

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 46 Number 11

JULY 2009 £1.20

Bulletin

Eminent Britons • Philatelic
Congress • 1969 Investiture



Anniversaries to celebrate
this month: the first meeting
of the Philatelic Congress of
Great Britain in 1909, and the
Investiture of the Prince of
Wales at Caernarvon, 1969.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The anniversaries of the Philatelic Congress and the Investiture are just two of the many celebrated in this issue, as the Editor describes on page 324. Photograph by Geoff Dann.

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

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

30 June

Withdrawal 14p, 46p and 78p definitives • 2007 definitives presentation pack (16p, 48p, 50p, 54p, 78p stamps)

16 July

Withdrawal Air Displays stamps, pack, stamp cards and generic sheet

21 July

Issue 40th Anniversary of Moon Landing commemorative sheet • Silver Stamps Collection 56p St David's Cathedral stamp

28 July

Issue Miniature Medal Collection No 2 – RAF Medals

3 August

Issue ThaipeX 2009 Expo exhibition sheet

18 August

Issue Post Boxes miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, generic sheet and miniature sheet press sheet • Treasures of the Archive prestige stamp book • British Design Classics stamp book (4 × 1st definitives, 2 × Concorde stamps)

21 August

Withdrawal Olympic Flag Handover miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards • Beijing exhibition sheet

Contents



Philatelic Congress of GB

This month, Congress will return to Manchester for its centennial meeting. Martin Robinson looks at the 1909 meeting, and at the plans to mark its anniversary **345**

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

The Investiture A look at the events of 1969, by Richard West **333**



Eminent Britons Royal Mail's special issue for October **336**

Sir George Somers The story of an Elizabethan adventurer, recalled by Rosemary Bennett **338**

China 2009 The role of a Commissioner at an international exhibition by Richard West **341**

Ffestiniog Railway 40 years of operations, by Peter Johnson **344**

Postal transport Three photographs sent in by one of our readers **348**

Prize draw Win the 1d Black ingot pack **348**

Commemorative covers A review of some of the new covers on offer **349**

Competitions Win the 2008 Yearpack **350**

Events **350**

Late news **351**

Issues and withdrawals **322**

This month The Editor previews this issue **324**



Stamp scene News and upcoming events in the philatelic world: Glenn Morgan keeps *Bulletin* readers posted **324**

Royal Mail news New philatelic products and special issues **328**

This month The Editor previews this issue



First day cover of a US issue marking the Moon landing of 1969.

THIS MONTH'S *Bulletin* contains several features relating to anniversaries – the centenary of the Philatelic Congress, the 400th anniversary of Sir George Somers's shipwreck on Bermuda (which led to its becoming a British colony), and the 40th anniversaries of the Investiture of the Prince of Wales and of the first railway letter stamps issued by the narrow-gauge Ffestiniog Railway in Wales. We also preview the Eminent Britons stamps (8 October), with 2009 being the anniversary of the births of most of those portrayed.

This month we also mark the 40th anniversary of the first Moon landing with a commemorative sheet. Some of the rock and dust brought back from the Moon was sent for scientific study to UK universities including Bristol, where I was then a student. I vividly remember queuing up to see a tiny amount of Moon dust which had been put on public display. Bristol University this year celebrates its centenary, and another, more revered centre of learning, the University of Cambridge celebrates its 800th anniversary – to be marked by another commemorative sheet in October. By chance, 40 years on from my student days in Bristol, my nephew is a student at the University of Cambridge.

