

BRITISH *PHILATELIC*

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 40 Number 1

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Bulletin

Astronomy miniature sheet
and PSB • Pillar boxes issue



Across the Universe: Royal Mail's new prestige stamp book on the theme of astronomy goes on sale 24 September, along with four 1st class stamps in a miniature sheet.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



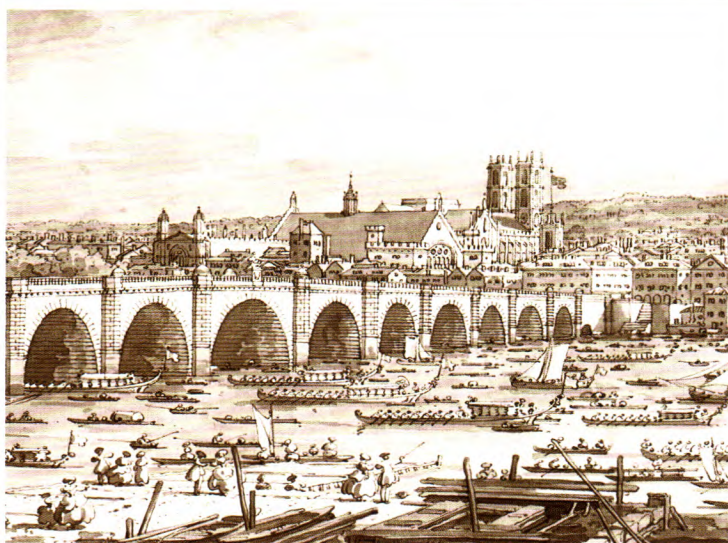
Cover Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Pegasus is one of four new 1st class stamps in the miniature sheet to be issued this month. The sheet was previewed in last month's *Bulletin*.

Credits p3: *Westminster Bridge, with a Procession of Civic Barges* (detail) by Canaletto, The Royal Collection © 2002 HM Queen Elizabeth II. Page 15: top left as p3; top rt *View of London taken from Albion Place, Blackfriars Bridge*, engraved by Joseph Constantine Stadler after N R Black, Guildhall Library, Corporation of London, UK / Bridgeman Art Library; centre *Blackfriars Bridge and St Paul's Cathedral* by William Marlow, Guildhall Art Gallery, Corporation of London, UK / Bridgeman Art Library

Issues Note some items are available only from Royal Mail Talents House Edinburgh and Post Office Limited philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester Colchester, Coventry, Croydon Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool London (Trafalgar Square and Eastcheap), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth Portsmouth, Southampton Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud Truro, Windsor and York

1 September	Withdrawal 1st and 2nd class business sheets of 100 self-adhesive stamps printed by Questa (1st) and Walsall (2nd).
3 September	Issue London Bridges stamp cards.
3 September	Withdrawal Punch & Judy stamps, presentation pack, and stamp cards. (Retail book containing self-adhesive stamps sold out).
10 September	Issue London Bridges stamps, presentation pack and stamp book (contains 1st definitives and 1st Bridges, all self-adhesive).
17 September	Issue Astronomy stamp cards (set of five: four stamps and miniature sheet).
24 September	Issue Astronomy miniature sheet, presentation pack and <i>Across the Universe</i> prestige stamp book.
1 October	Issues Pillar Boxes stamp cards • Smilers sheets: generic (with pre-printed labels) 10 × Dennis the Menace and 10 × Teddy Bear greetings stamp (one sheet), 20 × 1997 1st class Christmas stamp; personalised image 20 × Teddy Bear, 20 × Dennis the Menace, 20 × 1997 Christmas stamp. (Sheets with personalised image available to order only from Talents House.)
1 October	Withdrawal Nobel Prizes stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, postbag, and commemorative document.
8 October	Issue Pillar Boxes stamps and presentation pack.
8 October	Withdrawal Smilers sheets: Christmas stamps, 20 × 19p Robin; 10 × 1st class Santa Cracker (issued October 2001).
15 October	Issue 1st and 2nd class definitives in stamp rolls of 500 printed by Enschedé (previously De La Rue); Northern Ireland E rate and Wales 2nd, 1st and E stamps printed by De La Rue (previously Walsall).

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies from Post Office Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe; £13.50 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription, from Edinburgh address above: UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Design and text Consignia plc, unless attributed to a specific author. Requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Perivan Group Limited • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Consignia plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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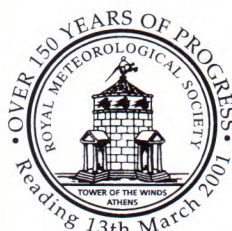
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Stamp scene UK and overseas exhibitions

• Auctions • Societies • Nene Valley Railway

Stampex opening hours

18 Sept	12.00-19.00
19-21 Sept	10.30-18.00
22 Sept	10.30-16.00

Entry will be free.

The Business Design Centre is near Angel underground station (Northern line), and is served by bus routes 4, 19, 30, 38, 43, 56, 73, 153 and 341.

Enquiries Stampex, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. Telephone 020 7490 1005.

UK exhibitions Autumn Stampex, organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will be held at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1, 18-22 September. It will include the annual national competitions, displays by the Cinderella Stamp Club, and the National Youth Stamp Group activities area and Saturday auction. To mark the 150th anniversary of letter boxes, there will be displays of miniature post boxes from the collection of Robert Danzig, and of full-size letter boxes from David Harrop's collection at the Manchester Postal Museum. David's displays have proved a very popular attraction at Stampex in recent years.

Over 20 trophies and special awards will be competed for in the national competitions, with the famous Silver Mailcoach awarded for the best exhibit. About 100 dealers, including many from overseas, will meet all requirements for stamps, covers, accessories or literature. The new Royal Mail stand will offer the full range of current GB stamps and collectibles. A posting box will be provided for mail to receive the Stampex handstamp.

At Stampex, Royal Mail will be hosting a major display of David Gentleman's artwork. Whilst this will be 'stamp-led', it will include a significant portion of his other works. This will coincide with the launch of his new book *Artwork* (see p11). David will be present at Stampex for book signing from 2 to 4pm on the Wednesday and Thursday •

Autumn Stampex will be followed by Philatex, Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, London SW1 (31 October - 2 November); Thematica II, Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (22-23 November); and the ABPS National Exhibition in Chester (29-30 November) •

Cyprus-Europhilex British Commissioner for the exhibition is Yvonne Wheatley, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW.

Overseas exhibitions The European exhibition Cyprus-Europhilex '02 will take place at the Nicosia Conference Centre, 22-29 October. The exhibition, under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, is being sponsored by the Postal Services Department of the Ministry of Communications and Works and the Ministry of Education and Culture, and organised by the Cyprus Philatelic Society. The Cyprus Post Office is issuing six stamps and a miniature sheet in support of the exhibition – the designs feature the Abduction of Europa, the theme for the 1984 Europa stamps. The exhibition will include exhibits in six classes: Court of Honour, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Maximaphily, and Philatelic Literature. Bulletin 1, recently published, includes interesting and well-illustrated features on Cypriot history and culture as well the island's postal history, postal stationery, and maximaphily •

España 2002 – a specialised world Youth exhibition – will be held at Salamanca, Spain, 17-22 November, a change of venue and dates from those originally announced. Salamanca is European City of Culture this year, and a major university centre with about 60,000 students. Some 40 countries will take part in the exhibition, with 288 exhibits in 904 frames.

The Literature class will include electronic media. In addition to the exhibits, there will be dealers, a display of stamp boxes, and an exhibition called the 'History of Writing, Manuscripts, Letters, etc'. The exhibition is being organised by the Spanish Federation of Philatelic Societies and the Spanish PO with support from the City of Salamanca and other institutions •

In 2003, international exhibitions will be held in Athens (August), Singapore (September), and Bangkok (October). The Singapore exhibition will include an experimental World Stamp Championship •

Auction news The Spink auction of Stamps & Covers of the World (23-24 May) realised £544,364. It included some notable GB items including an 1801 entire letter from Lord Nelson at Deal. It bears a black 'DEAL/74' and red circular crowned 'FREE' datestamp and signature 'Nelson & Bronte'. It made £4025 against an estimate of £200-250. A very rare 1848 Archer roulette 11½, 1d red-brown, plate 71 with minor imperfections went for £2645 (est. £1200-1500) and a collection of unused surface-printed issues made £11,500 against an estimate of £4000-5000. However the majority of items did not realise thousands of pounds; there were many fine items to delight the collector of more modest means. For example a pair of 1d blacks cancelled with black Maltese Cross went for £92 •

Societies news This year's Convention of the Exhibitions Study Group will be held at the Holgate Hill Hotel, 124 Holgate Road, York on 28-29 September. Displays begin at 11.00 on the Saturday and 10.00 on the Sunday morning. York is a beautiful walled city and is well worth a visit for a long weekend. Collectors are assured of seeing some of the finest collections of postcards and other collectibles about exhibitions held in this country and abroad. The Group, with over 100 members, runs a sales packet of postcards for members in the UK, and publishes a quarterly Journal packed with all sorts of information •

The Association of British Philatelic Societies has published a new (2002) edition of its *Directory & Handbook* – as always a most useful reference work, edited by John Hammond, for individual collectors and philatelic society officers who require information of national, local and specialist societies, exhibitions, judges, museums where stamps can be seen, British philatelic magazines, catalogues, philatelic expertising, etc, etc. There is information about the National Youth Stamp Group, a listing of signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (some considerably more distinguished philatelically than others!), the Rowland Hill Awards, the Stuart Rossiter Trust, and the work of the ABPS itself.

