Spitfire and Concorde stamps, will be issued next year. All of these stamps are self-adhesive, printed by Walsall.

A new book containing four 1st definitives and two Flower greetings stamps (*Iris latifolia* and *Tulipa*) goes on sale on 21 May, price £2.34. The book commemorates the 50th anniversary of NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) •



The first issue in a new series of Generic sheets features the Castles of Northern Ireland. On sale from 17 March, price £7.74 (£8.35 from 6 April).

New Generic sheets A second Design Classics generic sheet, bearing 20 of the 1st class Concorde stamps from the Design Classics set, will be available from 2 March, marking the 40th anniversary of the first Concorde flight. The first in a new series of generic sheets featuring castles of the UK will be available from 17 March. It contains 20 1st class Northern Ireland country stamps plus labels showing castles in the Province: Monea, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Dunluce, Enniskillen, Dungiven, Killyleagh, Narrow Water, Killymoon, and Gosford (each features on two labels). The second Castles sheet, featuring English castles, goes on sale on 23 April. The castles on the labels are: Warwick, Orford, Bolsover, Dover, Framlingham, Carlisle, Windsor, Bamburgh, Kenilworth, and Bodiam. The English sheet will have the St George flag stamp, as in the Celebrating England miniature sheet. The Castles sheets are printed in litho by Cartor on self-adhesive paper ●

Coin and medal covers A Concorde medal cover, on sale from 2 March, marks the 40th anniversary of the first flight, of Concorde 001. It is a limited edition of 12,500, price £14.63. Designed by Neon, the cover features the amazing pilot's control panel in Concorde, and the aircraft on the tarmac after an early test flight (see illustration in the February *Bulletin*, page 168). The cover's filler card gives a potted history of this most famous of aircraft, from an advisory committee recommending studies for long-range supersonic airliners to the final commercial flight in 2003, and provides some fascinating Concorde statistics ●

New collection This attractive 'Brilliant Britain' UK miniature sheet collection, available from 6 March, contains one each of the England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and United Kingdom miniature sheets, housed in a folder featuring historic maps of the UK and relevant stamps depicting landscapes, buildings and other images of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Price £31.95 •

Silver stamps The third in our new Silver Stamp Collection, which reproduces the 50p Gloucester Cathedral stamp of May 2008, will be available from 28 April. Silver stamps are manufactured in 999 sterling silver by processes pioneered and patented by the Royal Dutch Mint, and are supplied in a sealed blister to protect the high quality finish and help prevent tarnishing. Silver stamps are not valid for postage. The collection includes a card with two views of the cathedral, bearing a 50p Cathedral stamp cancelled by a special Gloucester postmark for 28 April. Available from Tallents House, price £24.42. Limited edition of 3000. The next in the series, available from 21 July, reproduces the 56p St David's Cathedral stamp. Collectors placing a regular order will receive a booklet about Cathedral stamps and a collection box •



Gloucester Cathedral Silver Stamp cover: on sale from 28 April, price £24.42.

Exhibitions Two exhibitions will be of interest to collectors of this year's special stamp issues. 'Zig-Zag: The Paths of Robert Burns' is on show at the Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museum until 11 April, then at Greyfriars Church, Dumfries in July and August, and finally at the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow in October and November. A Darwin exhibition is on show at the Natural History Museum in London until 19 April. It includes two mockingbirds which are believed to have prompted Darwin's theory of evolution, and many items which have never been displayed before, illustrating the impact of his work on how we understand the world today •

10.03 Industrial Revolution Pioneers: Steam Mills, Cinderford

21.04 Monarchs – House of Tudor: London SE10

19.05 Endangered Species – Plants: Kew, Richmond, Surrey

16.06 Mythical Creatures: Dragonby, Scunthorpe

2009 first day postmarks The special issues of the early part of 2009 are listed opposite, with the alternative first day of issue postmarks. Please note that the issue date for the Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution issue has been brought forward one week, from 17 to 10 March •



Post & Go stamps A pack containing the five Post & Go machine stamps – UK 1st class standard and Large Letters, Europe, and Airmail to 10g and 20g – will be on sale from 31 March, price £3.08. For more about Post & Go stamps see the *Bulletin* November 2008 (page 95), December 2008 (page 106), and Douglas Myall's 'Mainly Machins' article in last month's *Bulletin* •



Robert Burns launch Burns performer Chris Tait helped to launch this new issue at Burns Cottage. In classic Burns Supper-style, the Burns lookalike performed the traditional address before plunging his dagger into the ceremonial haggis, emblazoned with the stamps (left). Mr Tait and William Cummins, elected chairman of the Post Office Pipeband, celebrated the launch at the Alloway Post Office, opposite Burns Cottage (right) •

Coming off sale Any remaining stock of the Mayday Rescue at Sea stamps will be withdrawn on 12 March. Eight country stamps go off sale on 31 March: the 48p and 78p values for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland issued on 27 March 2007. Also to be withdrawn is the pack containing these stamps. Order now if you still need any of these stamps or packs for your collection •

2010 special issues Royal Mail announced at Stampex that the issues for 2010 are as follows. Further details will be published later in the year •

January	British Design	May	Great British Railways (London 2010 issue)
February	Girlguiding (centenary)	June	Children's Books
February	The Royal Society (350th anniversary)	August	Musicals
March	Battersea Dogs & Cats Home (150th anniversary)	September	Britain Alone (commemoration of 1940)
March	Monarchs: House of Stewart (Scottish kings)	October	Monarchs: House of Stuart (James I-VI/Anne)
April	Action for Species: Mammals	November	Christmas
May	Stamps of King George V (London 2010 issue)		

British Postal Museum & Archive There is still time to visit the special exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of country (regional) stamps – it will be on show until 26 April. The BPMA is open Monday to Wednesday and Friday 10.00-17.00, Thursday 10.00-19.00, and also on certain Saturdays – see website for dates, and details of BPMA lectures and other events. The BPMA contains the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives •

BPMA Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL (near Mount Pleasant).