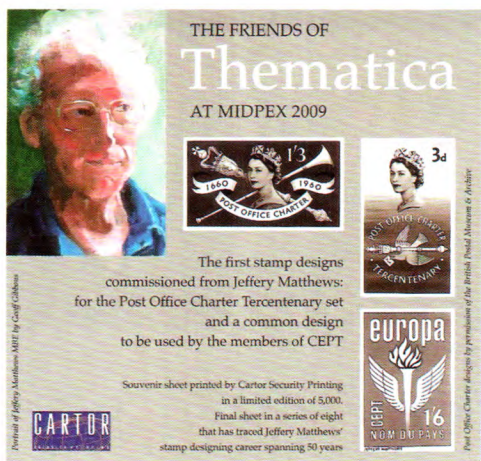
Most philatelists like anniversaries, especially if there is a personal link that brings back memories. Stamps and related philatelic material are one way of enjoying those memories • JOHN HOLMAN

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

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

BPMA Library catalogue goes online The British Postal Museum & Archive has uploaded the catalogue of its library (see www.postalheritage.org.uk/catalogue), where it is now searchable. The library, housed in the BPMA's Search Room, London, has a fascinating array of books, journals and pamphlets about postal history and the history of Royal Mail. It holds around 3260 books and journals, and covers a period from the 18th century to the present. There are 13 main sections to the library: General Postal History, Transport, Technology, Military History, Industrial Relations, Journals, Local Postal History, Philately, Biographies, General Historical Reference, Savings Banks, Art and Design, and Fiction. The oldest book recorded in the library is John Watson's *Gentleman and Citizen Almanac*, which is part of the transport section. Other items include a book on saucy seaside postcards by Ronnie Barker and *The Penny Black Anniversary* book, celebrating the Penny Black's 150th anniversary and charting other famous stamps such as the 'Seahorses' Collection •

Friends of Thematica sheet In 2002 The Friends of Thematica arranged for the first of a series of souvenir sheets, to be given free to visitors to the Thematica stamp exhibition, which was then held twice a year in London. This series of sheets has featured the designs of the leading British stamp designer Jeffery Matthews, MBE. The Friends had already planned an eighth, and final, sheet in the series (shown opposite), and this will be given free to all visitors to Midpex. The main responsibility of 'Friends' at the exhibition was to organise the various competitions (John Fosbery Trophy, BTA Cup, and the Barclays Cup youth competition). Although the exhibition is no longer being held, the competitions continue, and will this year be held as a part of Midpex, at the Xcel Centre at Canley, near Coventry on 11 July, 10.00-17.00. A shuttle bus will be provided to link the venue with Canley Station •

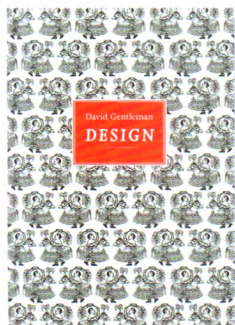


The eighth and final Friends sheet tracing the work of Jeffery Matthews. It has been printed in a limited edition of 5000 by Cartor Security Printing, one of Royal Mail's main suppliers.

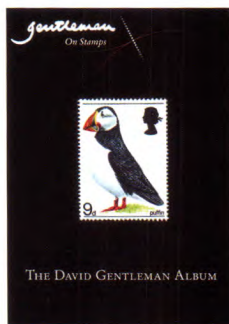
Royal patronage for London 2010: Festival of Stamps HM The Queen has graciously agreed to be Patron of London 2010: Festival of Stamps, a year-long festival of philatelic exhibitions and events, marking the centenary of the accession of George V, the philatelist king. This continues a long standing tradition of philatelic patronage by the UK Royal Family. The Queen has been the Patron of the London International Stamp Exhibitions each decade since 1980. She is also Patron of the Royal Philatelic Society London, the oldest philatelic society in the world. The Queen's private collection – the Royal Philatelic Collection – includes many exceptional rarities, among them unique items such as drawings and proofs, and is thought to be the world's most comprehensive collection of GB and Commonwealth stamps. Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, said: 'We are delighted to have The Queen as Patron for this very exciting Festival, which will bring stamps and philately to a wider audience'.

