*The magazine for collectors of UK stamps*

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Royal Mail

# Philatelic Bulletin

VOLUME 57 NO.5

# Game on!




Royal Mail kick off the year's Special Stamp programme with the Video Games issue on 21 January

STAMP BOOK ADVERTISING • THE STORY OF THE BANTAM • 2020 STAMP CALENDAR

# Looking for a special gift?







## Royal Mail Yearbook 2019

If you are struggling for ideas for a special gift for someone important in your life, our Annual Collections could provide the answer. They comprise a wide range of collectibles, along with pictures, facts and insightful information that you won't find anywhere else. This beautifully crafted, individually numbered, limited edition Yearbook for example, makes an exquisite gift and a wonderful souvenir of 2019. This glossy hard-back book with protective casing, comes complete with a wealth of details, photography and art celebrating the significance of each issue. The book houses every mint Special Stamp and Miniature Sheet from 2019, along with the stories behind them. It's just one of several wonderful Annual Products that are on sale now. To find out more simply visit: **www.royalmail.com/annualproducts** or call **03457 641 641**.

Royal Mail

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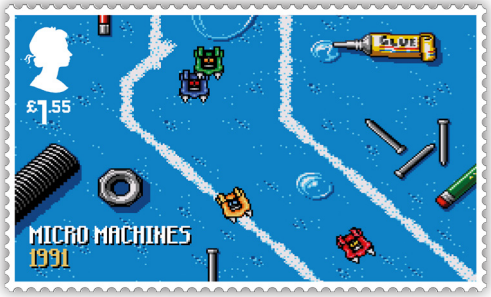

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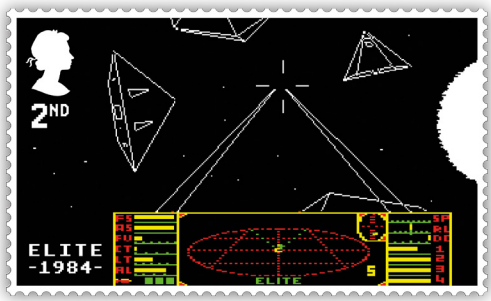

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**Editor** Tim Noble, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.15 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £20.95 UK and Europe; £26.95 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.68 and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £10.16, are also available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 2633 2310 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

# Video




Video Games – Elite 1984 – *Second Class*




Video Games – Sensible Soccer 1992 – *First Class*




Video Games – Worms 1995 – *Second Class*




Video Games – Lemmings 1991 – *First Class*

| Video Games – Stamp Specifications | |
|---|---|
| Date of issue | 21 January |
| Number of stamps | Eight (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60) |
| Design | Supple Studio and Bitmap Books |
| Stamp format | Landscape |
| Stamp size | 50mm x 30mm |
| Printer | International Security Printers |
| Print process | Lithography |
| Perforations | 14 x 14 |
| Phosphor | Bars as appropriate |
| Gum | PVA |

Britain's major contribution to the video game industry is esteemed with this retro themed stamp set to be issued on 21 January. Gamers' favourites from the 80s and 90s are featured – many of which became global successes. The Miniature Sheet features stamps that focus on the Tomb Raider series including the more recent 2013 release. The issue will no doubt rekindle joyful memories for all that have played these UK-designed games.

**Elite 1984** BBC Micro and Acorn Electron/Joystick or keys

Originally created in 1984 by David Braben and Ian Bell for the BBC Micro and Acorn Electron home computers, but released on all of the popular platforms of the era shortly thereafter, Elite is a seminal 3D space-trading, combat simulator in which the player travels the galaxy in search of

# Games



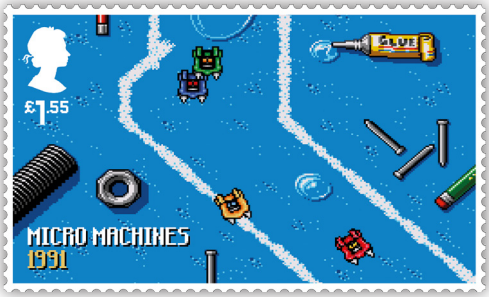




Video Games – Wipeout 1995 – *£1.55*




Video Games – Dizzy 1987 – *£1.60*




Video Games – Micro Machines 1991 – *£1.55*




Video Games – Populous 1989 – *£1.60*

action, adventure and profit. Starting out with a basic spaceship and a meagre 100-credit bank balance, the objective is to amass a financial fortune by engaging in activities such as asteroid mining and the trading of goods from star system to star system, or more risky pursuits such as piracy, bounty hunting and military missions. Success in any of these endeavours earns credits that the player can use to buy increasingly more powerful and sophisticated spaceships, enabling them to partake in even more perilous adventures with the ultimate goal of reaching the game's top-most rank of 'Elite'.

**Worms 1995** Commodore Amiga / Mouse

Created by Andy Davidson, Worms started out as a home-brewed entry for a magazine's programming contest. The game didn't win the competition but was signed up by Team17 a few months later after Davidson showed it to representatives of the long-running British software publisher at a computer trade show. The game is very simple but highly addictive. It tasks the player to take control of a squad of armed worms and use them to eliminate an opposing group of worms situated on the other side of the screen. Each worm is equipped with over 20 different weapons and tools, all of which have their own unique functionalities. It is up to the player to decide how best to use these items to destroy the opposing army of worms, which adds an element of puzzling to the artillery-orientated action. With its cartoon-like graphics and amusing sound effects, Worms is a highly original game that proved very popular during the mid-1990s. ►

**Sensible Soccer 1992** Commodore Amiga / Joystick

Football video games have been consistently popular since the start of the computer age. Initially simple in nature, these games grew in graphical and gameplay complexity throughout the 1980s until, in 1992, Sensible Software created what many believed was one of the finest digital iterations of the sport. Featuring a zoomed-out, top-down view of the field, Sensible Soccer incorporates an innovative and highly responsive control scheme that delivers slick and smooth football action. The highlight of the game is the player's ability to bend and lift the ball after they kick it, resulting in spectacular banana shots and inch-perfect curled passes. With its fiercely competitive gameplay between two players, Sensible Soccer was an instant hit and continues to be seen as the classic arcade-style football game.

**Lemmings 1991** Commodore Amiga / Mouse

The product of a Commodore Amiga Deluxe Paint animation experiment, Lemmings was created by DMA Design's Mike Dailly and David Jones. The action-puzzle game, which plays out over a number of increasingly difficult screens, requires the player to safely guide a group of lemmings to the clearly marked exit. Each lemming continually walks in the direction it is facing, meaning that it will unwittingly stroll into hazards – from precipitous drops to pits of fire. To prevent that from happening, the player assigns different skills to the lemmings, such as a blocker that will make other lemmings turn around, climbers that will create steps over hazards or diggers that can burrow through the landscape. All must be used together to create a safe route to exit, in order to move onto the next, more challenging level.

**Wipeout 1995** Sony PlayStation / Joypad

Take a trip to 2052 and compete in the F3600 Anti-Gravity League in this phenomenal racing game. Developed in Liverpool at Sony Psygnosis's offices, Wipeout features a fleet of super-fast floating rocket-like craft that players use to race along tight, twisting tracks that wend their way through a series of futuristic cityscapes. The action is highly competitive; even more so when you consider that participants can pick up a variety of weapons such as missiles, bombs and mines to use offensively against their fellow competitors. As well as featuring excellent racing action, Wipeout boasts one of the first fully licensed gaming soundtracks, headlined by leading electronic dance music artists of the mid-1990s such as The Chemical Brothers, Orbital and Leftfield. Add to that notable visual touches created by famed graphics company The Designers Republic, and you have a game that looks, sounds and plays absolutely brilliantly.