For further details telephone 020 7239 2570, or see www.postalheritage.org.uk

Submitting covers Readers are reminded that when submitting covers for special handstamps to Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres, the outer cover must bear full postage. Mail posted without payment, marked 'Free-post' (which does not apply to SHCs), or sent in the Royal Mail plastic 'see-through' envelopes used for the return of covers to collectors, may be subject to delay and refusal. Readers are also reminded that covers and cards submitted for handstamping must bear a return address – Royal Mail reserves the right to return any unaddressed items uncanceled. The address can be typed, handwritten (in ink or pencil), rubber-stamped, or by using an address label. However 'Post It' notes should not be used for this purpose as they can easily become detached.

The addresses of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres are shown opposite •

London Special Handstamp Centre Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB

Wales & The West Special Handstamp Centre 220-228 Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA

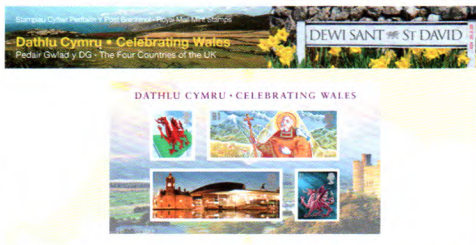
Scotland & Northern Ireland Special Handstamp Centre Rutherglen DO, Duchess Place, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1BT

Northern England Special Handstamp Centre South Shields DO, Keppell Street, South Shields NE33 1AA

Midland Special Handstamp Centre Birmingham Mail Centre, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA

Prize draw Enter to win the Celebrating UK or Wales packs

WE have two of the new Celebrating UK Miniature Sheet Collections (see page 203) on offer this month. Four runners-up will each receive a Celebrating Wales presentation pack. Simply send your name and address on a postcard to: UK Collection Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ, to arrive by 31 March •



Hidden dates Reach for a magnifier: in the first of two new articles, Richard West finds 'hidden' dates on British stamps

IN 1965 Clive Abbott (who sadly died in 2008) had the distinction of being the first British stamp designer whose name appeared on stamps, namely the two he designed to mark the opening of the Post Office Tower. Tony Benn, when Postmaster General, felt that the work of the designer and printer should be acknowledged, but the idea did not last long, and the final set to provide such a recognition was that to mark the maiden flight of Concorde in 1969. Over the years, some have put forward the proposal that it would make life easier for collectors if the year of issue were to be included within each stamp design. To meet such demands, Royal Mail started in 1987 to include the year with a copyright symbol within the border area of many of the special issues (although the caption on the stamp sometimes renders such additional information redundant). This practice was ended by the start of the special Millennium programme at the beginning of 1999; the Millennium stamps adopted their own numbering system – counting down to the Millennium in 1999, and back up in 2000.

Nevertheless, the idea of including the year of issue within the stamp design did not disappear, and since the Christmas stamps of 2005 the year will be found on most special issues. However, these dates will often not be immediately obvious, for they are 'hidden', included using microprinting within the stamp design, or appearing on a phosphor band. In general one or two basic principles apply: if the stamp design includes a caption indicating the year of issue, for example, 'Scout Centenary 2007', there will be no need for an additional 'hidden' date; if a design is one that has been previously used before 2005, such as the miniature sheet issued following the announcement of London being awarded the 2012 Olympic Games, no date will appear; if the stamp is printed by lithography, the date will appear as a part of the design, printed using microprinting; and if a stamp is printed by gravure, the date will be seen within a phosphor band.

Country stamps No hidden dates appear on definitives, with one exception. Such dates were first used in the pictorial Northern Ireland designs of 2001, within the denomination on stamps printed by De La Rue, Enschedé and Walsall. Dates are found on the 'bleed-off' designs and on those with white borders printed by litho (except for the Smilers versions of the 1st class value used for the Glorious Northern Ireland and Glorious United Kingdom generic sheets). Interestingly, stamps of the same denomination from different printers, or with or without the white border, may have dates in different positions. Enlarged illustrations showing the positions of the hidden dates were included in Douglas Myall's 'Mainly Machins' feature in the February 2006 *Bulletin* (page 182).

Here is where to find the date on Northern Ireland definitives with bleed-off design: 2nd, in the horizontal stroke of the 2* • 1st, at base of 1* • £ printed by Walsall or De La Rue, in lower horizontal stroke of the £ • 65p, in horizontal stroke of 5, and in basketwork near 3rd perf hole down on the left • 68p, in upper circle of 8, and in the basketwork near the 3rd perf hole down on the left. (*The dates are in the same position on the 1st and 2nd stamps printed by Enschedé within the *Microcosmos* prestige stamp book.)

Here is where to find the date on NI definitives with white borders: 2nd, in the horizontal stroke of 2 (later removed on gravure printings) • 1st, at base of 1 (later removed on gravure printings) • £, in lower horizontal stroke of £ • 40p, in horizontal arm of 4 • 42p by Walsall, in horizontal stroke of 2 • 42p by De La Rue, in horizontal arm of 4 • 44p, in horizontal arm of first 4 • 68p, in top arm of 6, and in 2nd strand of the basketwork opposite the 4th perf hole down on the left • 72p, in horizontal arm of 7.