The 84th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain takes place at the Langstone Cliff Hotel, Dawlish, Devon, 12-15 September. The theme of Congress will be Forgeries, with some interesting displays, and no doubt lively discussion. Social events will include trips to the steam railway at Dartmouth and a tour of the Britannia Royal Naval College. The highlight will be the ceremony of signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists by Salih Kuyas of Turkey, a collector of postal stationery of the Ottoman

For details of future auctions contact Spink, 69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET, Telephone 020 7563 4000.

Exhibitions Study Group

Enquiries to: Bill Tonkin, 23 Bramley Way, West Wickham, BR4 9NT, Telephone 020 8777 8861.

Membership is £8 UK; £12 joint (spouses) membership, and £13 overseas.

ABPS Directory is available from: Association of British Philatelic Societies, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. Price £15, UK postage £1.

Empire; Zbigniew Mikulski, resident of Switzerland (ex Poland), who collects stamps of Russia and immediate neighbours; and James Francois Van der Linden of Belgium, a noted postal historian.



Brian Sole, to be awarded the 2002 ABPS Congress medal.

The ABPS will award the Congress Medal for 2002 to Brian Sole, well-known to many people for his voluntary work and service to British philately at club and national level. Brian is always willing to take on tasks and to do his best to help out where needed in a conscientious and thorough manner, performing tasks with good humour and a cheerful smile. He is an active member of his local society, Kingston-upon-Thames, and as an enthusiastic and hard-working official of the Insurance and Banking Philatelic Society and of the Surrey Federation. A keen thematic collector, Brian visits societies all over Britain with his collection 'Go by Cycle' and is always happy to demonstrate and explain thematic collecting and to help beginners understand the regulations for competitions and judging. He is a good ambassador for British philately and has made many friends in the hobby, both in the UK and overseas. Presented with the Award of Merit in 1989, he is now the ideal recipient of the Congress Medal. A profile of Brian was published in the April 2001 *Bulletin* and his article on his Bicycles collection in January 2001.

Awards of Merit for 2002 are being awarded to Susan Anne Burn of the Cornwall Philatelic Federation, Anne Dummer of the East Midlands & East Anglian Philatelic Federation, Neil Russell (British Society of Australian Philately), and Bill Shepherd (Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society). Our congratulations on this recognition of their work for philatelic organisations •

Welsh Philatelic Society For details of the Society contact the Secretary: Paul Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX.

The Welsh Philatelic Society held its annual weekend at Plas Tan y Bwlch in June. Members came from all over the UK to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere, the excellent food, examine dealers' stocks, and chat about their interests. Winner of the 'Egg Cup' competition was Dan Jones with a display of Golden Jubilee covers including computer-generated stamps in the style of 1940 stamps. The auction included a letter dating from 1691 with the London receivers mark and a Bishop in an unusual yellow. The visiting speaker was Colin Lewis with a fascinating display of Newfoundland before 1900. John Cowell (wps *Bulletin* Editor) brought to life aspects of Edwardian life on Anglesey through the medium of postcards, and Nigel Prior took members along the South Wales Post Road with a collection of early material •



The Edinburgh Philatelic Society celebrated its 75th anniversary with a fine exhibition at Musselburgh in May. Shown left is part of the 60-frame display with the anniversary dinner's main speakers: (left to right) Lt Col Ian Shepherd (Secretary, Scottish National War Memorial), David Meckie (Society President), Mrs May, and Prof Ian May (President Scottish Philatelic Society). Details of the Society's history and activities were given a special feature in the May *Bulletin* •

Issue No 128 of *Rundbrief*, journal of the German-based GB study group Forschungsgemeinschaft Grossbritannien EV includes a detailed survey of the current Machin high values, reports on recent commemorative issues and a visit to the Great Britain Philatelic Society meeting at Spring Stampex, and a useful listing of articles on GB subjects in various specialist magazines. Included with this issue were two well-produced and illustrated special supplements, dealing with Fourpenny Post handstamps (text in German and English) and Victorian stamps (text in German only) •

The Spring 2002 issue of the Friends of Postal Heritage' journal *Cross Post* includes useful articles for collectors of British stamps and postal history – on the 35-volume GB postal history collection covering the period c1700-1860, formed by Sydney R Turner, now re-mounted and available for inspection at Consignia Heritage Services; on the display given at Spring Stampex to mark The Queen's Golden Jubilee; on Coding Desks and Postal Mechanisation; Letterboxes on Derby Trams and Buses; the Danish Postal Museum; the Post Office in Victorian Mansfield; experiments with web perforators in the early 1970s; the Mutiny on the Packet *Eclipse* in 1815; and the recently introduced automated postage labels. A good mixture of articles with something to suit most interests. The Friends organise trips and interesting talks as well as publishing *Cross Post* •

The July/August issue of *The GB Journal*, published by the Great Britain Philatelic Society, includes features on the 1883/84 High Values on cover, the first paper contract for QV Line-Engraved stamps, and demonetisation of obsolete stamps, and notes on a number of subjects including the 'dagger' perforation found on 1st and 2nd class NV1 self-adhesive stamps, first recorded by Christian Hartig in the *Bulletin* of November 2001. The latest GBPS *Newsletter*, despatched with the *Journal*, includes a message from new President Phil Kenton, and notes on George VI essays, the new Occasions issue, Nobel Prizes stamps, 2001 commemorative warrant and cylinder numbers, society displays, and much else of interest to GB collectors. For information on the Great Britain Philatelic Society contact A Lajer at the address opposite •

Enquiries Bernhard Weiss,
Florianweg 57, 47574 Goch,
Germany.

Friends of Postal Heritage

For membership details contact Andrew Watton, Cornhill Chambers, Union Street, Stroud GL52 2JT.

GBPS Andrew Lajer, Old Post Office, Davis Way, Hurst, Reading RG10 0TR.

Railway book To mark the 25th anniversary of the reopening of the Nene Valley Railway, near Peterborough, a special book *The Nene Valley Railway on Stamps*, written by Margaret Craggs, has been published. The book includes a history of the railway and its railway letter service with details of all issues of its railway stamps since 1986. Illustrations are included of all issues, with the bonus of complete sheets of some 18 stamps mounted over the illustrations. There are many other colour and black-and-white illustrations of locomotives, trains, stations and scenes on the NVR which make the book a delight for railway enthusiasts as well as railway letter stamp collectors. There is a section on the Travelling Post Office with illustrations of the interior of a Southern Railways TPO coach and the mail-bag exchange apparatus. Printed on good quality paper in a limited edition of 500 certified copies. Price £25 or £33 signed by the author and the NVR Museum Curator, postage £1.50 •

The Nene Valley Railway on Stamps Orders to: Moorside Publishing Ltd, PO Box 53, Pickering YO18 8YG.

Royal Mail news Future and current issues

• Royal Mail album • David Gentleman



This year's Christmas stamps, shown at proof stage, reduced size.

Future issues To mark the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the first roadside pillar boxes, five colourful stamps go on sale on 8 October. The stamps are previewed in this *Bulletin*. The 2002 programme of special stamps will conclude on 5 November with the annual Christmas issue, this year featuring Christmas flora: spruce star, holly, ivy, mistletoe and pine cone. The values will be 2nd class, 1st class, E (European rate), 47p and 68p. As last year, the stamps will be printed in self-adhesive format in sheets of 50 by De La Rue. The stamps were designed by Rose Design using photography by Carol Sharp. The 2nd and 1st class stamps will also be available in books of 24 and 12 respectively. Two versions of the Christmas airletter (aerogramme) will be available from 5 November – in English, and bilingual Welsh/English. The Christmas issue will be previewed next month.

On 5 December a Wilding miniature sheet will go on sale containing nine stamps in Wilding designs; values are expected to be: 1p, 2p, 5p, 2nd, 1st, 33p, 37p, 47p and 50p. The 2003 programme is listed below •

The 2003 stamp programme

January	Birds	August	Pub Signs
February	Occasions	September	Transport/Toys
February	Medical Science	October	British Museum
March	Children's set	November	Christmas
April	Extreme Endeavours	December	Months of the Year
June	Coronation Anniversary	The Medical Science and Coronation Anniversary issues include prestige stamp books.	
July	Scotland		

This month's specials Readers are reminded that there are two issues of special stamps this month. On 10 September five stamps will go on sale showing London bridges: 2nd class Millennium Bridge, 1st class Tower Bridge, E (European rate) Westminster Bridge, 47p Blackfriars Bridge, and 68p London Bridge. In addition there will be a book containing four 1st class definitives and two 1st class Tower Bridge stamps, all self-adhesive.