**Micro Machines 1991** Sega Mega Drive / Joypad

Initially conceived in 1989 as an original racing title called California Buggy Boys, Codemasters subsequently struck a deal with US toymaker Galoob in 1990 to license its popular Micro Machines toy-car line and turn the game into a fully endorsed product. The result was an absolutely terrific viewed-from-above racing game that met with a rapturous critical reception when it was released the following year. The game's objective is simple: players take control of a miniature car and race against computer-controlled opponents to be first past the finishing post. The action is fast and furious, taking place on tracks in a variety of household settings, such as on a breakfast table, a pool table and in a tree house. However, each course is packed with many humorous hazards, making the racing both challenging and fun.

**Dizzy 1987** ZX Spectrum / Joystick or keys

The brainchild of a pair of very young coders, Andrew and Philip Oliver – known to gaming fans as the Oliver Twins – Dizzy is a whimsical platform game starring the titular character, an anthropomorphic egg. The objective of this much-loved piece of British software is to guide Dizzy through the fairytale land of Kathmandu and search for a variety of magical items which, when combined in a magic cauldron, can be used to defeat the evil wizard Zaks. This might sound like a straightforward task, but Dizzy's mission is impeded by a variety of fiendishly tricky riddles and object-orientated puzzles that he has to solve – all while avoiding the dangerous denizens that inhabit the game's many screens. Dizzy is a notoriously difficult game but that didn't stop it from becoming popular with players when it was released by Codemasters in mid-1987 for the ZX Spectrum, Commodore 64 and Amstrad CPC home computers.

21.1.2020

**Populous 1989** Commodore Amiga / Mouse

What would you do if you were a deity? That was the question posed by Populous's designer Peter Molyneux and his team at Bullfrog Productions when they created the first-ever 'god game' in 1989. Players assume the mantle of a divine being charged with overseeing the health and well-being of their followers. To this end, the player uses their supreme powers to cultivate the land so that their followers can prosper, growing in strength and numbers to eventually overcome their enemy – another group of followers who have their own god. The player is able to unleash earthquakes, swamps and floods on the enemy to set back their development – but the opposing god can do likewise, resulting in an apocalyptic battle where there can be only one victor.




Video Games – Tomb Raider 1996 – *First Class*




Video Games – Tomb Raider 2013 – *First Class*



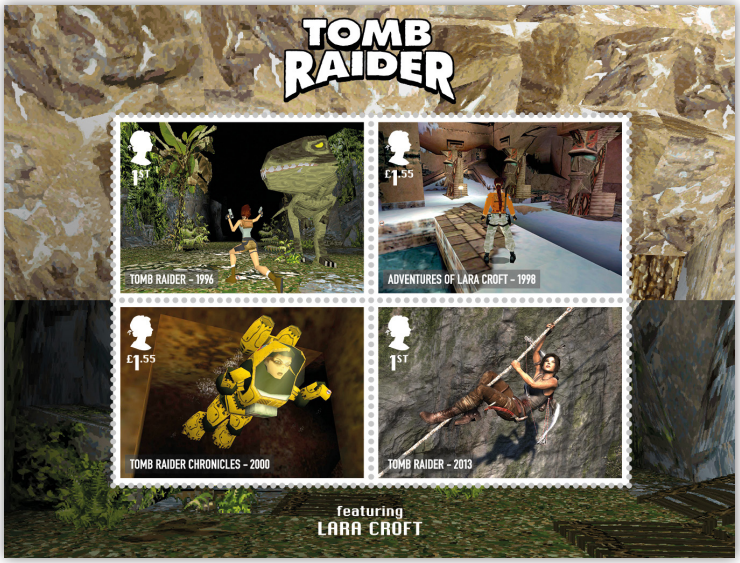

Video Games – Adventures of Lara Croft 1998 – *£1.55*




Video Games – Tomb Raider Chronicles 2000 – *£1.55*

The Tomb Raider Miniature Sheet comprises two First Class and two £1.55 values. Designed and created at Derby-based Core Design, the very first Tomb Raider game was released in 1996 on Sony PlayStation, Sega Saturn and PC. Starring archaeologist Lara Croft, the game took the form of a grand 3D adventure in which the eponymous tomb raider travels the world in search of the three parts of the Atlantean Scion, a powerful artefact used by a former ruler of Atlantis to create an army of mutant beings. Tomb Raider was a massive hit, selling over seven million copies and kicking off a series of subsequent Lara Croft adventures that spanned 17 games and three big-screen movies. The latest game in the series, Shadow of the Tomb Raider, was released in 2018 and sold over four million copies worldwide.

Miniature Sheet




ROYAL MAIL • TALLENTS HOUSE • EDINBURGH • FIRST DAY • 21.1.2020 •

Miniature Sheet Carrier Front and Miniature Sheet Carrier Back (below)

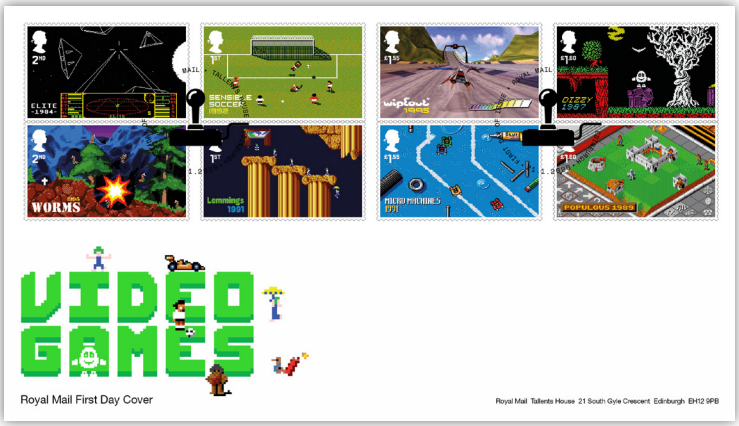






*Stamp acknowledgements: Elite image © 1984 Ian Bell and David Braben; Worms © 1995–2020 Team17. Team17 and Worms are trademarks or registered trademarks of Team17 Digital Limited. Original concept Andy Davidson; Sensible Soccer, Dizzy and Micro Machines © The Codemasters Software Company Ltd. Micro Machines is a trademark of Hasbro and is used with permission © 2020 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. Licensed by Hasbro; Lemmings™ © 2007–2020 Sony Interactive Entertainment Europe. WIPEOUT™ © 1995–2020 Sony Interactive Entertainment Europe. "Lemmings" and "WIPEOUT" are trademarks or registered trademarks of Sony Interactive Entertainment Europe. All rights reserved; Populous © 1989 to 1998 Electronic Arts Inc*

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First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp which depicts a video game's joystick and First Day Cover with the alternative pictorial handstamp which has the wording 'GAME OVER' in two dimensional lettering




FD2002-TH



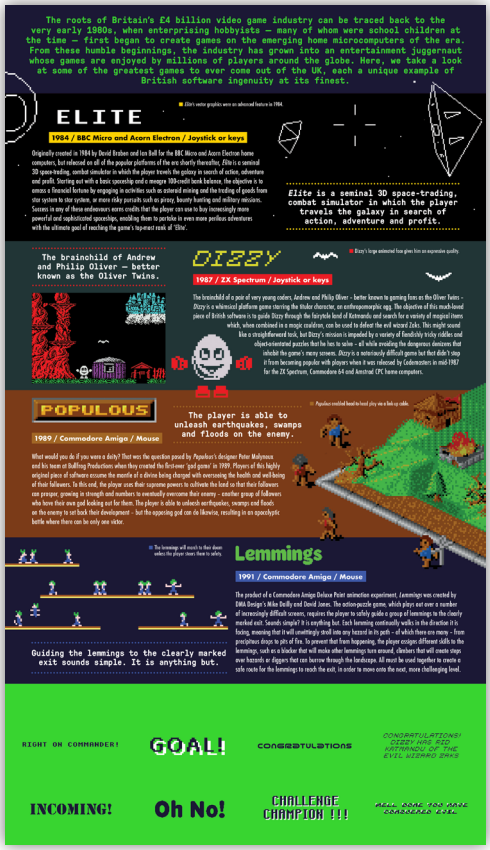

FD2002-PL




FD2002-NP

| Video Games – Miniature Sheet Specifications | |
|---|---|
| Date of issue | 21 January |
| Number of stamps | Four (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55) |
| Design | Supple Studio and Bitmap Books |
| Miniature Sheet size | 115mm x 89mm |
| Stamp format | Landscape |
| Stamp size | 41mm x 30mm |
| Printer | International Security Printers |
| Print process | Lithography |
| Perforations | 14.5 x 14 |
| Phosphor | Bars as appropriate |
| Gum | PVA |