From 2007, sheet versions of the Northern Ireland definitives (including the 1st and 2nd class) have been printed by gravure; this process does not so effectively print the tiny dates, so the dates are no longer incorporated on the stamps. ►



Hidden dates on five special stamps of 2006, and on a Northern Ireland Country stamp, from top left: the 72p Sounds of Britain; 1st class Football World Cup; National Portrait Gallery (Virginia Woolf); 47p Ice Age Animals; 42p Animal Tales; and 2001 68p Northern Ireland (white border design, printed by De La Rue).

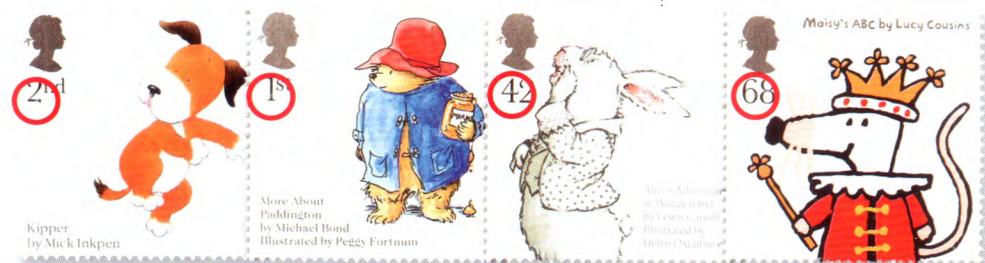
Special issues There now follows a checklist of special issues with hidden dates, indicating where these can be found – with thanks to Dean Price of Royal Mail's Stamps team for advising the date's location on each stamp. Where the same design appears in a miniature sheet, prestige book, retail stamp book (for Christmas issues) or as part of a Smilers sheet, the date will be found in the same position. This list omits issues where there is no hidden date, possibly because an older design is repeated, or because the caption on the stamps makes the hidden date superfluous.

Next month I will reveal the location of the hidden dates on the 2007 and 2008 special issues.

Christmas 2005 This was the first special issue to have a hidden date. Printed by gravure, the date is seen horizontally within the phosphor bands, towards the bottom of the left-hand band on stamps with two bands, and just above the denomination on the centre band on the 2nd class stamp.



Animal Tales On all values the date appears as microprinting in the denomination: 2nd, horizontally on the 2 • 1st, vertically on the 1 • 42p, vertically on the 4 • 68p, vertically on the 6.



A British Journey: England On all values (1st), the date appears on the right-hand phosphor band, towards the bottom of the design, reading vertically.



Ice Age Animals Vertically on the denominations: on the 1 of 1st • the 4 of 42p and 47p • the 6 of 68p • the first 1 of £1.12.



The Queen's 80th birthday The date appears horizontally on the phosphor bands, near the bottom just above the caption on each stamp. On the 2nd class stamps the date appears on the single band. On all other values, the date appears on the outer bands of each se-tenant pair of designs.



World Cup Horizontally on the denominations: the 1 of 1st • the 4 of 42 • the first 4 of 44 • the 5 of 50 • the 4 of 64 • the 7 of 72.



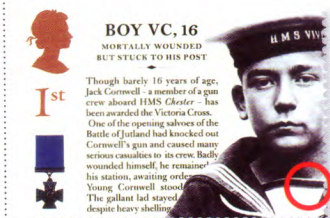
Modern Architecture On all values the date is printed horizontally at the bottom of the right-hand phosphor band. ►



The National Portrait Gallery The date appears very clearly in the bottom left-hand border of each design.



Victoria Cross On all three se-tenant pairs the date appears reading vertically at the bottom of the phosphor bands – it appears in the outer bands of each pair, ie, on the left-hand of the left-hand stamp, and on the right-hand band of the right-hand stamp.



Sounds of Britain The dates are found as follows: 1st, under left armpit of dancer (not shown below) • 42p, in front of drummer's legs • 50p, between arms of harpist (see p207) • 72p, by right leg of guitarist (not shown) • and £1.19, under male dancer's left arm.



Christmas The date appears as part of the phosphor bands. It is horizontal towards the bottom of the centre band on the small 2nd class. It is vertical on all other values, towards the bottom, of the centre band of the large 2nd class, and on the left-hand band of all other values •



The 2008 Guernsey Yearbook



Guernsey Post
Postage 2008

Guernsey Post
Postage 2008

Guernsey Granite at St Paul's Cathedral

IN 1861, a lot of Guernsey granite was used in the construction of the Royal Albert Memorial in London. The granite, obtained from the quarry at Les Vardes, was used in the construction of the memorial, which stands as a testament to the island's contribution to the world.

The granite was used in the construction of the memorial, which stands as a testament to the island's contribution to the world. The granite was used in the construction of the memorial, which stands as a testament to the island's contribution to the world.

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GUERNSEY POST HAS PUBLISHED another interesting and well produced yearbook, entitled *Bailiwick of Guernsey Stamps: The Complete 2008 Collection*. In his introduction Gordon Steele, Guernsey Post Managing Director, says: 'Wherever possible we seek to connect our stamps with the islands, never more so than with the St Paul's commemorative collection which took this plan one step further to include a physical connection. These stamps include ground granite from the Guernsey quarry that supplies materials to the cathedral itself.' This introduction is followed by four pages with details of Guernsey's history, natural beauty, archaeology and architecture, then two pages of photographs and pen-portraits of the 12 designers responsible for the 2008 issues.