An Astronomy miniature sheet and a prestige book on the theme of Astronomy go on sale from 24 September. The sheet contains four 1st class stamps showing: Planetary Nebula in Aquila; Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Pegasus;

Planetary Nebula in Norma; and Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Circinus. The new prestige book, entitled *Across the Universe*, costs £6.83. It contains Astronomy, other special, definitive, and country stamps in four panes. Details of the Bridges and Astronomy issues were published in last month's *Bulletin* •

New Smilers sheets Two new generic Smilers sheets will go on sale from 1 October. The first contains 10 each of the Teddy Bear and Dennis the Menace 1st class greetings stamps with 'Knock! Knock!' joke labels attached. The second contains 20 of the 1997 1st class Father Christmas stamp with the words of 'Jingle Bells' on the labels. These sheets, price £5.95 each, are printed in litho by Questa. The opportunity has been taken to upgrade the Father Christmas, Teddy and Dennis the Menace personalised sheets from 10 to 20 stamps, bringing them into line with all personalised sheets in the Smilers series. Minimum order for personalised sheets is 20 stamps, which previously involved processing two sheets of 10 stamps. Generic sheets with pre-printed labels are produced primarily for collectors, to allow maintaining a collection of the stamps issued in the Smilers series.

The three personalised sheets with personal image printed on the labels are: 1) with 20 Teddy Bear stamps; 2) with 20 Dennis the Menace stamps; and 3) with 20 1997 1st class Christmas stamps. These will be used once previous stock is exhausted from 1 October. Personalised sheets are produced to specific order only; see right for ordering information. There will be no first day facilities for either generic or personalised sheets.

The generic sheets, issued last October, containing 20 1995 19p Christmas stamps (robin in letterbox) and 10 1997 1st class Christmas (Santa and cracker) stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 8 October •

Royal Mail Deluxe Album For customers who are interested in which stamps will be included in the 2002 supplement (continuation pages) for the Royal Mail Deluxe Stamp Album, please see the notification given below. This lists the relevant stamps to be included from January to June 2002.

The criteria for inclusion in this album are: stamps new in design, colour, value or shape from those which have existed previously; stamps which have a new perforation gauge or new phosphor characteristics; or stamps that have been printed using a different printing process from those which existed previously. A list of stamps issued July - December 2002 which meet the criteria will be published later.

Special stamps: Just So Stories (15 January), Golden Jubilee (6 February), Occasions 2002 (litho printed perf 15 x 14 on 5 March), Coastlines (19 March), Circus (9 April), Queen Mother (25 April), Airliners (stamps and miniature sheet, 2 May), World Cup miniature sheet (gravure printed 21 May), World Cup Lion Stamp (21 May). Definitives and country stamps: none during this period.

Provision will also be made for the Wilding 'pane' only from *A Gracious Accession* book (6 February), and Smilers sheets of Occasions stamps with generic labels (litho printed perf 14 x 14 on 23 April) and the World Cup generic sheet (litho printed 21 May) •

Personalised sheets Order forms are available from Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone 0845 074 2000 (UK) or +44 131 316 7483 (overseas).

Price £14.95 per sheet. Details of discounts on quantities are available from Tallents House.

Binder and pages can be purchased in three volumes.

Volume 1, issues 1952-70: £79.95 (code PA634)

Volume 2, issues 1971-89: £99.95 (code PA635)

Volume 3, issues 1990-99: £109.95 (code PA636)

Sets of continuation pages for 2000 and 2001 are £9.99 each (codes PW021 and PW023 respectively).

Empty binders with slipcase price £49.95 (code PA194)

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

New retail books – postmarking In the past, whole panes of stamps in book format have been affixed to covers for postmarking. The postmarking difficulties caused by the removal of the matrix (margin surrounding the stamps) in newer books has put this area under scrutiny, and as such cancelling whole booklets is withdrawn. Stamps must be affixed to the item of mail and the postmark should be applied to ‘tie’ the stamp to the cover. Therefore, affixing books to the cover and tying the cancellation across the matrix or book does not adhere to the policy. Special Handstamp Centres have been instructed to cease this practise. Stamps affixed directly onto the envelope will of course be cancelled, but other pieces of the book that are adhered to the cover will not be cancelled ●

Going off sale Sheets of 100 self-adhesive 1st and 2nd class stamps, printed respectively by Questa and Walsall, will be withdrawn from sale at Royal Mail Tallents House on 1 September. The sheets, issued in September 2000, cost £19 2nd class stamps (order code DP026) and £27 1st class (DP025). Any remaining stock of the Punch & Judy stamps will be withdrawn from sale at Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 3 September. The six 1st class stamps cost £1.62, presentation pack £2, stamp cards £1.50. (The retail book containing self-adhesive Punch and Judy stamps is now sold out.) The Nobel Prize stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, postbag, and commemorative document will be withdrawn on 1 October. The stamps cost £2.33, pack £2.70, stamp cards £1.50, postbag £5.99, and commemorative document £5.95. The document, shown here in December (p105), bears the six stamps cancelled by a special Oxford first day postmark on a numbered card. This, plus another card giving information about the Nobel Prizes and the stamps, are enclosed in a folder listing all UK Nobel Prize winners. The order code for the document is XA020 ●

Prize winners The winners of the Christmas self-adhesive labels draw in the May *Bulletin* were: Mrs M Kempton, East Lothian and J Williams, Norfolk (sheets of labels), with runners up G Bates, Sheffield; C Waite, Devon; Roberta Hanson, Spain; P van der Wal, Netherlands; I Smith, Macau, S A R China; S Hogg, Leeds; C Scott, Cyprus; G Durrant, Norfolk; A Sidaway, Castle Douglas; J Allcock, Reading; A McAdams, Glasgow; S Anderson, Sussex; R Kershaw, Australia; B Glendinning, Canada; J Craig, Edinburgh; Mr & Mrs M Clarke, Essex; K Hatch, Berkshire; M Kahlbow, Germany; K Callow, Surrey; K Bennett, Warwickshire; D Connor, Staffordshire; B Morriss, Essex; Mrs P Edge, West Yorkshire; T Bicknell, Coventry; and A Page, Essex ●

Win a signed first day cover Robert Maude and Sarah Davies will sign 25 Royal Mail first day covers bearing their London Bridges stamps. For a chance to win one of these signed covers, send your name and address on a postcard or back of an envelope to: London Bridges FDC, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The draw will be made on 30 September ●

David Gentleman book It is nearly 40 years since David Gentleman's first set of stamp designs were issued by the then GPO. Three colourful stamps promoting National Productivity Year went on sale on 14 November 1962. Since then David has designed over 100 stamps for Royal Mail and a number of issues for Nauru. To commemorate David's 40th anniversary, Royal Mail is supporting the publication of a major new book. *Artwork* is David's 'creative autobiography' and provides an overview of every stamp issue he has designed for Royal Mail, as well as his work in fields as diverse as woodcuts, poster and book design and painting. Written and illustrated by David Gentleman, this stunning book is a must for anyone who appreciates brilliant design and the impact that the visual arts can have. The 192-page book, to be published by Ebury Press in October, can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, price £27. Please quote order code 03 AAC. It will also be sold in book shops.

An exhibition of the work of David Gentleman will be on show at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 for 10 days from 4 October. Admission will be free ●

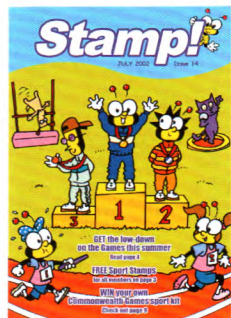


Artwork Telephone order line
08457 641 641

Awards The Asiago Prize for Philatelic Art was recently awarded to the £ rate stamp from last year's Nobel Prizes stamps. The jury stated 'the overall elegance, the simplicity of the printing, the clever use of colour have created a jewel-stamp and offer, in our opinion, an example of great and refined philatelic art.'

The *Bulletin* was recently short-listed in the 'best use of typography' and 'best-designed customer magazine' categories of the prestigious Magazine Design Awards for 2002. No fewer than 550 magazines were entered for the awards ●

Collectors Club The July issue of *Stamp!*, the colourful magazine of Royal Mail's Collectors Club for young philatelists, includes features on the Commonwealth Games with some interesting facts about this major sporting event and a competition to win a Manchester 2002 gym sports bag filled with Kool Kit sporting goodies. The Peter Pan stamps are illustrated and there are the usual jokes and drawings and the cartoon adventures of Sammy the Stamp Bug. A supplement includes members' swaps, puzzles and pen pal requests. The Club is for young collectors up to age 12; members receive a fun starter pack, membership card, something in the post each month, six sets of stamps a year and *Stamp!* magazine six times a year. Annual subscription is £15 UK, £22.50 overseas. Application forms from: Collectors Club, Freepost NEA 1431, Sunderland SR9 9XN ●



Queen Mother coin cover A coin cover honouring the late Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will be available from 14 December. Further details to follow ●

Trafalgar Square PO The opening hours for this office are now: Monday-Friday 08.30-18.30; Saturday 09.00-17.30 ●

Major force Richard West talks to the President of the NPS

YOU CANNOT FAIL to notice Richard Pratt. An imposing figure, it is not difficult to appreciate that he served nearly 37 years in the British Army, finally as a Major with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, seeing service in Malaya, the Persian Gulf, Jordan, Iraq and Germany. If a significant philatelic event takes place, you can be sure Dick Pratt will be there, helping with the organisation.