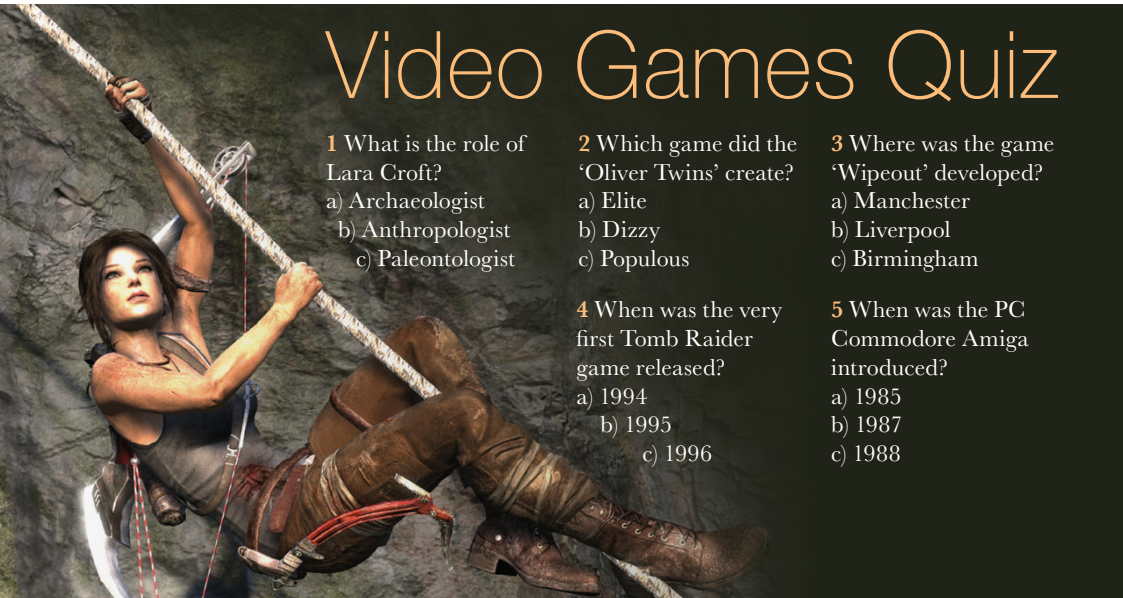
| Video Games – Prices | |
|---|---|
| Set of 8 Special Stamps | £8.92 |
| Miniature Sheet | £4.50 |
| Presentation Pack | £14.25 |
| First Day Cover Stamps | £11.30 |
| First Day Cover Miniature Sheet | £6.00 |
| Stamp Souvenir | £11.30 |
| Miniature Sheet Souvenir | £6.00 |
| First Day Envelope | £0.30 |
| Retail Stamp Book | £4.20 |
| Generic Sheet | £11.40 |
| Postcards (13 in set) | £5.40 |
| Gamer Collection Pack | £14.95 |
| Tomb Raider Anthology Pack | £17.95 |
| Framed Set of 8 Stamps | £29.99 |
| Gamer Bundle | £45.00 |




Presentation Pack Inner




Presentation Pack Outer



# Video Games Quiz

**1** What is the role of Lara Croft?
a) Archaeologist
b) Anthropologist
c) Paleontologist

**2** Which game did the 'Oliver Twins' create?
a) Elite
b) Dizzy
c) Populous

**3** Where was the game 'Wipeout' developed?
a) Manchester
b) Liverpool
c) Birmingham

**4** When was the very first Tomb Raider game released?
a) 1994
b) 1995
c) 1996

**5** When was the PC Commodore Amiga introduced?
a) 1985
b) 1987
c) 1988




Presentation Pack




Retail Stamp Book of six First Class stamps – four Machins and two from the Miniature Sheet




**How to enter** Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Video Games quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.noble@royalmail.com.

**Prizes** The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Video Games Presentation Pack.

**Closing Date** 15 February 2020.

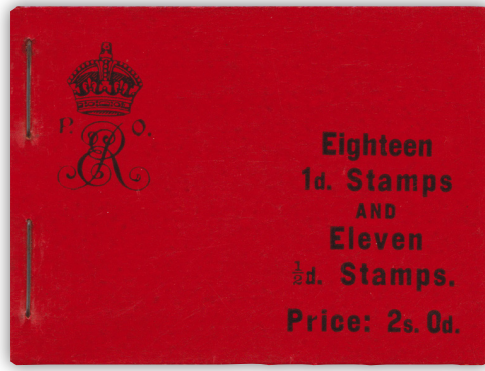
**October solutions – Royal Navy Quiz** 1a 2b 3a 4c 5a
**Winners** Ian Gabriel, Dudley; Paul Moulton, Eastbourne; Mr T Dungate, Broadstone; M P McCartan, Bangor; Clive Stephens, Cambridgeshire.

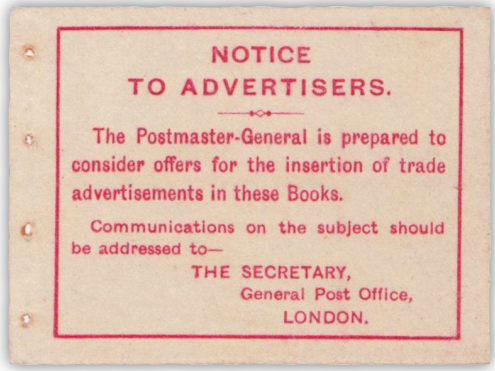
**Terms and conditions** Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. Royal Mail's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. Prizes are subject to availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. The winners' names are available 28 days after closing date. To receive this please send an SAE to The Editor.



# Postal Advertising Books of Stamps

Using the post to advertise has a long history, although it was the introduction of cheap postage in 1840 that made large scale use a practical proposition. The phrase 'postal advertising' nowadays probably brings to mind a deluge of junk mail, although the profits from this do help to keep prices down! But there were cases where the Post Office was directly paid to carry advertisements – for example in stamp books[1] and on machine cancellations – and the first of these are covered in this month's article.




**The Introduction of Advertising** Stamp books were first issued in the UK in 1904. They needed special printing plates and originally ½d was charged for the book itself, over and above the face value of the stamps it contained, to cover production costs. A fairly obvious alternative way to offset these was to accept trade advertising on the covers and interleaves, and in August 1907 the Treasury agreed to allow this, provided the Postmaster-General kept a tight rein on what was accepted.

Invitations were sent out to 24 potential advertisers in October, but as these feelers did not produce any results, in the books issued in May 1908 the

1 Although stamp catalogues have always referred to 'booklets', the Post Office term was 'Books of Stamps', with only the machine vended types called 'booklets'. The terms are used here more or less interchangeably.