The book gives the background story to nine Guernsey issues and four from Alderney: Andy Priaulx (the Triple World Touring Car Champion); Ramsar Sark (flora and fauna); Wild Flora definitives; Mr Men and Little Miss; Europa (Letters); Abstract Guernsey (coastline photography); Ford Model T; Guernsey Granite at St Paul's Cathedral; Christmas foliage; Unspoiled Alderney; Alderney Butterflies; 25 years of Alderney stamps; and 40 years of Aurigny Air Services. The background stories are well-told and technical details are given for each issue (printer, perforation, etc), and the first day of issue postmark illustrated. We learn that Aurigny Air Services was formed by Sir Derrick Bailey, a Second World War pilot, after aeroplane manufacturers Britten Norman told him of the need for air links with Alderney; the stamps feature six of the aircraft which have served the island well during the past 40 years. Guernsey granite was used in the 19th century in the construction of bridges and pavements in London, but its proudest commission was to provide steps for St Paul's Cathedral. Today granite is still sent from the Les Vardes quarry for the cathedral's ongoing maintenance; it is this granite which is used in powder form on the stamps, a technique developed by Cartor Security Printers in France.

The 84 stamps and four miniature sheets are supplied in packets for insertion in the mounts on the relevant pages. It would be preferable if the stamps were supplied on a stockcard, or, even better, in situ on the pages, as only then can the book be fully appreciated. The book is produced in an easy to handle (and store) size, hardbound with dust jacket ●

Guernsey Yearbook Price
£56.94 plus £1.40 postage and packing. Available from Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Envoy House, La Vrangue, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1AB. Telephone 01481 716486. The Yearbooks for 2004-2007 are also still available.

Tales from the Riverbank by Karen Foy

If you're looking for a new thematic with a literary flavour then look no further. March 2009 celebrates the 150th anniversary since the birth of one of our best loved authors – Kenneth Grahame. His classic tale *Wind in the Willows* reminds us of the literary pleasures of youth, and provides an opportunity to create a philatelic collection where moles, badgers, rats and toads rule!

BORN ON 8 March 1859 to parents Cunningham and Bessie Grahame, Kenneth Grahame's early life was plagued by tragedy. Soon after the birth of his brother Roland in 1864, Kenneth and his mother contracted scarlet fever and although the five year old struggled through the sickness, his mother sadly passed away. As a result, his father

turned to drink to overcome his grief and inability to cope so it was decided that Kenneth and his three other siblings would move from their home in Argyll to live with their grandmother in the Berkshire village of Cookham Dene on the banks of the River Thames.

Despite the upheaval, Kenneth eventually excelled at school, gaining many accolades, and was desperate to advance his education by attending Oxford University. Unfortunately his grandmother decided against this idea, as finances would not allow. Instead his career took a different direction and in 1879 he was sent to work at the Bank of England, rising through the ranks to the position of Secretary.

At first Kenneth kept his writing a secret but gradually, as his essays were published under his own name, his works began to feature in magazines and periodicals alongside those of Kipling and George Bernard Shaw. He also wrote a series of stories about a group of children and their guardians which mirrored his own childhood and upbringing. By 1895, a collection of 18 of these stories was published under the title of *The Golden Age*, followed by a sequel in 1898 called *Dream Days*.

His marriage to Elspeth Thompson led to the birth of their only child, Alastair, in 1900. Sadly, the boy suffered from ill health and several disabilities which the couple found hard to acknowledge, but it was during these early years that Kenneth enjoyed entertaining Alastair with numerous bedtime stories about a character he had created, called Toad. These adventures would form the later chapters of a novel he was writing called *Wind in the Willows*. After his retirement from the Bank in 1908, he completed the book but was disappointed when it was initially rejected.

Eventually, after much campaigning, *Wind in the Willows* was published in 1910 by Methuen and Co. Although the critics gave it a negative review, the public loved it, ensuring that numerous reprints were required, and guaranteeing that the story would continue to bring pleasure to millions of children and adults alike, well into the 21st century!

Commemorative connections *Wind in the Willows* is, without doubt, a classic work of children's literature, and has stood the test of time with many of its young readers sharing the delights of the story and its characters with their own children. The animals who live in the fictional 'Wild Wood' provide the ideal starting point for your own specialised collection but no 'Willows' thematic would be complete without some philatelic references to the book itself.



10½p

The Wind in the Willows
The Year of the Child

Royal Mail paid its own tribute to *Wind in the Willows* on 11 July 1979 when a 10½p stamp featuring Toad, Badger, Mole and Ratty (above) was issued as part of a set of four to mark the Year of the Child. In February 1993, ten 1st class commemorative Greetings Stamps were issued under the theme of 'Giving' – here, Toad and Mole (right) appear alongside other literary legends such as Rupert Bear, Peter Rabbit and Long John Silver. ►





Frogs and toads on stamps, from top left: Pondlife 2001, St Vincent 1980, Zambia 1999, Millennium Water and Coast 2000, Nature Conservation 1993 and Animal Tales 2006.