Equally unsurprising is Dick's interest in the hobby, given that his father was a stamp dealer, a general dealer who operated from home. Home was in Richmond in Surrey, where Dick was born in 1932. He was educated at Eastbourne College, and then at Sandhurst. Even before he could walk or talk properly, Dick was showing an interest in stamps. He would crawl into the office where his father was working, and would yell 'Tick a tamp Daddy, tick a tamp'. A muddy hand would then grab a few stamps from a box of poor quality items, and soon the 'collection' was developing. This general collection gradually grew, but by the time Dick was eight or nine, it had been refined to just the Commonwealth, and by 14 or 15, had been reduced further to Canada alone. However, on leaving Sandhurst, Dick found he could no longer carry on this collection, so it was sold.

Sport had always played an important part in Dick's life, but by the age of 35, he found he could no longer achieve the top level he had previously reached. The time had come to return to stamps, again starting with the Commonwealth. About two years later, he met the famous late Angus Parker, of the Argyll Stamp Company, and as a result was introduced to postal history. He first studied Aden (for which he received a Vermeil medal at the international stamp exhibition held in India), but then in 1979 decided to change to the Expatriate Post Offices operating in China.

This he says will keep him perfectly happy for the rest of his life. As yet he has not exhibited this collection internationally, as there are still a few 'key' pieces needed – it has received a Vermeil

medal in the 'international' section of Autumn Stampex. He finds this study totally fascinating, researching each letter from its posting to delivery, tracing the route taken, and working out the charges. Overseas mail frequently has bilingual postmarks, but internal mail most often provides the headaches. While the China collection may not be ready for international exhibition, it has

been shown to many societies, both in the UK and overseas, including The Royal Philatelic Society London and The Collectors Club of New York.

Dick likes to share his enthusiasm and knowledge. He has written many articles, plus books on the postal history of Aden, while the third volume of his *Imperial China – History of the Posts* is about to go to the printers. He is or has been a member of many societies – as far as Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, and more locally at Basingstoke, Belfast, Bicester, Colchester, Leicester and Reading, plus the India Study Circle, China Philatelic Society, and the Hong Kong Study Circle. He is also a Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society London, and has for many years been a member of the National Philatelic Society.

Dick has taken an active role, in various capacities, with the international exhibitions held in London in 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000. For many years he was Chief Steward at Stampex, and can still be seen in charge of the Information Stand. He recalls at one London 'international' being asked for directions to 'Belly Poods': it turned out the visitor wanted the stand of Proud Bailey.

He has been particularly involved with the NPS over many years, as a member of Council. From the new season, he is to be the Society's President. As yet he is keeping an open mind as to what his Presidency will reveal, although he says he has one or two ideas up his sleeve, particularly when it comes to promoting the activities of the NPS.

When you visit Autumn Stampex, look out for Richard Pratt. He is a big man, with a big smile and an enormous personality ●

Philately on-line Ron Negus reviews a publication on a CD

FORGERIES OF THE DRAGON, CHERRY BLOSSOM AND KOBAN POSTAGE STAMPS OF JAPAN

I.S.J.P. CD-ROM MONOGRAPH 1 - 2ND EDITION



by Ron Casey, Thomas L. Zane and Lois M. Evans-de Violini
 Edited by Lois M. Evans-de Violini

IN THE MARCH 2001 *Bulletin*, I reviewed a CD-ROM that had been produced by the Society of Olympic Collectors to describe various stamps, postmarks and cachets issued for the unsuccessful bids made by Manchester to host the Summer Olympic Games. This form of electronic publication is an ideal method of reproducing stamp images in full colour, and can be used on any computer with a CD-drive without the need for an internet connection. As computer ownership grows and provides an even wider audience, philatelic books are likely to become more commonly available in this format in the years ahead.

This is particularly true for specialised works issued by study circles. An example of the excellent way in which electronic publication could be used appeared in 1997 when the International Society for Japanese Philately issued a CD-ROM describing some forgeries of the classic stamps of Japan. Its appearance led to much more research into the subject and this has now been consolidated into a second edition of the CD-ROM. This is even more useful than the first, and covers all known information as at Spring 2002.

The CD-ROM is titled *Forgeries of the Dragon, Cherry Blossom and Koban Postage Stamps of Japan*. It contains over 2340 pages of information and shows about 1800 different forgeries. A number of these have sections of the picture extracted to illustrate points of difference between the forgery and the genuine stamp, so that there are almost 2800 graphics in total on the CD. Where appropriate, these include sections of the forgery enlarged to either 300% or 600% of original size

Forgeries of the Dragon, Cherry Blossom and Koban Postage Stamps of Japan

This CD-ROM will run on either a PC or Macintosh computer, and uses a Web browser. The price for non-members of the ISJP is \$49.95, postpaid worldwide. Cheques or money orders should be sent to Kenneth Kamholz, PO Box 1283, Haddonfield, NJ 08033-0760, USA.

so that the characteristics being described can be viewed more clearly. For some forgeries, this is the first occasion in which the material on the disc has appeared in any published form.

One of the attractions of the disc is that it has been structured in the same manner as an on-line web page with links between pages shown in a different colour in the text. This makes the task of following a particular point of interest from one page to another much easier than if an individual page number approach had been used as in a printed book. An index is provided, with sections for the three main types of classic stamp covered by the CD-ROM. This can be used as a starting point in identifying any particular example that may be suspected of being a forgery.

As well as details of forgeries attributed to known forgers, this second edition also contains information on the products of unknown forgers. Mention is also made of material that the authors feel could be misrepresented as a genuine stamp to unsuspecting collectors, such as reproductions that have been used on official and unofficial souvenir sheets. There are also sections outlining the general differences between the forgeries and the genuine stamps, and a reference to the methods that the major forgers used to distribute their wares.

The authors, Ron Casey, Thomas L Zane and the editor Lois M Evans-de Violini deserve praise for having brought this large project to such successful fruition. Other specialist groups will almost certainly copy the method of production for the benefit of collectors generally •

Time and tide Robert Maude describes part



Above: some pages from the document which preceded design work: research into various aspects of London's monumental architecture.

THE FIVE simple compositions which make up the London Bridges issue are, deceptively, the result of a lengthy process which began in January last year. To begin with, my partner Sarah Davies and I were asked to prepare a research document on the subject of London's monumental architecture, examining subjects which might be developed as an issue of special stamps. Among many topics we explored were memorials, civic architecture, markets, museums, bridges, and the architects, engineers and designers involved in them. Later we were invited, with others, to submit a design proposal for an issue on the subject of bridges.

We decided from the outset that our approach would be an attempt to convey some of the rich history physically embodied in the bridges, and to represent the wide variety of their architecture and engineering. Alternative approaches using maps to highlight the role of the bridges in transport and communications, and in determining the city's topography were also initially submitted, but the more narrative solution was preferred, and this was developed for presentation to the Stamp Advisory Committee as shown opposite. This approach was to trace a chronological sequence from old to new. It aimed to represent three of the ways in which a bridge is perceived, and employed three elements to communicate these perceptions: a 'landmark' view executed in a style contemporary with each bridge's opening or prime; a diagram to represent the relative physical structure of each; and a typographic map to represent our primary experience of a bridge, its function in connecting destinations. (This last was deliberately subtle, intended to add an element of discovery to the design which, if overlooked, would detract nothing from the stamp's communication.)

Bridges considered for inclusion in the set were to meet two criteria: each was to be widely-known and, if possible, to include a London landmark in the view. (The medieval London Bridge and Tower Bridge, both landmarks in themselves, were never out of consideration.) Further to this, a suitable illustration executed at the appropriate time would need to be available. Importantly, certain structures captured a particular moment in London's history, and strengthened the case for inclusion. Given the span of history to be covered, it was necessary to represent the older crossings with illustrations of structures which have been replaced. This created a potential for confusion between the name and the image, which was to be countered by the inclusion of dates within the design.

Following the proposal shown opposite, the design process continued with a gradual refinement of the amount of information to be included on the stamps, and ultimately the design was pared down to the simple combination of image and type (left) due to be released this month •



of the process of designing this special issue

The main illustration London landmarks were to be a feature of the set and, to help communicate the span of history encapsulated by the bridges, each illustration was to be contemporary with the structure represented. Many alternative images were considered, such as the two shown right, at stamp size: Old Westminster Bridge by Canaletto, and Old Blackfriars, engraved by J C Stadler.



Date of main illustration

To identify the illustration as the bridge of 1769.

Today This identifies the diagram as the bridge of 1869.

Typographic map The purpose of a bridge in linking destinations is most easily represented on a map, so each design included a word-map – at a size intended to repay closer inspection of the stamp.

CITY OF LONDON

BLACKFRIARS

SOUTHWARK

Diagrams An elevation diagram of the present bridge on each site would illustrate the variety of architectural styles and engineering techniques, from the delicacy of the Millennium Bridge to the solid mass of Tower Bridge. They would also show the differences between the previous and present bridges. The two stamp-size diagrams below are from a later stage, when the typographic maps had been removed.



Dates of opening To reinforce the chronological sequence of the five stamps, the date of each bridge's opening was included. Blackfriars required two dates: for the original structure opened in 1769, and for its replacement, opened in 1869 and still standing today.