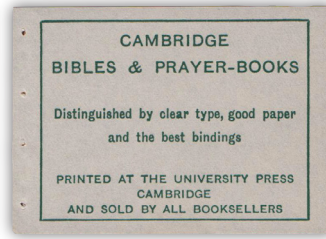


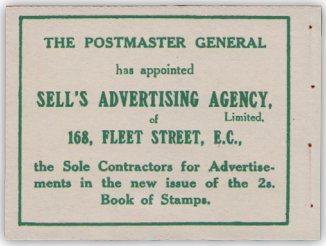


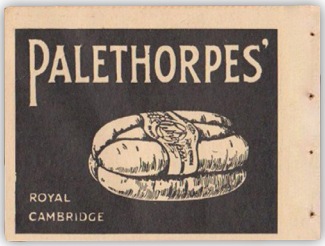


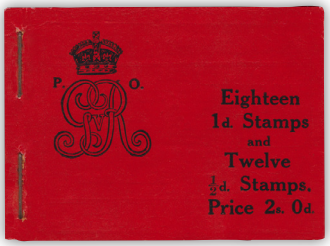







interleaves were used to advertise Post Office products and services. The last page was however a 'NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS', dropping the hint that this could be their advert here. This produced results, and in the next edition of one million books (the standard quantity) six advertisers were accommodated at a charge of £100 for the first page, £25 for the last and £50 for the others.

In 1910 the Post Office invited tenders from advertising agents to handle the sourcing, and in January 1911 signed a contract with the appropriately named Alfred Sell, who they already dealt with as the agent for advertisements in telephone directories. He had a number of bright ideas, most of which met with resistance – a plan to have regional editions with localised adverts fizzled out, and a proposal to employ the unused space on front covers met with a firm refusal at this time on the grounds of appearance (although ads were printed on the back covers from 1911). He had a fairly free hand otherwise, although was informed that ads for alcoholic liquors would not be accepted, nor would those for medicines if they contained 'objectionable references'. An ad for a tonic consisting of wine and meat extract – which sounds not so much objectionable as positively revolting – caused lengthy debate but was eventually allowed (although it never seems to have made it into an actual booklet). The money this brought in, together with reduced printing charges as the result of the new contract with Harrisons in 1910, meant that the extra ½d charge could be dropped.

The uncertainty caused by the outbreak of the First World War naturally caused businesses to proceed with more caution, and trade advertisers did not fill up the available space. From September 1914 the number of pages used for this was halved (as was the payment to Sells), and the remainder used for official notices. However, in September 1917 ads finally appeared on the front cover; the early uncluttered design had been replaced by one with a table of postage rates on the front in 1912, so the objection that it would spoil the appearance could hardly be raised again. The rates table was moved inside and the space used for ads – in the first editions these were for Glaxo and the stamp auctioneers Harmer, Rooke & Co (the first but not the last advertiser from the philatelic trade). Commercial advertising picked up again after the war. ►




*Special thanks to Paul Ramsay for supplying all images not otherwise credited*

By Maurice Buxton and with thanks to all at the Great Britain Philatelic Society for sharing insights and kindly contributing to the creation of this article. www.gbps.org.uk




**Advertising Panes** In January 1924 a new series of the 2s books with six-stamp panes was introduced. They offered flexibility by containing one pane each of ½d, 1d, and 1½d stamps (the last of these being the current letter rate), with the first pane in the booklet making up the remaining 6d with four 1½d stamps. This left two blank spaces of stamp-size watermarked paper to deal with, and at the suggestion of a Mr Howard of the GPO Secretary's Office these were used for advertisements. The first were for Millennium Oat-Flakes and Harmer, Rooke (again getting in on the ground floor of a postal innovation). This layout continued in use to 1940, through three reigns and the change to photogravure stamps in 1935 – although the advertisements themselves were normally printed separately, in letterpress (mostly in black, but green was also used). Special booklet plates were laid down leaving four vertical columns blank. A wide range of advertisements appeared on these se-tenant labels, as a look at the specialised catalogue will show. One novel type used by Harmer, Rooke at the suggestion of stamp dealer Charles Nissen had the top label deliberately printed inverted!

**Coloured Advertisements** Although green ink was used for the early printings of the interleaves, this gave way to black in 1916. However, a few advertisers were prepared to pay extra for the privilege of additional colours to make their ads stand out. The pioneers were William Vernon & Sons, who from September 1913 placed a series of ads using three colours (the first one with its illustration of loaves being especially effective to my eye). The YMCA, the Red Cross, and Dean & Dawson had two-colour ads (the standard green or black, plus red or green).

A couple of advertisers went one step further and arranged to supply their own printed copy. In 1935 the Dubarry Perfumery Co., who had previously advertised on the covers, came to an agreement with the GPO to supply full colour double sided 'insets' on stiff paper, originally at £100 per edition, later £70. These are most attractive

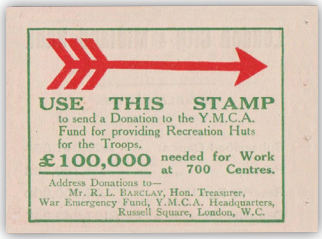
(although sometimes dubiously of their era) and very collectable. At about the same time Messrs Fords of High Wycombe had negotiated a contract to include samples of their blotting paper. This was available in more than 20 colours, most of which appeared in booklets at one time or another. The price here was £60 per edition. The Post Office laid down the sensible requirement that the two types of inserts could not appear in the same booklet. ►





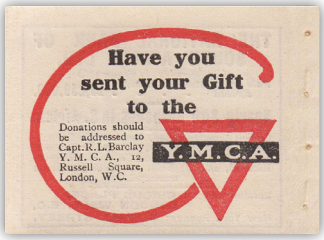




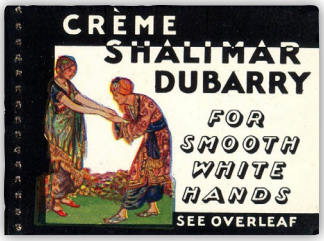


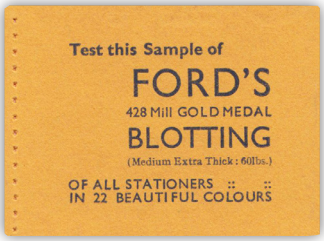






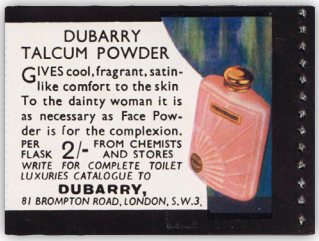


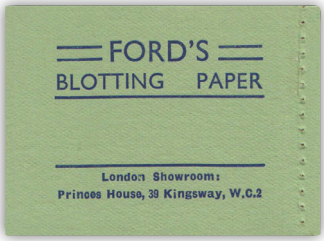












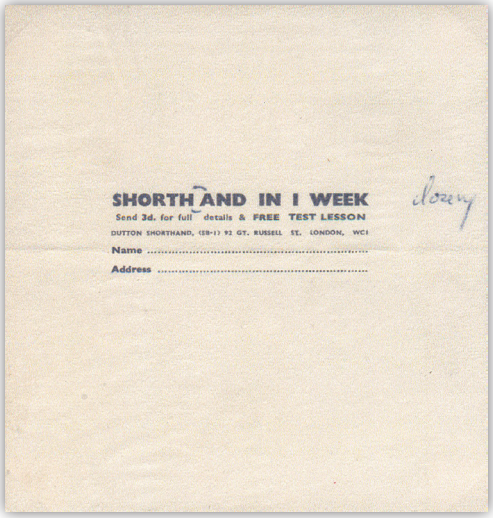


**Advertiser's Voucher Copies** Complete booklet panes that have the appearance of 'precancels' – postmarked, but with full gum – are occasionally encountered. These come from sample books supplied by Sells to actual and potential advertisers to show how their copy would look. The stamps on the panes were cancelled with various handstamps of the London EC Chief Office as in total they represented a useful sum in postage – naturally, this created scarce collectable items that were worth more on the philatelic market! Where dated postmarks were used, normally only one date appears for any given booklet; cases where two are known are presumably because Sells ran out of stock and had to return to the Post Office for a fresh batch.