Character creation Kenneth Grahame managed to capture many aspects of his character's real-life counterparts in his novel, and this is well worth considering when tracking down your own examples. As the first character to be introduced in the story, Mole is a mild mannered, home loving creature who is slightly overawed by the hectic life of the riverbank. Most moles burrow, but some are actually aquatic or semi aquatic. Their cylindrical bodies are covered in a black fur which doesn't lie in any particular direction, allowing them to travel easily backwards or forwards. They have tiny ears and small eyes with poor eyesight – you may notice on the 1993 Greetings stamp that Mole has been artistically portrayed complete with a set of spectacles to aid his vision.

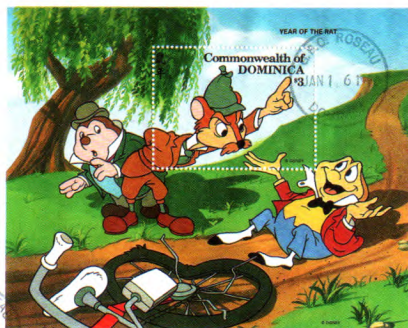
Found in North America, Asia and Europe but strangely enough, not in Ireland, moles are solitary creatures that live alone and only get together for a few hours with female creatures for breeding purposes in February. The mother will then build a large molehill known as a fortress, where she gives birth to her young during April and May. There are usually four baby moles to a litter, and they leave the nest after five or six weeks to start their own independent lives.

Rodent reflections Ratty was in fact a water vole and, as the largest British vole, this animal is often mistaken for a rat. With dark fur, a round body and a short, fat face, they can grow to a length of between 12 and 20cm with the addition of a long, fur-covered tail. Found across Europe, they were once widespread in mainland Britain but their numbers are now in a significant decline, and they would have been a much more common sight in the late 1800s when Grahame wrote his tale. Water voles feed mainly on grasses and other plant material in their natural habitat of ditches, dykes, slow moving rivers and grasslands. They are good swimmers, but tend to burrow along the riverbank to make their nests and raise their young.

Commonwealth of DOMINICA



Disney's LUNAR CALENDAR
迪斯尼農曆十二生肖



In 1996 Disney got in on the act, with their adaptation *The Adventures of Mr Toad*, with this cartoon version of Mole, Ratty and Toad to celebrate the Year of the Rat and Lunar Calendar.

For those who prefer to think of Ratty as a Rat rather than a Water Vole, 2008 provided a host of examples for the Chinese Year of the Rat. A 1996 Jersey minisheet depicts another anthropomorphised rodent in a coat, scarf and carrying a top hat. A similar 1999 Jersey minisheet issued for the Year of the Rabbit could also be added to your woodland theme.

Amphibian adventures When Ratty persuades Mole to have a break from his spring cleaning and join him for a ride in his rowing boat, the pair pass by Toad Hall, residence of the jovial, fun loving yet 'know it all' Toad. His interests move erratically from one obsession to another and his craze for motor cars lands him in all sorts of bother, resulting in a prison sentence!

Toads and frogs have featured on a number of British issues. In 1986, the cover of a 50p booklet, containing three 17p Machin stamps, was decorated with the green outlined image of a common frog. In May 1986, the Natterjack Toad was the subject of the 34p stamp in the Europa series celebrating Environmental Protection and a distinctive pair of frog's legs' was featured on the 26p stamp in the Millennium Water & Coast issue. A Common Frog graced the 1st class stamp in the 2001 Europa Pond Life set, whilst another literary character in the form of Beatrix Potter's famous toad – Mr Jeremy Fisher – became part of the 2006 series on Animal Tales for Children.

Woodland items need not be limited to GB issues. In 1989, Zambia produced four stamps featuring images of frogs and toads: the Red Toad takes centre stage on the first stamp, depicted on an aquatic plant ready to jump into the water. The Grenadines paid their own wildlife tribute in September 1986 with a 30¢ issue illustrated with a Giant Toad, and the long tongue of the Crapaud Toad was portrayed on a 1991 issue from Montserrat. There really are a wide variety of unusual examples to be found – it's just a question of doing your researching and hunting them down. ►

This limited edition first day cover for the 2004 Woodland Animals issue has an attractive handstamp from Badger's Mount in Sevenoaks. Items combining covers, postmarks and cachets can really help add to a topical collection.



The bold and the brave Luckily for Grahame's Toad, he had good friends in Mole, Ratty and Badger who helped to get him out of the many scrapes he found himself in. When Toad Hall is taken over by weasels, ferrets and stoats from the Wild Wood, Badger takes charge of the 'repelling forces' as their natural leader. Typical badgers are heavy-set with short legs and a gruff appearance – a characteristic that Grahame captures extremely well in his portrayal. The term 'becheur', from the French word for 'digger', was introduced to describe the animal during the reign of William the Conqueror, and gradually evolved into the name badger, although 'brock' is another term used, from the Celtic 'brokko' meaning grey. Fiercely protective of their young, they can fight off much larger animals to defend themselves and can run at speeds of up to 30km per hour when necessary.

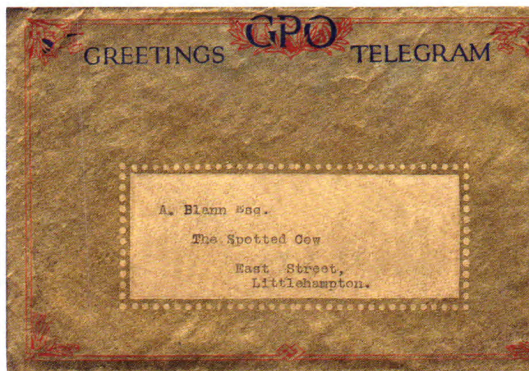
The male boar, female sow and their young cubs live in underground burrows or setts, with a larger gathering of badgers referred to as a colony or a clan. Although they are carnivores, badgers usually dig for small mammals and rodents rather than attempting to stalk their prey in the open. Luckily, Badger never felt the need to make a snack of Mole or Ratty!