Pillar to post A new issue of stamps to mark



Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé stamps

Process Lithography and recess (intaglio)

Size 30 x 41mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 x 14.5

Phosphor 2nd class one band, others two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

Plate numbers and colours

2nd 1A greenish black ● 1B new blue ● 1C bright magenta ● 1D greenish yellow ● 1E grey ● 1F silver

1st & 47p 1A brown-purple ● 1B new blue ● 1C bright magenta ● 1D greenish yellow ● 1E grey ● 1F silver

E 1A deep blue ● 1B new blue ● 1C bright magenta ● 1D greenish yellow ● 1E grey ● 1F silver

68p 1A deep brown-red ● 1B new blue ● 1C bright magenta ● 1D greenish yellow ● 1E grey ● 1F silver

Phosphor 1G on all values

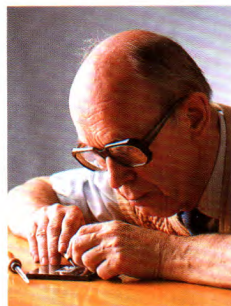
TO MARK the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the first roadside pillar boxes, five colourful stamps go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 8 October.

The stamps are as follows. 2nd class: 1857 highly decorative box designed for use in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh, in its original green and gold livery. (A plain 'economy' version was produced for use elsewhere.) 1st class: 1874 early mainland box of an 1856 design, but with horizontal aperture adopted in 1857, shown in the red livery adopted in 1874. E (European rate): 1934 airmail box with dual notice plates, a feature introduced in 1932. (Special blue-painted boxes for airmail postings were in use 1930-38.) 47p: 1939 oval, dual-aperture version of cylindrical design of 1879 painted in war-time livery of yellow gas-detecting paint on the roof and white paint at the base for greater visibility during the blackout. 68p: New-style box in use 1980-2001. Today, new installations are of the traditional design from 1879 – cylindrical and with a cap with a milled edge.

The stamps were designed by Silk Pearce with the boxes engraved by Czeslaw Slania – his fifth set of engravings for Royal Mail special stamps. He has also engraved the Machin head of The Queen for the current high values and 1st class from 1999 *Profile on Print* prestige book.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches about a week before 8 October, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Bishop's Caundle, Sherborne must reach Tallents House by 8 October. Price £2.74 UK (including VAT) or £2.34 overseas (no VAT). Stamped covers can be sent on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Bishop's Caundle postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO2 21' or 'FDO2 22' respectively. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Bishop's Caundle postmark. A non-pictorial Bishop's Caundle postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FDO2 22 NP'. For details of sponsored handstamps see the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

the 150th anniversary of the familiar pillar box



The Pillar Boxes stamps were designed by Silk Pearce, with engravings by Czeslaw Slania (left) – his fifth set of engravings for Royal Mail. Mr Slania was awarded the Reginald M Phillips medal for stamp design and the Rowland Hill Lifetime Achievement Award earlier this year.



PILLAR TO POST Royal Mail First Day Cover



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Royal Mail: Talents House: 200 Manorbie Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 4AB

PILLAR TO POST

Royal Mail Mint Stamps

1839 was soon followed by a variety of new designs: in 1840 elegant hexagon with a cap decorated with acanthus leaves; in 1841 simple pillar with a cap with a milled edge; and in 1899, a large version with separate posting apertures for town and country.

Experiments in recent years have led to a rectangular design of 1968 and a new cylindrical design of 1980. Pillar boxes for new installations essentially of the same design (it served so well for 123 years: a simple iron pillar with a cap with a milled edge).

Until 1874 boxes were painted green, but red became standard to aid visibility. It took 10 years to repaint every letter box.

The smaller version weighs approximately 500kg and the larger dual-aperture model for town and city centres weighs 800kg. Traditional style lamp post boxes are still available for rural locations, which are also being served by a new-style 'Bantam' box for mounting on pedestals. There are boxes especially designed for hand-delivered mail posted at business parks and for indoor locations such as shopping centres.

150th ANNIVERSARY

In this 150th anniversary year of Britain's first pillar letter boxes, Royal Mail is proud of the fact that some of its earliest examples remain in service. It recognises too that its letter boxes are a much loved and quintessential feature of the British street scene. For this reason, Royal Mail is committed to a policy of preserving all its letter boxes, irrespective of their age, for as long as possible, in their existing locations, so that they might continue to serve their community well into the 21st century.

MUCH LOVED FEATURE OF

A presentation pack containing the five stamps (left, price £2.35) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available. The pack has been written by Jean Farrugia MBE, former Post Office Archivist, and author of *The Letter Box* (1969).



One of the first Post Office letter boxes, on the corner of Fleet Street and Farringdon Street, London, in 1855.

Anthony Trollope and posting boxes The introduction of roadside pillar boxes is credited to Anthony Trollope, better-known as a novelist. Less well-known is the fact that he worked for the Post Office, starting in 1834 as a clerk in the Secretary's Office on a salary of £90 a year. He did not enjoy the work and seven years later, he applied to become one of a new body of surveyors' clerks who travelled the country investigating complaints about postal matters. He was appointed to work in Ireland, and during this period he began to write, although at first with little success. Later he became a Surveyor and worked for a while in Egypt and the West Indies. He left the PO in 1867 to concentrate on his literary work.

In 1851 Trollope recommended the introduction of roadside posting boxes as used in France. The first were erected in Jersey in November 1852. A report in a Jersey newspaper at the time states: 'The Post Office Receivers are now erected and in full use, and a very great convenience they are to the public. They are made of cast-metal, are about four feet high and are hexagonal. On three of the sides, near the top, are the Royal Arms; on two sides the words Post Office; on the other the words Letter-Box; with a protected receiver. A sliding cover allows the collector to unlock the receiver and remove its contents. They are painted red and fitted in solid granite blocks two feet deep and raised four inches from the ground.'

Unfortunately the first Jersey boxes do not survive but two erected in neighbouring Guernsey the following year are still in existence. One is still in use in Union Street, St Peter Port and the other, presented by the new Guernsey PO to the British PO in 1969, is part of the Heritage Services Consignia collection of letter boxes. The two Guernsey boxes have featured here in August 1972, July 1978 and December 1987.

Articles on Anthony Trollope were published in December 1967 and September 1994; the latter shows his signature stamp and writing slope preserved by Heritage Services Consignia. A review of James Pope Hennessy's biography of Trollope, which covers his literary and Post Office career, was published here in March 1972.

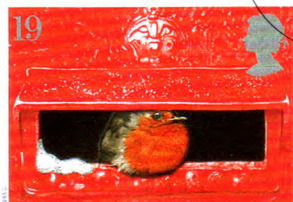
Illustrated London News

The earliest surviving box on the UK mainland is at Bishop's Caundle in Dorset. This was manufactured by John M Butt & Co of Gloucester in 1853 and differs from the Guernsey boxes in being hexagonal and with a vertical posting aperture. It was shown here in August 1978. Bishop's Caundle is the location for the alternative first day postmark for this issue.

Posting boxes on stamps Somewhat surprisingly few posting boxes have featured on British stamps: 1983 Christmas 12½p; 1985 Public Postal Service 31p and 34p; 1994 Peter Rabbit greetings stamp; 1995 Christmas 19p Christmas; and 1997 Post Offices set. Boxes were shown on the front covers of 10p stamp books, 1971-74, and 1991, 1994 greetings books, and 1995 Christmas book of 19p stamps.

Both Guernsey and Jersey have shown these early boxes on their stamps. Guernsey's first box features on the 6p Europa stamp of 1979, 1980 Penny Black Anniversary 20p, and on the recent £1.75 stamp (see May *Bulletin* p263). A Jersey box, c1860, features on one of the pair of 8p Europa stamps of 1979, and stamps marking the 150th anniversary of letter boxes will be issued in November. Ireland and the Isle of Man have also issued attractive post box stamps – see *Bulletin* October 1998 and March 1999. Letter boxes on stamps from other countries were shown here in Glenn Morgan's article last November. The 'Posting Boxes' feature, published in this *Bulletin* since 1978, is one of our most popular series •

Below, from top left: 1983 Christmas 12½p, 1998 Eire, 1985 Public Postal Service 31p; 1995 Christmas 19p, 1994 Peter Rabbit Greetings, 1999 Isle of Man, and 1979 Guernsey.



A heavenly theme by Margaret Morris

The spectacular issue of 24 September captures the wonder and beauty of Astronomy and could inspire collectors to pursue this theme. Be warned! It is a totally absorbing subject with many high-ways and byways to explore. Most countries have honoured their astronomers, illustrated their skies or featured national observatories on their stamps. Britain is no exception and you may be surprised by just how many philatelic items exist already.

FROM early times, observation of the apparent movement of the Sun permitted such time divisions as the day and the year, whilst the changing phases of the Moon gave the interval of a month. Stamps depicting the seasons and important annual festivals may be included here.

The mysterious structures of Stenness, Stonehenge, and Callanish can be illustrated by means

of stamp designs, special cancellations and aerogrammes. These standing stones and stone circles are believed to have been some kind of early astronomical computer enabling early man to calculate midwinter, midsummer and other important dates.

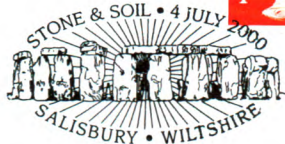
Sir Isaac Newton's achievements featured on the stamps issued in 1987 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the publication of the *Principia*. A number of associated special handstamps amplified the images on the stamps and included his reflecting telescope.

Edmund Halley was shown in caricature form on the 17p value of the set issued in 1986 marking the return of the periodic comet with which his name has become associated. The whole set plus associated special handstamps would be useful in an astronomy collection. Both Newton and Halley have featured on the stamp issues of many countries.