**Abandonment of Advertising in WW2** As in 1914-18, among the eventual postal consequences of the outbreak of war in 1939 were changes to the stamp books. In 1942, the possibility of removing the interleaves to aid with paper conservation was considered, and an official noted on 5 April 1943: 'The termination of the advertising contract at the end of June next will amongst other things avoid the necessity of ordering stamp books in editions and other changes will follow.' Commercial advertising was then replaced by postal notices; since no-one was paying for ads on the interleaves cheaper quality paper could be used. From October 1943 trial booklets without interleaves were produced, issued concurrently with the normal type. By February 1944 44,000 had been issued, which resulted in only three actual complaints (there were after all more noteworthy events taking place at the time), and all interleaving was discontinued as of September 1944.

**Advertising After the War** Commercial advertising in booklets would return in the early 1950s. The first instance occurred as a result of a change in their stamp makeup due to an increased printed paper rate. The new 2s 6d booklets of March 1952 contained a pane with three 1d stamps and three labels drawing attention to the change. The 'Sole Selling Agency'

contract this time went to the firm of J. Weiner, who signed up Dutton Shorthand for a coupon promising 'SHORTHAND IN ONE WEEK' that went right across the three labels. A gap between the 'H' and 'A' in the first word caused some confusion when it appeared in proof form, but a look at the eventual pane shows the reason – it was necessary to avoid the perforations going through the middle of a letter.










*Images: Ian Harvey*




Proof of booklet pane advert with the space highlighted and the point-missing note 'Close up', together with the issued pane

This was the only non-postal ad in this format, but in September 1953 interleaves returned and commercial advertising with them (generally on at least one side of the covers as well). The amount varied, being particularly extensive in the new 'Series 9' booklets containing only current letter rate stamps. Most of the 2s machine vended booklets, on the other hand, were advertiser-exclusive – the first, of April 1959, has been dubbed the 'Bacon' booklet as it contained information and recipes from the Bacon Information Council (an offshoot of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food). Later ones were taken by the Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada. ►










Images: Scott Kibby






**Decimal Booklet Panes** The switch to decimal currency (and a concomitant rise in postal rates), meant that the long-established six-stamp pane format would not be a good fit in booklets of matching face value to their £sd equivalents. The solution, as in 1924 and 1952, was to use either one or two spaces in some panes for advertisements. Again, the stamp trade got in on the act, with dealers including possibly slightly tactless ads for errors. As I recall Alan Benjamin (B Alan) was eventually able to offer a misperforation on one of his 'own panes', although the early panes used odd perforation formats that looked a lot like an error! This lasted until 1973, after which panes simply had blank labels where needed.

**Prestige Booklets** Commercial ads on interleaves lasted slightly longer, until the traditional bound stamp booklets were scrapped in favour of folded booklets in 1976. These were easier to produce, and more flexible at coping with rapidly-changing postal rates, but had no scope for extra interleaving.

However, although small stitched booklets were being phased out, a bigger, more elaborate type was being phased in. The idea of a larger sponsored booklet resembling a cheque book, with themed advertisements, was first discussed in March 1969. Although a number of possible clients were interested in the idea, the only one that could meet the target time scale was the Milk Marketing Board, another quasi-governmental body. This resulted in the £1 'Stamps for Cooks' booklet of December 1969, which had 15-stamp panes, again interspersed with recipes.

The idea saw little takeup for some time other than Wedgwood-sponsored books in 1972 and 1980. However, beginning in 1982 what were now dubbed 'Prestige Booklets' began to appear on an annual basis, at first funded by and promoting such notable institutions as British Rail, the *Financial Times*, and indeed Stanley Gibbons. Collector demand was increased as they included unique *se-tenant* combinations, and indeed often single Machins that were not available in any other form. These were, however, the last hurrah (so far) for advertising in stamp books – as moving into the 1990s prestige booklets have been much more closely aligned to the Post Office issuing programme, often including stamps from commemorative issues as well, with more than one every year ●

# **Stamp Scene** Dane Garrod keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world



**1 January** Felbridge Stamp & Postcard Fair, Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, East Grinstead RH19 2NT, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

**4 January** Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Trinity Centre, Church Hill, Mill Street Town Centre, Sutton Coldfield B72 1TF, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

Hastings Stamp & Postcard Fair, Christ Church, London Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea TN37 6GL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

**4 January** Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 07540 144433, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com.

**5 January** Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, The Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes MK2 2HX, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Worthing Stamp & Postcard Fair, Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, Worthing BN11 4PL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

**11 January** Telford Stamp & Card Fair, Belmont Community Hall, Tan Bank Car Park, Wellington, Telford TF1 1HJ, 9.30am to 2pm, 15 dealers, home-made refreshments available. Enquiries: Richard Camp, 01952 405458, mail@richardcamp.co.uk.

Laindon Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Road, Langdon Hills SS16 6EX, 9.30am to 3pm, 8 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: David Church, 01268 543371.

Upminster Stamp Fair, St. Laurence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2AJ, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

Margate Collectors' Fair, Union Church, Union Crescent, Margate CT9 1NR, 10am to 3pm, 20 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.

North Wales Stamp & Postcard Fair, Ysgol Eirias, Eirias Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 7SP, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Chapman, 01745 826434, northwalesstampfairs@gmail.com.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry above)

Orpington Stamp & Postcard Fair, Christ Lutheran Church, 227 Poverest Road, Petts Wood, Orpington BR5 1RD, 10am to 4pm, 20 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Keith Jupp, 01689 827086, kjstampspts@btconnect.com.

**12 January** Wokingham Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

**17 & 18 January** York Stamp & Coin Fair, The Grandstand at York Racecouse, York YO23 1EX, Friday 11am to 6pm & Saturday 10am to 4pm, 95+ stamp dealers, full restaurant and bar facilities. Enquiries: Chris Rainey, 01793 513431.

**18 January** Charing Cross Market, (as entry above)

Eastbourne Stamp & Postcard Fair, St. Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, Eastbourne BN22 9PP, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

The Great Britain Philatelic Society will meet at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, from 11am on Saturday 25 January for Maurice Buxton's presentation on 'The Card Post'. Prospective new members are welcome to attend what will be a fascinating and instructive talk.

The first new year meeting of the National Philatelic Society will be on Saturday 11 January at the venue for all 2020 meetings, Phoenix Centre, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. From 2.15pm Frank Parsons will show and entertain with 'The Postal History of Brighton'. The following meeting is on Saturday 8 February with 'Newfoundland', presented by Cliff Hurst, and you are welcome to attend.

The Royal Philatelic Society London meetings at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW are a 5pm PowerPoint presentation on Thursday 9 January by Hugh Feldman entitled 'The First Four Decades of Mail by Railroad in the United States of America (1838 to 1880)', a 1pm presentation on Brunei by Claire Scott on Thursday 23 January, and a regional display by the members of the Thames Valley Region from 1pm on Thursday 6 February. Should you wish to attend as a non-member, then a telephone call during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day to the Adminstration Manager, Jason Webber, on 020 7486 1044, will suffice.

**19 January** Knowle Stamp Fair, Knowle Village Hall, St. John's Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 3pm, 10 dealers, tea, coffee and light refreshments available. Enquiries: Andrew Vaughan, 01827 63367, sales@stampsgb.co.uk.

Dover Stamp & Collectors' Fair, Stembrook Shopping Arcade, Stembrook, Dover CT16 1PF, 9am to 2pm, 10+ dealers, hot & cold refreshments all day. Enquiries: Jan & Keith Shepherd, 07729 967206, keithstamps61@aol.com.

**25 January** Great Barr Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm, 14 dealers, full refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

Northampton Stamp Fair, The Abbey Centre, East Hunsbury NN4 0RZ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Wanstead Stamp Fair, Our Lady of Lourdes Church Pastoral Centre, 51 Cambridge Park, Wanstead E11 2PR, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

Ealing Stamp Fair, Ealing Parish Church, St. Mary's Road, Ealing W5 5EU, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 147)

Chichester Stamp & Postcard Fair, Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Chichester PO19 8QR, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

**26 January** Peterborough Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough PE3 6SG, 10am to 3pm, 10 dealers. Enquiries: Richard Lewis, 01945 700594, richard@lewis8571.plus.com.