Grahame's Badger is a stern but kind character who supports and stands by his friends with his brave yet no-nonsense attitude. Issued as part of a set of stamps, a photo of a badger appearing out of his sett was chosen as one of ten images to illustrate the Woodland Animals series released on 16 September 2004.

A burrowing mole also makes an appearance on this 2004 compilation as well as very curious stoat straight from the depths of the 'Wild Wood', but why not track down the Fauna and Flora set featuring a stoat, hare, fox and a deer issued by Ireland on 30 July 1980 for yet another demonstration of the popularity of this area of interest.

This is a thematic which can take you back to the literary pleasures of your youth, whilst also providing a fascinating glimpse into the natural world of our British wildlife. We know that Grahame's characters loved nothing more than messing about in boats and creating chaos in the countryside, so why not join them... Take a walk on the wild side, delve that little bit further into this subject, and you may discover a whole new world that you knew very little about ●

My covers collection by Martin Robinson



THE BRITISH TELEGRAPH service was at its peak in 1913, when 82 million items were sent, but by 1934 the annual total was only 35,250,000. The main reasons were that the use of telephones was rapidly growing and the postal service could deliver letters and cards to most places in the country within 24 hours at a much lower cost. Savings had been effected by improving equipment and eliminating uneconomic routes, and the charge for a telegram was reduced to 'nine words for 6d', which made the service more attractive to domestic and commercial customers; the number sent in 1939 rose to over 50 million. In the three years after greetings telegrams were introduced in 1935 the number sent each week rose from 26,000 to 100,000, and by the time the service was suspended in 1943 because of the war, nine million a year were being delivered.

Greetings telegrams make a popular and convenient set to collect: between 1935 and 1979 when the service ceased there were 77 basic designs (although with quite a number of variations). The Post Office commissioned the best graphic artists, including Rex Whistler, Macdonald Gill, Eric Fraser, Rowland Emmett, Norman Thelwell, Clive Abbott and Edward Ardizzone, and the designs are attractive. As well as general issues, over the years there were special types for Valentine's Day, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, the birth of babies and coming of age. The telegrams were all multicoloured designs on paper, apart from one wartime economy issue, but from 1957 'luxury' versions in the form of large greetings cards became available. The service was suspended between 1943 and 1950, because of the war and the subsequent shortage of materials.

The first form of 1935 was designed by Margaret Calkin James, a Post Office employee and, compared with later issues, is relatively formal. There are boxes at the top for offices of origin and receipt, serial number and date, but these were discontinued by the next year. The decoration is non-figurative apart from a small dove on each side carrying an envelope, and musical notation at the bottom representing a peal of bells. To prevent the impression that the telegraph boy was bringing bad news, a gold envelope was used, bearing a red and blue design and a cream address panel ●

An example of the first kind of Greetings telegram, sent on 31 July 1935, a week after the service began. The design is a normal telegram form with a decorative border added. The gold envelope was to prevent the impression that bad news was enclosed.

With acknowledgements to Ian Wilkinson's *British Greetings Telegrams*, 1991.

Concorde at 40 Brian Asquith's collection

THIS month marks the 40th anniversary of the first test flight of Concorde, from Toulouse on Sunday 2 March 1969. The next morning the GPO issued three stamps to mark the successful flight. To commemorate the anniversary Concorde was featured in the Classic Design issue in January, and a Concorde generic sheet goes on sale on 2 March. We are pleased to feature some more pages from the award-winning Concorde collection of Brian Asquith. Other items from Brian's collection were shown in the *Bulletin* in August, September and October 2003 •

A photograph of Concorde's first test flight crew, 2 March 1969, and the official press pass for the event.

FASTER THAN A BULLET - The Concorde Story
Concorde 001, F-WTSS
2 March 1969

First Flight



On the reverse, handwritten in capital letters:-
 "PHOTO TAKEN APPROX. 5 MINUTES/ AFTER FIRST FLIGHT OF PROTOTYPE 001/
 2 MARCH 1969. TOULOUSE BLAGNAC./ 4 CREW MEMBERS./ CHARLES B. HARRISON."

Official
 Press
 Card



FASTER THAN A BULLET - The Concorde Story

French Prototype 001, F-WTSS

2 March 1969

First Concorde Flight

After a number of delays the first flight of the French prototype took place from Toulouse at 3.38 pm. on Sunday, 2nd March 1969 with André Turcat at the controls.

This cover was one of half a dozen known examples to have been carried on the maiden flight and bears the signature of Monsieur Turcat who kindly signed it for me when I met him 20 years later on 2 March 1989.

The Anglo-French Concorde project was formally launched on 29 November 1962 when an "Agreement between the Governments of France and the United Kingdom regarding the development and p...

Starting with the first flight and event, the exhibit sets out to show proving flights, commercial service introduction of the Brannif Wash

Before Concorde entered service shown which were carried, often favour on some of these journeys actual flights. There are also several including unusual accept:

Bibliography

The Concorde Collectors Handbook
Concorde a Travers les Timbres et
Concorde Study Circle Newsletter.