Three prominent British astronomers appeared on the 199d value of the 1970 General Anniversaries issue commemorating the sesquicentenary of the Royal Astronomical Society. From left to right, they are Sir William Herschel (discoverer of the planet Uranus), Sir Francis Baily (associated with a beautiful phenomenon seen at solar eclipses) and Sir John Herschel (Sir William's only son, who mapped southern skies and was a pioneer of photography which was to become so important for modern astronomy). In the background is Sir William's great 40-foot telescope (the measurement refers to the length of the tube). William Herschel was born in Hanover in 1738. The family were musically gifted and William performed in the regimental band of the Hanoverian Guards. He left the army and came to England where he became well known as an organist, being appointed to the Octagon Chapel at Bath. However, astronomy eventually became his all-absorbing interest and occupation. He built larger and larger telescopes, casting the mirrors for them himself. The amount of work he did was phenomenal. With these powerful instruments he 'swept' the skies night after night, looking for changes. It was by this means that he discovered in 1781 an object which changed its position against the background stars. This was a new planet which he at first named 'Georgium Sidus', or George's Star, in honour of the King. It was later named Uranus. Herschel also discovered two satellites of Uranus and their orbits are shown in schematic form on the diagram which he is seen holding on the stamp. He observed double stars and studied the Galaxy. There is a William Herschel Society and a museum at his home, 19 New King Street, Bath.

Opposite: Stonehenge and Callanish; Sir Isaac Newton's telescope on a handstamp; the seasons; 199d of the 1970 General Anniversaries issue (interesting for a number of minor varieties and the major error of yellow colour missing, variants of the presentation pack and different language inserts); and stamps and postmarks for William Herschel and Edmund Halley.

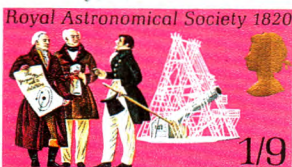
Photography by Geoff Dann



CALLANISH

WESTERN ISLES

CALLANISH ON THE Isle of Lewis is a unique cross-shaped setting of standing stones, erected 5000 years ago. An avenue and three lines of stones lead to a central stone circle, within which sit a central pillar and a tiny burial cairn.



ELEZÖLAP



SIR WILLIAM
HERSCHEL

FIRST
PRESIDENT
ROYAL
ASTRONOMICAL
SOCIETY
SLOUGH, BUCKS. 1 APR 1970



Opposite, top row: Bradley, Greenwich and Jodrell Bank. 2nd row: Harrison's chronometer, a sundial, and time-ball cancelling David Gentleman's design symbolising time. 3rd row: a postmark depicting the Tower of the Winds in Athens, which incorporated sundials and was believed to house an important early clock; the 26p Above and Beyond stamp, later issued in a booklet as a 1st NVI; and the Plough on a cancellation. 4th row: Comet Bennett cancellation, and the Scientists' Tale 64p cancelled by a sign of the zodiac for the total solar eclipse of 1999.

A few British astronomers have been shown on stamps of other countries such as Bradley (Nicaragua), Hawking (Zambia), Hewish and Ryle (Sweden), Sir David Gill (Ascension Island). There are others to search for.

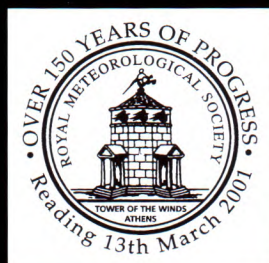
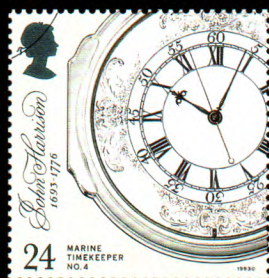
Turning now to the tools of Astronomy, Britain's oldest observatory (at Greenwich) was depicted on one value of the European Architectural Heritage Year issue of 1975. A 1989 Scottish airmeter included the City Observatory, or Calton Hill Observatory, in Edinburgh, designed by architect William Playfair. The Jodrell Bank Mark 1 radio telescope (now known as the Lovell Telescope) appeared on the 4d value of the 1966 British Technology issue. This important instrument was involved in satellite tracking as well as radio astronomy. Several printing flaws and other varieties allow for a bit of fun here, and meter marks of the observatory as well as postmarks can be collected. The great dish has appeared on stamps of other countries. The stamps issued in 1984 to mark the centenary of adoption of the Greenwich Meridian as the prime meridian include one design showing the Airy transit telescope while another value has an aerial view of the Old Royal Observatory (formerly known as the Royal Greenwich Observatory). The William Herschel Telescope, an important modern facility on La Palma in the Canary Islands, was illustrated on the presentation pack which accompanied the issue of the 1991 Europe in Space pairs – somewhat controversial 'love 'em or hate 'em' designs!

Time-keeping was traditionally an important function of Astronomy although the former methods have been largely superseded. However, the superb set of stamps issued in 1993 to honour Harrison and his marine chronometer would certainly find a place in a collection on the Astronomy theme. Still on this aspect, look at the many special postmarks associated with the Millennium stamps and especially those illustrating sundials, clock faces and the like. The elegant designs by David Gentleman symbolise time (20p value of the Inventors' Tale issue and the later composite).

The attractive special handstamp from Reading on 13 March 2001 honouring 150 years of the Royal Meteorological Society illustrated the Tower of the Winds in Athens. The upper octagon of the old Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, was based on the Tower of the Winds.

Sky objects are also represented in UK philately. For example, some constellation patterns can be found on postmarks – the Southern Cross and that part of Ursa Major known as The Plough. One of the 'Above and Beyond' stamps from the Millennium series, issued January 2000, featured a starry sky and was linked to the new National Space Science Centre.

Halley's Comet has already been mentioned, and Comet Bennett featured on a handstamp dated 20 March 1970, the date of perihelion (the point of its orbit nearest the Sun). Another spectacular phenomenon was seen in 1999 – namely, a total solar eclipse. This event, rarely seen in Britain, was marked by a miniature sheet including four of the Scientists' Tale 64p stamps: Saturn from the Hubble Space Telescope. Some interesting special handstamps were associated with this event – including a series of 12 used at monthly intervals during 1999, each one featuring the appropriate sign of the zodiac and a different town within the path of totality.





Above: Captain Cook and the transit of Venus, and *The Planets Suite* from the 1985 British Composers issue.

Below: the 1990 Astronomy set. The arches surmounting each illustration are filled with astronomical images, such as the phases of the Moon on the 37p value. A description of these designs is available from the author: send an SAE to 81 Ellon Way, Paisley PA3 4BW.

Another event, more rare than a total solar eclipse, is a transit of Venus – when the planet Venus passes across the disk of the Sun. These events take place at alternating intervals of 8 years and over 100 years with the next pair due in 2004 and 2012. Captain Cook's first voyage of discovery had as one of its stated purposes the observation of the 1769 transit of Venus, and Cook was commemorated on issues from 1968 and 1999 (in the *Travellers' Tale* Millennium issue), also an airletter sheet dated 1997 for the round Britain voyage of the *Endeavour* replica. Would it be too much to hope that either of the next Transits of Venus might be commemorated with a special issue featuring Jeremiah Horrocks?

Until this month, the most distant object to appear on a philatelic item from Royal Mail was a small section of the HST image of the Eagle Nebula (M16) which has become something of an icon. This was incorporated in the 1999 *World Changers* prestige book of millennium stamps and formed the pictorial centrepiece in a pane consisting of one 26p stamp, three 19p and four 1p stamps.

Sometimes there is a slip-up in the normally careful background work done by the stamp designer, and such errors give great pleasure to collectors. Such a case occurred on the beautiful 1985 issue for European Music Year, honouring British composers. The 22p value was supposed to suggest Holst's famous composition *The Planets Suite*, and certainly there are a number of globes and a Saturn-type image which give the impression of planets. However, at the top left corner of the stamp there appears a slightly fuzzy object which is not a planet, but a planetary nebula!

Finally, the one essential issue for the collector of Astronomy on stamps must be the 1990 set marking the centenary of the British Astronomical Association and the bicentenary of the Armagh Observatory. These complex designs incorporate many facets of Astronomy. An interesting feature is that the designs of the increasing denominations take us backwards in time – ie the lowest value shows the more recent aspects of Astronomy whilst the highest value returns to Stonehenge. Each design is surmounted by a sort of arch which makes one think of the 'vault of heaven'.

With so many interesting items already available and now this striking new issue from Royal Mail, the Astronomy theme makes an exciting collection spanning the breadth of human endeavour from prehistoric times to the cutting edge of science and technology •



Definitive first day covers Part 5 of Richard West's series



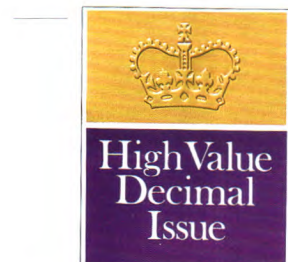
THE PUBLIC, persuaded that it is good to collect stamps, frequently embraces the first day cover as the only true collectable item, often referring to such covers as 'first day issue'. However, this interest usually only extends as far as the special issues, so definitives are less plentiful on cover. The early problems associated with producing covers were the same for definitives, so for the Wildings, plain envelopes often had to suffice, and whatever postmark was available.