Shifnal Stamp Fair, Shifnal Village Hall, Ashton Street, Shifnal TF11 8DZ, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, light refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

Stevenage Stamp Fair, Novotel Hotel, Knebworth Park, Stevenage SG1 2AX, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

**29 January** Plymouth Stamp Fair, St. Andrew's Church, Lower Abbey Hall, Catherine Street, Plymouth PL1 2AD, 10am to 2pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

**30 January** Clyst St. George Stamp & Postal History Fair, Clyst St. George Parish Hall, Woodbury Road, Exeter EX3 0RE, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

**1 February** Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 6 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 147)

Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

**2 February** Wolverhampton Stamp & Postcard Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Road, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9.30am to 2.30pm, 8 dealers, Social Club bar available. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297.

Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Cheltenham Stamp & Cover Fair, The Regency Hotel, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham GL51 0ST, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

**8 February** Kenilworth Stamp Fair, Kenilworth School, Leyes Lane, Kenilworth CV8 2DA, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 8 dealers. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

Cardiff Stamp & Postcard Fair, Cardiff City Hall, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington1@hotmail.co.uk.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 147)

Canterbury Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, 3 stamp dealers & 20 postcard dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.

**9 February** Sandy Stamp Fair, Scout Headquarters, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1QY, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

Bristol Stamp & Postcard History Fair, Easter Compton Village Hall, Main Road, Easter Compton, Bristol BS35 5SJ, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

Wokingham Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

**15 February** Sittingbourne Stamp & Postcard Fair, Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 147)

**15 February** Exeter Collectors' Fair, The America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8PX, 10am to 4pm, 12 stamp dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

**The successful bi-annual York Stamp & Coin Fair returns to the Grandstand of York Racecourse in January on Friday 17 from 11am to 6pm and Saturday 18 from 10am to 4pm. 95+ stamp dealers and all the restaurant and bar facilities you could want will be there, as well as specialist society meetings at which anyone can attend.**

## It's Crime Season at The Postal Museum

### The Great Train Robbery: Crime & The Post (until 19 April 2020)

The Postal Museum

In this temporary exhibition, explore the investigation into one of the most audacious crimes of the 20th Century and discover other stories of crime through the post. Revisit the Great Train Robbery and unearth the role of the Post Office's own investigation department in piecing together this and other crimes, shedding light on the human stories of the victims through never before seen artefacts, objects and personal accounts. The mysterious Victorian stamp forgery is also part of the Crime exhibition. If you are interested in seeing these Victorian fake stamps, they will be on display along with some more contemporary fakes.



Stamp Stories

# 1870½d 'Bantam' Rose-Red




The halfpenny rose-red stamp, often referred to as the 'Bantam' due to its petite size, was issued on 1 October 1870 – a surprisingly long wait for Britain's first ½d denomination postage stamp. The stamp generally remained unaltered throughout its ten year term, unlike its 1d and 2d line-engraved predecessors. Whilst the aesthetics of the stamp haven't engendered applause from all philatelists, the range of plate numbers, rose-red hues, and perforation diversity have generated enough interest in the stamps to create a liquid market for collectors. The watermark also generates interest – comprising the wording 'half penny' in script lettering, and extending across three stamps. It exists inverted, reversed, and a combination of these and in some instances is omitted – probably due to poor paper registration. In addition, the development of the Bantam from initial concepts to issue has left a trail of engaging exhibits for aficionados to study, including essays, die proofs and colour trials.

The production of the ½d stamp followed a proposal from the Postmaster General, Spencer Compton Cavendish, 'to reduce the postage of Newspapers and on Inland Books and Sample Packets not exceeding 2oz in weight to one half-penny... and that steps be taken by the board for the preparation of adhesive stamps to denote the duty' – as confirmed in a letter dated 29 April 1870 from T Sargent on behalf of the Board of Inland Revenue to Perkins, Bacon & Co.

It wasn't though, the first time that the Board had made plans for a ½d stamp. Five years earlier on 7 August 1865 Warren de la Rue received a warrant from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, 'to prepare a plate for printing Postage Stamps of the value of one halfpenny'. The request was endorsed with an accompanying letter signed by W H Cousins on behalf of the Secretary of the Board which stated: 'I send herewith a Warrant for the preparation of a plate for printing Postage Stamps of the value of one halfpenny; and I have to request that you will be good enough to attend at this office for further instructions in reference thereto'. Two months later on 5 October 1865, Ormond Hill (nephew of Rowland Hill and overseer of the Board's postal department) made a further request on behalf of the Post-master General who 'wishes to see and approve design for this stamp before plate is prepared... please send me a design for submission'. The engraving was obviously at an advanced stage, as the request was promptly responded to, and after viewing the design, Hill commented on 8 October: 'I fully expect no change will be made but of course the work upon the die had better be suspended'. The next day (9 October) Hill asked for 'six additional proofs of the halfpenny die in its present state'. These were to be 'upon cards or paper without a prepared enamelled surface'.

The projected halfpenny: The original artist's essays submitted by De La Rue and Co, made as a result of a Treasury Warrant dated 7 August 1865












At this point De La Rue had already produced stamps for 3d, 4d, 6d, 9d and 1/- denominations, and so momentum was with them to muscle out Perkins Bacon. However, the chase for this contract stagnated, as it seems that the Board's plans for the ½d were put on the backburner – for five years...

The dialogue between Hill and De La Rue eventually resumed again, and on 21 April 1870 in confirmation of a conversation that day, Hill wrote a memorandum in which he listed 'conditions' for the development of the ½d stamp. He also invited a response which he said was 'in effect tender for the performance of the work of preparing the stamps'. The request included that a hundred million stamps be delivered to Somerset House by 24 September, and afterwards at the rate of approximately four million per week. Stamp specifications included that they be the same width as the 1d, and two thirds of its depth, and that they be distinguished by corner letters and the current plate number. Hill also added that 'the colour to be fugitive and if practicable of a tint distinct from either of the existing postage stamps'. An additional requirement was added on 29 April – that the ▶

Die proofs made in black and in lake-brown. Produced in response to a request from Ormond Hill on 9 October 1865 for 'six additional proofs of the halfpenny die in its present state... upon cards or paper without a prepared enamelled surface'. The monogram in the lower right corner of the lake-brown is W F D – that of William Frederick de la Rue, the younger brother of Warren de la Rue







All images © Royal Mail Group Ltd, courtesy of The Postal Museum

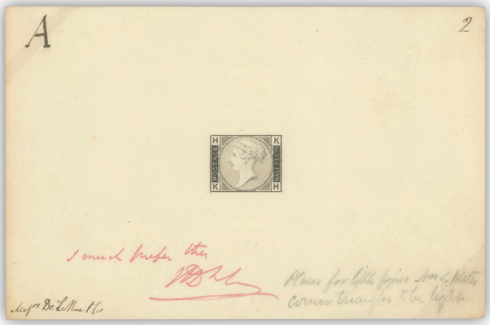



Essays prepared by De La Rue which were believed to be submitted to Ormond Hill on 2 May 1870 – in response to his memorandum of 21 April 1870




This drawing is endorsed by Warren de la Rue with the recommendation: 'I much prefer this'. The additional comment in pencil reads 'Place for little figures, Nos. of plates, corner triangles to be light'



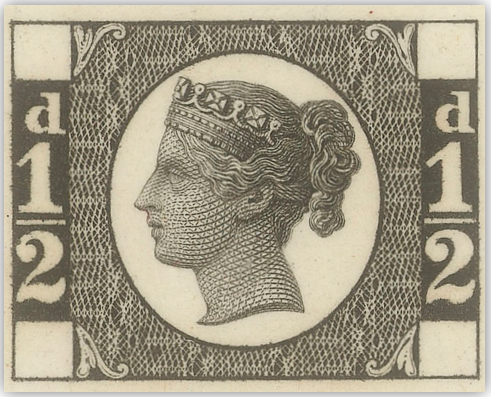

colour was to be green. The swift reply on 2 May from De La Rue was positive. It included clarification that the stamp should feature the Queen's head, and assurances were also given to Hill that they could meet the requirements, and if offered the contract, they would be 'in a position to take without delay all necessary steps for its due fulfilment'.