B. L. Asquith, Esq.
 Assistant Secretary,
 Midland Bank Limited,
 Head Office,
 Poultry,
 LONDON E.C.2.

Left: this cover is one of only six known covers carried on the first flight. Below: a FDC of the British stamps, and the instruction sent out with them to post offices. The instruction to issue the set was phoned by the district offices to local branch post offices early on Monday morning, a day after the flight.

IMPORTANT**SD 2826 P**

These Concorde Stamps are not to be exhibited or sold until further instructions are issued.

The world of online philately by Glenn H Morgan FRPSL



www.britishpostmarksociety.org.uk Subject buttons on each page make navigation very easy, and although the background colour is tiring, it does not detract from the useful content.

FOLLOWING THE recent death of Ron Negus, I was invited to continue this popular series. I start with a look at the British Postmark Society's web-site (address opposite).

For over 50 years members of the British Postmark Society have collected and recorded postmarks used on British mail. Founded in 1958, it is a registered charity that exists to promote and co-ordinate the study and collection of British postal markings, particularly of the 20th century and subsequently, and the means and mechanisms by which they are applied, and to publish and disseminate the results of their studies.

Members' interests include hand and machine datestamps, slogan and special event postmarks, explanatory and instructional labels and markings, Post Office postage labels, Royal Mail SmartStamps and Online Postage indicia, and printed postage impressions of Royal Mail and other licensed postal operators. Its website acts as a fine introduction to these interests.

The website is extremely easy to navigate, but I found the use of a strong yellow background colour to every page to be extremely tiring on the eyes. A welcome page details the aims of the BPS, while a membership section records benefits, subscription details (just £12pa for UK residents) and a downloadable application form. The BPS Journal appears four times a year and its web page records the varied main contents of the most recent four issues. A downloads page enables anyone to obtain a valuable free cumulative index to the journal from its inception in 1958 through to 2007 as an Excel spreadsheet. An extensive BPS library list shows around 350 publications available for members to borrow if resident in the UK and additionally serves as a useful bibliography of British postmarks and allied subjects.

The BPS has always been extremely good at publishing the results of its researches, and there are currently 11 reasonably priced books listed for sale. Anyone with an interest in Slogan, Special Event, Skeleton or First Day cancellations is well catered for by these publications.

There are currently 18 links to other websites recorded that the BPS webmaster believes may be of interest to students and collectors of British postal markings. These are listed under the headings of Members' Sites, Philatelic Organisations, Postal History and Postal Services and there is bound to be something new to readers of the *Bulletin*.

A section on Post Office closures details the changes currently underway to the network of branches. It mentions the Post Office Essentials trial at offices offering a limited range of services, such as that located at Old Town Hastings, and also the relationship with the high street retailer WH Smith, where Post Office branches are increasingly being located inside these stores. Elsewhere, Post Office branded 'Travel Kiosks' are appearing

that offer foreign currency services only in WH Smith. All of these developments have their own range of self-inking datestamps (sids), and examples are illustrated on the website.

Postage labels have their own concise page, and the recent changes to Horizon counter labels for Inland and Forces mail, together with the trials and subsequent live Post and Go labels are all recorded. A link to <http://postagelabelsuk.com> enables visitors to keep up to date with new developments in this growing field of interest. The final pages of the website relate to Postage Paid Impressions, so-called 'Condition 9 Access Mail' licence holders and a listing of the licenced postal operators in the UK ●

Commemorative covers New this month



Buckingham Covers Two covers to celebrate Darwin's centenary and the 150th anniversary of *On the Origin of Species*. The stamp cover is produced with The HMS Beagle Trust and a limited number are signed by Trust Patron Sir Robin Knox Johnson. A few miniature sheet covers are signed by the yachtswoman Dame Ellen Macarthur. **Prices** Stamp or miniature sheet FDC unsigned £10.95, signed £24.95 ●



Benham A miniature sheet for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, with an Alloway, Ayr handstamp for his birthplace and a 1966 1s3d Burns stamp tied by a cachet. Media code BPE0902A, product code BLCS 418A. **Price** £11.95, postage £2.50 ●



GB Covers Hand-made Design Classics FDC (edition of 40) featuring differing versions of images on the stamps. A Design Classics set is cancelled with a special Spitfire handstamp. Each signed and numbered. **Price** £16.50 postpaid. Remittances to GB Covers ●



M Tanner 'The Mummy' 1939 Hammer Film cover (30 numbered) featuring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee. Supplied with postcard of overall image. **Price** £15.99, postage £1.50 worldwide. Extra postcards 60p plus postage if ordered separately. Similar 6 x 4 maximum card (12 numbered) £10 plus postage. Send SAE for details of other Hammer covers ●

Orders and enquiries

The Benham Group Unit K
Concept Court, Shearway
Business Park, Folkestone
CT19 4RG. Telephone 08708
500 654. Online orders: www.benham.co.uk

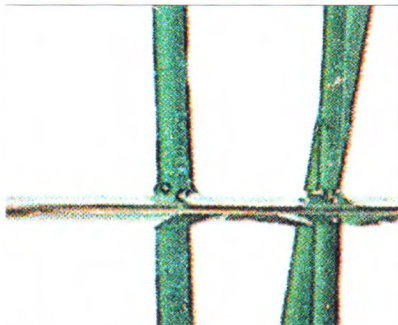
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www.buckinghamcovers.com

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mail derek@gbcovers.co.uk

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Road, West Croydon CR0
2LA. Fax/Answerphone 020
8684 9757 (credit card orders
only)

Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words in the style above. The text should briefly describe the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear, and give retail prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come first-served basis and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Copy for consideration for the May Bulletin should be sent to The Editor (address on p195) by 6 March. Copy for June should arrive by 3 April. The Editor regrets he cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning covers announced here.