However, the 'wind of change' that swept through the Post Office in the 1960s had its effect on definitives. For the 2½d 'Regional' values for Guernsey, Isle of Man and Jersey on 8 June 1964, envelope design 'first day of issue' slogans were in use in the three 'regions'. Examples exist for Guernsey and Jersey which interestingly did not include a date slug, but instead a triangle with the number 324 and 409 respectively. On 7 February 1966, the release of new 4d values for all six 'regions' (including Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) again resulted in the 'envelope' slogans at appropriate offices in the respective areas. The following year, for the 9d and 1s6d val-

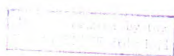
ues for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the circular 'first day of issue' handstamp (small diameter) was provided, and again on 4 September 1968 for the new 4d (in blue) and 5d for all six 'regions'.

With the arrival of Machin definitives, greater provision would be made for FDCs, with the PO providing its own envelopes, plus the familiar handstamps through posting boxes and the Philatelic Bureau. The initial pre-decimal Machins (including high values) were issued in five batches. However, when the 4d Machin changed to red (and the 8d simultaneously became turquoise), and likewise for the release of 'Regional' 4d values in red, no 'first day' facilities were provided. As it happens, for the 'national' definitive colour change, Windsor used the circular handstamp, but omitting the inscription 'first day of issue'.

On 1 December 1969, when the *£1 Stamps for Cooks* booklet was released, no circular 'first day of issue' handstamps were provided, since there were no new basic stamps as such. However, a pictorial handstamp referring to the new booklet was in use at Thames Ditton in Surrey.



FIRST DAY COVER



Mr. R. J. West,
90 11 Southdown Avenue
PEACEHAVEN,
SUSSEX.



Some facts about Wedgwood

- A monument to Josiah Wedgwood, executed by the famous artist, John Flaxman, is in Stok Park Church. The inscription states he 'converted a rude and inconsiderable Man into an elegant Art and an important part of National Commerce'.
- The foundation of Sydney was marked by a 1p issue, in 1788, of the Sydney Cove medal brought back from Botany Bay by Captain James I in the Endeavour.
- Early Jasper vases were often made in sets, from a *garniture de chambre*. Such vases particularly admired by late 19th century collectors, many of whom left their collections to museums.
- Canals interested Josiah Wedgwood, and he was a pioneer in promoting this form of transport in England.

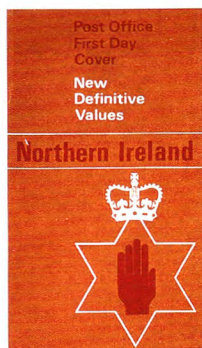
Decimalisation The change to decimal currency, which took place on 15 February 1971, was anticipated by the release of the 10p, 20p and 50p Machin high values on 17 June 1970: again 'first day of issue' facilities were provided. On 'D-Day' itself, the country was gripped by a Post Office strike. The many sub post offices were open, as were some head post offices, while collection and delivery was still taking place on a localised basis in a few areas. Consequently, the decimal low value definitives went on sale as planned, but posting and having delivered a first day cover was more difficult.

The strike ended on 7 March, and arrangements were made that on 12 and 13 March the philatelic posting boxes would be open to receive first day covers of the decimal low values. In addition, these would be handstamped 'first day of issue 15 February 1971'. At the last moment it was decided that all the covers so posted would receive a cachet reading 'Posting Delayed by The Post Office Strike 1971' (occasionally the word 'The' is omitted). As this was a late decision, the cachets were all produced on a localised basis. As a result, there have been some 94 different types identified. Interestingly, items such as booklet

panes and even postal stationery were eligible to receive the 'first day of issue' handstamp.

Indeed, since decimalisation, there has been a more 'liberal' approach taken as to what deserves full first day treatment, so clearly all new denominations of Machin definitives have been afforded full facilities, as have changes of colour, and the change of font on the £1 definitive. However, changes regarded by Royal Mail as being of specific interest to philatelists have generally not been afforded the full 'first day of issue' exercise, although there have been a few exceptions when local offices have used their own initiative.

The major exception as far as Royal Mail is concerned has been the prestige stamp booklets. The 1969 £1 *Stamps for Cooks* experiment was not followed up until 1972 with the £1 *Story of Wedgwood*. For that a 'first day of issue' pictorial handstamp was provided featuring the bust of Josiah Wedgwood. This practice has been continued for all the subsequent prestige books. This might be considered strange, since in the majority of cases no new basic stamps were involved, although such booklets invariably produce a variation for the collector. At times the Post Office has stated that the 'first day of issue' handstamp may only be



Top row: a cover for the change to decimal currency, with the new 50p stamp with a 'first day of issue' handstamp for Windsor, and the equivalent 10s with privately sponsored handstamp used on the day of issue; the Bureau handstamp for the £1 definitive with re-drawn value tablet; and the Bureau handstamp used for new 'Country' stamps at one time.

Bottom row: a cover for the release of the low value decimal definitives, with the 'posting delayed...' cachet; and a 'first day of issue' handstamp service provided for the £1 *Story of Wedgwood* prestige stamp book.

applied to the 'special panes' (often a se-tenant arrangement) in the booklets, but without exception covers exist with all panes so treated. In fact, first day cover collectors tend to reject covers which bear just the stamps from the prestige book panes, but require the entire item, including the attached 'label', on their covers.

These booklets saw a pictorial 'first day' handstamp applied to definitives from 1972, but it was not until 1977 that a pictorial 'first day of issue' handstamp was put into general use for new definitives. For the photogravure-printed high values issued on 2 February that year, a pictorial handstamp featuring a '£' sign was introduced at both the Bureau and Windsor. This remained the 'definitive' style for a few years, but with the £1.30 high value of 1983, and more generally from the Castle high values of 1988, there has been a wider range of designs used for the 'official' first day of issue handstamps.

There have, of course, been many other items of which collectors have wanted a first day cover, such as the booklets with commemorative labels, but for which the Post Office has not provided a handstamp. In such cases a privately sponsored handstamp has invariably fulfilled the need.

Regionals As decimalisation brought pictorial first day of issue handstamps for special issues, so the issue of 'Regionals' in new designs with decimal values on 7 July 1971 saw the provision of pictorial handstamps. These were used at various locations in the respective regions, and featured the distinguishing motif used on the stamps. (In 1969 Guernsey and Jersey had gained postal independence, and issued their own stamps, so were no longer included among the 'Regionals'.)

The next release of 'Regionals' was on 23 January 1974: by this time the Isle of Man has also become 'independent', so was no longer included. Consequently, the PO changed the designation of these to 'Country' stamps. New circular first day of issue handstamps were introduced for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, still featuring the principal motif of the Red Hand of Ulster, Scottish Lion and Welsh Dragon. The handstamp applied at the Philatelic Bureau featured a map of the UK, with the three countries shown in black. These handstamps remained in use until 1999, when the new pictorial definitives were introduced for Scotland and Wales.

Next time, this series will conclude with a selection of more unusual items •

Postbag Letters to the Editor



Above: left, the World Cup flag stamp from Smilers sheets and, right, from Walsall's gravure miniature sheet. Right: New Scottish 1st and 2nd class stamps printed by De La Rue, top, and the previous Walsall printings, bottom.

Recent varieties I have now seen the colourful World Cup Smilers sheet issued along with the single stamp, miniature sheet and self-adhesive stamp book on 21 May. The Smilers sheets contain the lower right flag stamp from the miniature sheet but printed in litho by Questa, whereas the miniature sheets are printed gravure by Walsall. There is a clear difference between the two stamps – the blue background is much darker on the Walsall stamp and the red part of the flag is bright scarlet compared to the rather dull orange-red of the Questa printing. The black on the football is much greyer on the Questa stamp. On those I have examined, the wording on the flag starts with **WORLD CUP** at top left on the Walsall stamp but begins with the last two letters of **WORLD** on the Questa printing. Furthermore, the top line of perforations is above the wording on the Walsall stamp, but the perforations cut into the inscription on the Questa variety. This may, of course, vary from sheet to sheet depending on the register of the perforator. To the naked eye, the phosphor bands are much more prominent on the Smilers sheet stamp. The perforation gauge on the miniature sheet stamp is 15×14 but 14.5×14 on the Smilers stamp.

Turning now to the new gold 1st class stamp issued in books on 5 June. They are printed by Questa and Walsall. The work of the two printers is well-matched in terms of colour, but the phosphor bands are set further apart on the Walsall stamps. The shape of the 'perforations' also

varies, most noticeably at the corners. The '1st' is set slightly higher on the Questa stamp. Compared to the gummed versions of 1997, printed in sheets by Walsall and in books by Harrison (now De La Rue) and Walsall, the colour of the gold on the new self-adhesives is much deeper with a less greenish appearance. When placed side by side the new stamps more resemble the colour of the 50p definitive.

Finally we have the new printings (5 June) of the 2nd and 1st class Scottish stamps by De La Rue instead of Walsall. The DLR 2nd class stamp is a good colour match, although it appears very slightly darker, and the silver Queen's head and '2nd' seem positioned slightly higher up. On the blocks I have seen, part of the design from the right edge of the stamp extends into the left sheet margin. The paper seems slightly thinner with the design showing through the back. The gum appears bluish compared to the cream of the Walsall printing. The two 1st class printings are also closely matched although the lion appears slightly darker on the DLR. The two phosphor bands are well separated – by about 8mm compared to approx 5mm on the Walsall. Again the design shows more clearly through the paper and the gum is slightly whiter than that on the Walsall printing. Used singles of the 1st class can be told apart by the width of the phosphor although distinguishing the 2nd class will not be easy.