However, still very much in the frame were Perkins Bacon, who were liaising in tandem with the Board following their invitation to tender, in a letter of 29 April. Perkins Bacon had in fact submitted 19 essays between April and May and it was with these designs that they won the contract, and went on to print the stamps that with the exception of colour were in general alignment with specifications.

It was in this period that the transition from line engraved printing to surface printing accelerated, and the jostling for the ½d contracts coincided with a pivotal time in the switch. By early 1875, having printed stamps for several values utilising surface printing methodology, De La Rue now set their sights on monopolising the printing of British postage stamps. Perkins Bacon now commensurately in decline, were midway into their ten year commission to produce the ½d stamp, when De La Rue, riding the wave of success, sought to hammer them a further blow. Now, champing at the bit to complete their usurping, Warren de la Rue sent a note to Ormond Hill on 13 May 1875 with a proof from 'the original little Head Die... which we prepared some time ago so as to satisfy ourselves that we could, if required, produce stamps of the size of the ½d Postage by the Surface process'. As things panned out, a stamp of that size was no longer a requirement, and a regular size stamp was produced for the next halfpenny – and it was De La Rue that won the contract. The new ½d green stamp was subsequently ▶




Perkins Bacon's impression of the die, made in late May 1870. In this impression, the engraving of the head has not been completed, and the die has not been hardened. The image below shows the complete exhibit on India paper, mounted on board




In this impression the head has been strengthened which is further accentuated by the hardening of the die (This was the last stamp to feature a head engraved by Frederick Heath)













Die proof impressions in black and rose on thin white paper mounted on card, produced at the request of Ormond Hill in February 1871

*All images © Royal Mail Group Ltd, courtesy of The Postal Museum*

issued on 14 October 1880. De La Rue's dominance of printing British postage stamps was now absolute, and was set to take grip for the remainder of the Victorian era and into the early part of the 20th century.

**Fugitive inks** There's no doubt that the surface printing method held most, if not all the aces – with faster turn around times and cost advantages partly due to longevity of plates. Another weighty factor in the transition of print processes were the concerns over fugitive inks. In the 1860s it was discovered that the cancellations on Perkins Bacon's line engraved stamps could be removed with the use of benzine and other hydro-carbons, resulting in the potential re-use of stamps. Fugitive inks were required to ensure that if attempts were made to tamper with stamps by removing obliterations, the inks would simply wash out or fade, and deface the stamp – rendering it invalid. Consequently fugitive ink trials were conducted in 1867–68 – with only limited success. As a result, the problem wasn't solved to the liking of the Board who after further experiments, expressed their ongoing concerns to Perkins Bacon in a letter dated 6 May 1878. They explained that tests had revealed that with 'use of a certain fluid' cancellations could be removed from ½d to 2d stamps 'without leaving any marks of the operation behind'. Conversely the letter added that the 2½d and higher values printed by De La Rue, were immune from the same manipulation – 'the same fluid that removes the obliterating ink destroys the ground colours as




The 1878 cancellation trials, with attempts at cleaning with benzine, ether and chloroform

*All images © Royal Mail Group Ltd, courtesy of The Postal Museum*

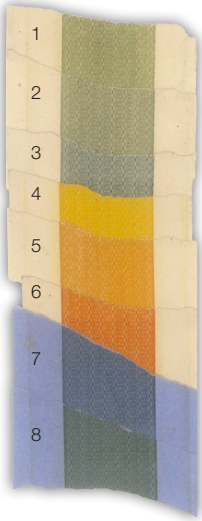


Perkins Bacon and Co's colour trials of 1878-1879 made from plates of the ½d. All are on watermarked paper. The die proof (right) with SPECIMEN overprint, is rare in that the margins haven't been cropped

well'. This was mainly due to the expertise of Warren de la Rue who was President of the Royal Chemical Society and had the proficiency to create the genuinely fugitive inks that were sought. Thereafter, Perkins Bacon's hopes of new contracts evaporated – it proved to be the final nail in the coffin, and it paved the way for De La Rue to take a vice-like grip on the printing of British postage stamps.

**Print process** The line engraved (*intaglio*) method of print that Perkins Bacon employed for the ½d was consistent with that which they employed for their 1d and 2d productions. The reversed design (with the Queen's head facing right) was cut into a block of soft steel, which in turn was hardened to create the original die. The die was then pressed into a circular soft steel roller to transfer the image. The design now in opposite direction to the die (with the Queen's head facing right) and sitting proud of the roller surface (in relief) was then hardened. Then with a rocking action, the roller impression was transferred 480 times onto a soft steel plate in 20 rows of 24. So the final plate's linework reverted to being sunk and reversed – as the original die. Inscriptions and check letters were added at this stage (or sometimes prior to this on the soft steel roller). The plates could now be hardened and ready for print. ▶




Perkins Bacon's half penny, background, colour trials of 1870. Originally the halfpenny background was to be light green. Trials were made using the flat die of the engine-turned background used for the one penny stamp. This was to achieve the reversed pattern, in order to assess the resulting less dense and consequently lighter background. Samples one to six were printed on soft, white wove paper; seven and eight on blue wove paper. Colours: 1 pale yellow-green, 2 yellow-green, 3 dark blue-green, 4 chrome-yellow, 5 orange-yellow, 6 orange-red, 7 dark blue-green, 8 deep green



The printing presses at Perkins Bacon




Perkins Bacon's colour trials for the half penny from 1870 – proofs from plates created for postage stamps of New South Wales in hues of red: 1 rose, 2 deep rose, 3 rose-lake and 4 carmine-lake




The half penny watermark that extends across three stamps

The ½d was issued in sheets of 480 and were perforated vertically. The perforations were executed at Somerset House. Due to the line engraved process requiring that paper be wet prior to print, shrinkage after drying out created discrepancies in paper size supplied for perforation. This in turn resulted in inconsistency of paper registration with the final perforations often impinging on the stamp's image area. The stamps were printed from plate numbers 1–20, with the omission of Plates 2, 7, 16, 17 and 18 which were not completed. The stamps from Plate 9 are by far the most scarce, and the sections illustrated show the positioning

**The halfpenny plates**

| Plate | Put to press | Sheets printed |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 20 June 70 | 121,500 |
| 3 | 28 June 70 | 192,500 |
| 4 | 4 July 70 | 264,600 |
| 5 | 12 July 70 | 533,200 |
| 6 | 19 July 70 | 402,100 |
| 8 | (?) | *120,000 |
| 9 | 9 October 71 | *50,000 |
| 10 | 2 October 73 | 386,100 |
| 11 | 21 January 74 | 411,000 |
| 12 | 29 June 74 | *400,000 |
| 13 | 6 May 76 | *300,000 |
| 14 | 16 January 76 | *250,000 |
| 15 | 6 May 78 | *200,000 |
| 19 | 18 July 78 | *175,000 |
| 20 | 27 June 79 | *150,000 |

**Estimated number of sheets printed. Plates 2, 7, 16, 17, and 18 were not completed and Plates 21 and 22 were laid down but not used.*



Plate 9 left



Plate 9 right



Plate 6 left



Plate 6 right



Plate 19 left



Plate 19 right



Unused block of 72 from Plate 9

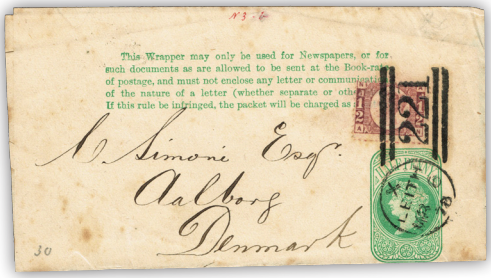
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of plate numbers on each side of the stamps in the lace embellishments. They demonstrate how Plate 9 can be distinguished from Plate 6 and Plate 19, the latter sometimes with the digit 'one' being indiscernible as a result of a cancellation.