Competitions Enter for a chance to win the 2008 Yearbook



December identify The detail was from the 1993 Aladdin Greetings stamp. The winner was D Taylor, Inverness.

December knowledge The answers: 1) Jeffery Matthews; 2) 2002 Coastlines; 3) Brian Bevan. The winner was K Bowler, Canada.

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

- 1 What colour was the George VI 10d definitive?
- 2 Who was the designer of the 1965 Post Office Tower stamps?
- 3 Where will a General World Stamp Exhibition be held in April 2009?

Send your answer (addressed to either the March *Identify* competition or the March *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 to be drawn in each competition on 10 April will each receive a 2008 Yearbook. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, first day covers or stamp cards will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees. ●

Events

Until April 'Lions, Leopards, Unicorns & Dragons' exhibition commemorating 50 years of regional stamps at BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

Until 19 April 12th Annual 'Stamp Lincs' exhibition, Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln. Theme 'Stamp Collecting Today'. **Enquiries** P Wain 01522 525984; Museum 01522 528448.

25-28 February Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. Cricket displays, dealers, youth activities, etc. **Enquiries** 01252 628006.

26-28 February Philatex (London International Stamp & Cover Show) at Lawrence Hall, Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat St, London SW1. **Enquiries** 01793 513431, www.stampshows.net

7 March Streetly Philatelic Society Stamp Fair at Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10.00-16.30. National dealers in stamps, postal history, covers and postcards. Displays by society members. Admission 20p, children 10p. Light refreshments and parking available. **Enquiries** B Hyner 0121 357 5340, or e-mail a.smith229@btinternet.com

28 March WestBex 2009 stamp fair, Kennet School, Thatcham. Organised by Thatcham & District PS. 23 dealers.

10-16 April China 2009 FIP General World Stamp Exhibition at Luoyang City, Henan Province, China. Marks 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. **UK enquiries** Richard West, 39 Waverley Avenue, Sutton SM1 3JX ●

Late news



Design Classics Mary Quant at the launch in Carnaby Street, with 1960s icons the Mini, and her own design, the mini skirt.

Royal Mail news On 28 January, Lord Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, announced that Donald Brydon CBE is to succeed Allan Leighton as the Chairman of Royal Mail in March. Mr Brydon is Chairman of global technology group Smiths Group plc, and of the London Metal Exchange. He commented: 'Royal Mail is one of Britain's greatest organisations and I am honoured to be asked to lead it in the next phase of its continuing modernisation. There is clearly a big challenge ahead, but also great opportunities to meet our customers' needs. I am delighted to be joining the board at this time and look forward to a positive involvement which will benefit our customers, employees and the taxpayer.'

Mr Leighton stated: 'It has been a privilege for me to have been the Chairman of Royal Mail for the past seven years and to have seen the company through a period of enormous change – with a turnaround from losses of more than £1 million every working day to today's position where all four businesses in the Group are profitable at the same time for the first time in 20 years, and the company has the stable base needed for the next phase of its transformation plan, and is on course to almost double its profits in the current financial year.' ●

The British Postal Museum & Archive Over 3000 searchable postal history records go online on the BPMA website (www.postalheritage.org.uk) from 2 March. The listings of Penny Posts (including 5th Clause Posts), Mileage Marks and Missent Marks comprise all covers held in the BPMA philatelic collection, with introductions illustrated with specific types, and a few examples of complete covers. The lists have been compiled by volunteers over 15 years – these sections by postal historian Mike Bament. From the beginning of the postal service in 1635, letters were charged according to the distance carried. To assist the Post Office in determining the correct postal rate, mileage marks were used from 1784. This principle continued until 1839 when Rowland Hill's reforms introduced a uniform postage rate based on weight. The earliest known 'missent' handstamp is on a letter addressed to Newark in 1787. 'Missent' and 'misdirected' handstamps were used in several designs, framed and unframed, and various colours. This is just the first part of material that will be made available online. Subsequent listings are to include Shipped Letters, London Markings and Railway Letters.

Mike Bament commented: 'This hugely exciting project will enable increased access to the BPMA's unique collections, and will be of great benefit to postal historians researching these subjects. The search engine is simple to use, with the listings directly referring to specialised catalogues which are widely used for the whole of the UK and Ireland' ●

Thematic meetings The British Thematic Association will hold a Thematic Workshop at Waterside United Reformed Church Hall, Bath Road, Emsworth, Hants on 21 March. This will be followed by a joint BTA/Postal Stationery Society meeting at St Joseph's RC College, Ocotal Way, Swindon on 13 June. For further details of the BTA and its activities write to Peter Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford CM23 2BY, or see website www.brit-thematic-assoc.com ●

Visit the glorious United Kingdom



The five sheets in the 'Glorious' series are: Wales (1 March 2007), England (23 April 2007), Scotland (30 November 2007), Northern Ireland (11 March 2008) and UK (29 September 2008). The Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland sheets all contain the 1st class country stamps for the relevant country; the UK sheet has five stamps from each country. All have adjoining labels featuring beautiful scenery, buildings and landmarks. Price £7.74 per sheet.

Order codes: AT031 (Wales), AT032 (England), AT039 (Scotland), AT040 (Northern Ireland) and AT044 (UK)

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Royal Mail

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