I hope these comments are of interest to fellow collectors. **KEN MARKS, PORTSMOUTH** ●

First day of issue I broadly agree with Mr Wilcock (April) that more could be made of first days of issue. It would be good to have a launch at events connected with the stamps with facilities for collectors to go along and perhaps meet the stamp designers and get them to autograph covers. We collectors had fun at Stamp Show 2000 affixing the two miniature sheets and stamps from Smilers sheets to covers to get the special exhibition postmarks. Perhaps stamps could be issued to coincide with Stampex, other exhibitions, or the annual Philatelic Congress. The London Bridges stamps are to be released two days after Stampex closes – a missed opportunity. However, I am less keen than Mr Wilcock on a hand-back service; I believe covers should travel through the post and I look forward to receiving covers I have posted to myself on the days of issue or from Stampex exhibitions. D SMART, NORWICH ●

Dignified stamps and covers Three cheers for Richard West's new series on FDCs. I especially enjoyed the illustrations of covers from 1957-63 (June), which look quite dignified compared to some of the gaudy concoctions in *Covers Review*. The stamps too are more pleasing – I have always regretted that The Queen's head is no longer a prominent feature of our special stamps. The examples demonstrate that a good designer can successfully incorporate The Queen, an interesting design, and a caption to make a worthwhile stamp easily understandable as to the purpose of

the issue. Compare these to most (not all) of the 1999-2000 Millennium issues which are difficult to understand and have, in many cases, almost unreadable captions. Given the affection and respect shown for The Queen over the Jubilee, it is not time to give her a greater prominence on our stamps? MRS M RIDLEY, GLOUCESTER ●

Special stamps I was disappointed by the Queen Mother In Memoriam stamps. It would appear that little or no effort was made in the design of this most important issue. To recycle the goth birthday issue was a very poor effort. It is not as though the event was unexpected – there must have been at least 20 years to plan a really impressive tribute to this very special lady.

The decline in design of commemoratives has been going on for several years and there are far too many issues. How many times does one receive a letter bearing a commemorative, apart from Christmas? The public do not appear to be aware these exist; they are never offered at post offices. The format of recent issues does not always complement the design – the airliners issue is a case in point – although the Commonwealth Games issue may prove to be an exception. As a collector of FDCs, commercially produced covers and special postmarks often overshadow the stamps, which is not the object of the collection. Even though I am most unimpressed with current issues I will continue to collect FDCs purely to maintain continuity. W A WYLES, CRAWLEY ●

Special prize draw Win Stamp Show 2000 souvenir packs

WE HAVE THE PACKS containing the popular Queen's Stamps and Jeffery Matthews miniature sheet to give away to the senders of the first 10 cards drawn on 1 October. The packs are now catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at £23. Ten runners up will be sent a FDC of the Queen's Stamps sheet – catalogued at £8.50. To enter, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Packs Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ ●



Competitions Win £200 in two easy-to-enter competitions



June identify The detail was from the 2002 World Cup stamp. The winner was Barbara Jefferies of Newton Stewart.

June knowledge Answers: 1) Don Cordero; 2) 1968; 3) Ron Negus. The winner was D Beauchamp of Sheffield.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1968 Christmas stamps?
- 2 In which year did Charlie Chaplin first appear on a stamp?
- 3 Which printer took over Harrison & Sons in 1997?

Send your answer (addressed to either September *Identify* competition or September *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 18 October will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

28-31 August Picture Postcard Show 2002 (formerly BIPEX) at New Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat & Elverton Streets, London SW1. **Enquiries** D Popplestone, 02380 446143 or M Day, 0151 339 5422.

30 August - 1 September 54th International Stamp Fair and 41st 'Europa' International Philatelic Exhibition, Riccione, Italy. **Enquiries** +39 0541 693194.

30 August - 3 September Amphilex 2002, Amsterdam. **Enquiries** UK Commissioner Keith Fitton, 50 Firlands, Weybridge KT13 0HR. Telephone 01932 840549.

7 September Preston & District PS Annual Stamp and Postcard Fair at Canterbury Hall, Garstang Road, Preston, 10.00-16.00. 20 dealers. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX.

12-15 September 84th Philatelic Congress of GB at

Dawlish. **Enquiries** Congress 2002, CGI Services Ltd, 29 Bowhay Lane, Exeter EX4 1PE.

18-22 September Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1. **Enquiries** 020 7490 1005.

28 September Portadown Stampex and Collectors Fair at Portadown Town Hall, 10.00-16.30. Admission free. Displays, dealers, etc. **Enquiries** J Proctor, 028 38 334964.

28-29 September Exhibition Study Group Annual Convention at Holgate Hill Hotel, Holgate Road, York. **Enquiries** Bill Tonkin 020 8777 8861.

4-12 October 'Artwork' exhibition of the work of David Gentleman at Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7. Admission free ●

Late news

Definitives update The cylinders for the 6 × 42p book (4 July) are w1 sage w1 phosphor. Arthur Alexander reports the Northern Ireland 68p from plates 1B1B1B1B phosphor 19.

1st and 2nd class coils of 500 stamps, printed by Enschedé, and 2nd, 1st and £ Welsh and £ rate Northern Ireland country stamps, all printed by De La Rue, will be available from Tallents House and philatelic outlets from 15 October •

Postage labels Following the trial of these labels from February, they are now to be available from all Post Office branches. Since 8 August they have been available at offices in London, South East, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North East. Availability was extended to the East and Midlands from 15 August, and from 5 September they will be available from offices in the North West, South West and Wales •

Bulletin back issues H B Waxman has a largely complete run of the *Bulletin* from September 1965 to date, available in return for a donation to Cancer Relief. Contact Mr Waxman at 117 The Reddings, Mill Hill, London NW7 4JP. Derek Pearce has vols 9-38 available in binders – contact him at 2 Pitt Court, Moortown Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport TA10 0PF. R E Hewitt has a near complete run from September 1968 to August 2001 for sale; contact him on 01932 883348. J E Hook has copies from January 1975 to date – contact him at 42 Cricket Ground Road, Norwich NR1 3BQ •

Societies news The Postal Mechanisation Study Circle meets at 10.30 on Saturday 7 September at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London WC1. Tom Norgate's display, 'Images of Mechanisation', will include new material and some aspects of postal mechanisation not previously seen. For details of the PMSC contact Ray Downing, 166 Mitcham Lane, London SW16 6NS.

The latest issue of the Cricket Philatelic Society's Newsletter records recent stamps and covers and reproduces some old cards advertising sporting goods manufacturing companies with

games of cricket. The Society has 120 members; for details contact Derek Gallimore, 30 Pine-woods Avenue, Hagley, Stourbridge DY9 0JF •

Auction news Harmers expanding Stamp Box and Postal Ephemera department presented some exquisite items in their 26 June sale. An extremely fine gilded bronze letter scale, with the main scale modelled as a cherub and a sliding weight modelled as four birds in two baskets made £3058 (estimate £800). A fine and very rare 1906 Birmingham triple compartment stamp box with a beaded design around the base and hinged lid showing three enamel stamps made £3294 (est £1700). For details of future sales contact Harmers, NO 11, 111 Power Road, London W4 5PY. Telephone 020 8747 6100 •

Obituaries We are sad to record the recent death of Tony Gammons, former Exhibitions Officer of the National Postal Museum. Tony was knowledgeable on many postal history subjects and wrote a number of significant articles for this *Bulletin*. With his wife, Jean Farrugia, he wrote *Carrying British Mails Overseas*, published by the Museum in 1980. A big man, he was a popular member of the NPM staff, with a fund of good stories about his days as a postman, his travels, and liking for good food. He will be missed by many of his former colleagues; we send our condolences to Jean and his children.

Yousuf Karsh, who died in July, was a noted photographer, famous for his wartime 'Bulldog' portrait of Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The image was used on the 1965 Churchill memorial stamps. Another Karsh photograph of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh was used on Canada's 1957 Royal Visit stamp (SG 500) •

Correction Sharp-eyed reader Harold Howard points out that the New Zealand Health stamp showing the Peter Pan statue was issued in 1945, not 1947 as stated in August (page 361). We are pleased to set the record straight •

DAVID GENTLEMAN'S 'AUTOBIOGRAPHY'



David Gentleman is internationally respected as an artist and designer, but he is also famed as the most prolific and influential designer of British Stamps. 2002 marks the fortieth anniversary of his first UK stamp and to celebrate this occasion, Royal Mail is supporting the publication of *Artwork*, David's 'creative autobiography' which provides an overview of every stamp issue he has designed, as well as his work in fields as diverse as woodcuts, posters, book design and painting.

Artwork by David Gentleman will be published in October 2002 by Ebury Press and will retail at £30. To ensure that you don't miss out you can order your copy now. What's more, Royal Mail customers are receiving a special 10% discount. For your copy of *Artwork* at £27 simply contact Royal Mail, and quote code 03 AAC. Orders will be sent out for the publication date of 3 October. For more information, visit www.royalmail.com/davidgentleman

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