Finally, below are examples of how the reduced postal charges implemented in 1870 and after joining the Universal Postal Union in 1875, were capitalised upon. The new tariffs facilitated cheaper delivery of newspapers, and a diverse number of communications which have subsequently proved to be a blessing for lovers of postal history too.

And so, love it or loathe it, the little Bantam, as a distinguished member of the Victorian line engraved stamp family, will always be synonymous with its final chapter – stamps that impacted hugely on postal services, and sparked a global fascination for stamp collecting ●

When uniform penny postage was introduced in 1840, delivery of newspapers was free of charge – a newspaper tax having already been paid. In 1855 this taxation became discretionary and to retain the free post privilege, the newspaper tax stamp had to be visible in the post. This gave birth to the wrapper – a band of paper which wrapped around the newspaper exposing both ends and therefore the tax stamp. On 1 October 1870 the newspaper tax was scrapped, and the ½d tariff for posting a newspaper was applied. To facilitate payment, ½d newspaper wrappers were issued. The price of the book post was also reduced to ½d (for the first two ounces). The book post tariff was also valid for a wide range of printed material providing the item was clearly printed matter.




½d newspaper wrapper dated 6 March 1978 uprated with ½d Bantam for overseas rate



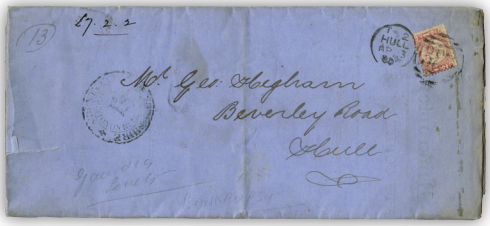


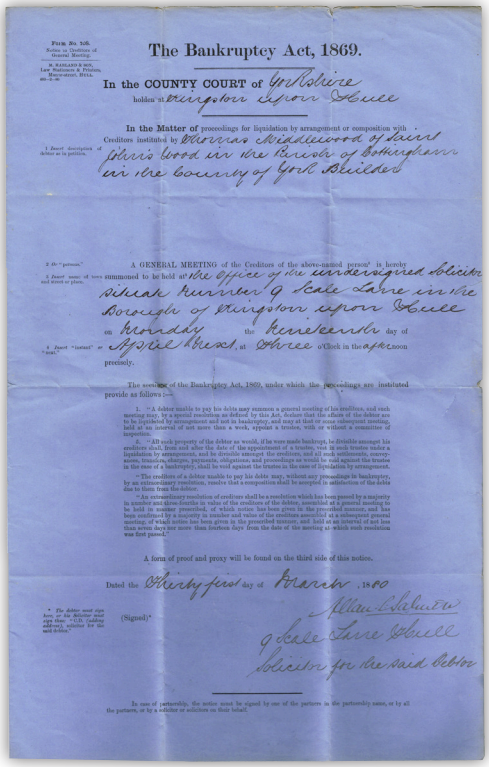





Manchester Guardian printed newspaper wrapper posted locally. The ½d Bantam is cancelled with a 498 duplex

Left: Interesting use of the halfpenny on a printed postcard regarding the future calling of a travelling salesman, to Elgin, in 1872. The printed script reads: 'Our Mr John Tullis will have the pleasure of waiting upon you in a few days when your further commands will be esteemed and shall receive our best attention. Yours respectfully, John Tullis & Son' – a Glaswegian leather works company. However the misspelling of James Johnston's name wouldn't have made a good impression. The textile manufacturers Johnstons of Elgin are still trading today







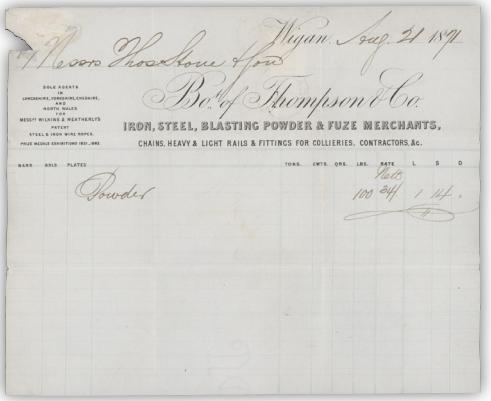






Printed Card Photograph Folder: John Burton & Sons' small stiff card folder for mailing photographs, sent from Leicester on 13 December 1879, and bearing a ½d stamp from Plate 20 which was put to press on 27 June 1879

Some companies pushed the boundaries in relation to items that constituted printed matter in order to qualify for the ½d rate.
Left: Bankruptcy Act Notice to Creditors; addressed to Hull, dated 3 April 1880, and signed by solicitors at 9 Scale Lane, Hull, Yorkshire; regarding the builder Thomas Middlewood. The ½d Bantam is from Plate 12
Below: Invoice – for the sale of blasting powder from Bo' of Thompson & Co of Wigan, posted locally on 21 August 1871. The ½d stamp is from Plate 6




Article by Ian Boardman. Sources: *The Line-Engraved Postage Stamps of Great Britain* – by Edward Denny Bacon. *The De La Rue History of British & Foreign Postage Stamps 1855-1901* – by John Easton. *The Line-Engraved Halfpenny* – by W de L M Messenger. Thanks also to Mike Jackson for kindly advising.

*Images of Photograph Folder and Invoice – Mike Jackson*

# Special Stamps first day of issue diary dates for 2020

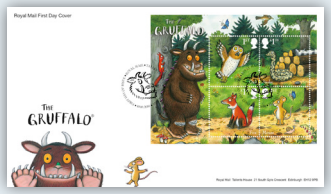



| | |
|---|---|
| 21 January | Video Games |
| 11 February | Visions of the Universe |
| 17 March | James Bond |
| 7 April | The Romantic Poets |
| 8 May | End of the Second World War |
| 28 May | Coronation Street |
| 18 June | Roman Britain |
| 9 July | Queen |
| 30 July | The Palace of Westminster |
| 18 August | Sherlock |
| 3 September | Rupert Bear |
| 1 October | Brilliant Bugs |
| 3 November | Christmas |
| 13 November | Star Trek |

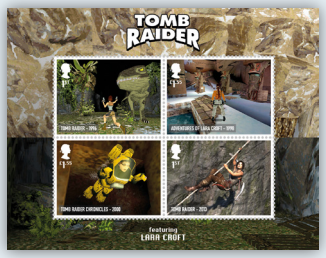
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# New Issues and Withdrawals

**10** January — **Withdrawal** The Gruffalo: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.




**21** January — **Issue** Video Games: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Postcards (12 in set). First Day Cover Stamps. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Envelope. Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machin Definitives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Smilers® Generic Sheet (10 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Tomb Raider Anthology Pack. Framed Stamps. Product Bundle.

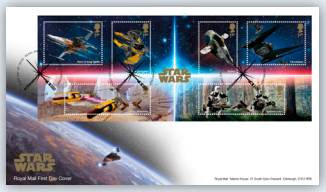



**5** February — **Withdrawal** Christmas 2019: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.




**11** February — **Issue** Visions of the Universe: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Postcards (8 in set). First Day Cover Stamps. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Pane. Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.55, 1 x £1.60, pane two: 2 x 5p, 2 x 10p, 4 x 1st Class Country Definitives, pane three: 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.55, 1 x £1.60, pane four: 2 x 1p, 4 x 2p, 2 x £1.35. BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Souvenir Pack. Framed Stamps.

**26** February — **Withdrawal** Star Wars: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.




*In addition to the Machin definitives listed in last month's 2019 checklist, the following Machin stamps were printed by Walsall (ISP) with non visible changes, and issued on 24 October: £2 (FS029WL), £3 (FS307WL), £5 (FS059WL).*

You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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