The British Postal Museum & Archive is offering three rooms to societies who wish to hold meetings during the period of the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition. The rooms, offered free of charge, are available at the Phoenix Centre, 8-15 May 2010, 9.00-17.00 Monday to Friday. Rooms are available outside these times at a cost of £50 per hour plus VAT. The Phoenix Centre is adjacent to the BPMA, part of the Mount Pleasant Sorting Office complex, and is just 10 minutes by bus from the Business Design Centre, where the International Stamp Exhibition is to be held. The capacities of the rooms range from 20 to 140 persons, providing the ability to accommodate most group sizes. Rooms will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, so you are advised to make enquiries as soon as possible. Refreshments can be provided at a charge. All enquiries to the London 2010 Project Officer, Jennifer Flippance (see opposite) •

BPMA rooms Phone London 2010 Project Officer Jennifer Flippance, on 020 7239 2561 or email jennifer.flippance@postalheritage.org.uk



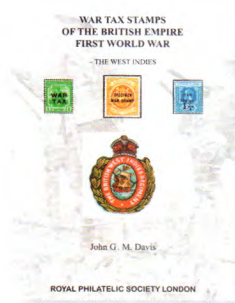
David Gentleman Design and the BPMA's exhibition guide. The book is available online from www.postalheritage.org.uk or by telephoning them on 020 7239 5125. Price £10. The exhibition guide can be downloaded from the BPMA website.



The Gentleman Album Readers old enough to remember the album of speculative designs produced by David Gentleman in the mid-1960s will be delighted to learn that they form the subject of an excellent full-colour 18-page downloadable PDF file available from the BPMA's website. This has been produced to accompany the exhibition on the work of David Gentleman currently showing at the BPMA. David has designed 103 issued stamps for Royal Mail since 1962. The exhibition features the artwork for many of these, and some designs which have not been seen in public before.

It focuses on the revolutionary 'Gentleman Album' of 1966, which greatly influenced British stamp design. Go to www.postalheritage.org.uk and type 'Gentleman album' in the search window to download this 8.6mb file.

The BPMA will sell the recently published book *David Gentleman Design* by Brian Webb and Peyton Skipwith. Brian Webb runs his own design agency and has designed several stamp issues for Royal Mail (including the recent *Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution*, more recently under his sole name and previously in partnership with Lynn Trickett, as Trickett and Webb). He was clearly in an ideal position to write this book. The press release states: 'This beautifully designed book provides an introduction to one of Britain's most eminent designer-artists, David Gentleman. It includes Gentleman's early wood engravings, stamp designs, book and magazine covers, and illustrations and posters, including his war protest and National Trust posters, the 100-metre long Charing Cross Station mural and more.' Copies of the earlier book *Artwork* by David Gentleman (as author) are also still available at £30 •



War tax stamps A new publication from the Royal Philatelic Society London entitled *War Tax Stamps of the British Empire First World War – The West Indies* has recently been published. The press release states: 'During the First World War, many countries in the British Empire issued stamps overprinted "War Tax". This book covers those issued in the 17 colonies of the British West Indies. It is an extensive and detailed illustrated study of these stamps from their origins through to the repeal of the enacting legislation.' Price £60 (£55 for members), plus postage of £7 (UK), £10 (Europe) or £20 (world). Payment by cheque, credit card or PayPal (via www.rpsl.org.uk). Enquiries: Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY •

Peter O'Keeffe 8 Stainer Road, Tonbridge TN10 4DR

ABPS Small Grants The aim of the Association of British Philatelic Societies Small Grants Scheme is to enable individuals, societies and/or Federations to undertake initiatives that require additional funding, which should be for activities that promote the hobby or encourage membership of a society. Contact Peter O'Keeffe at the address opposite for details and application form •

24th Universal Postal Union Congress More than 2000 delegates from the UPU's 191 member countries gathered at the 2008 Congress in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss the major issues affecting the global postal sector today. The next event has been announced, and is scheduled to be held in the capital of Qatar in October 2012, a first for that country •



Stamp variations The 2008 Christmas and 2009 Darwin issues exist in presentation packs without rouletting to the backing paper, for they were supplied by the printers to Royal Mail as pre-cut singles. Post Office counters sheets of necessity are rouletted, to allow single stamps to be torn from the sheet. Rouletted (sheet) and non-rouletted (pack) variations of the above two issues are available from Tallents House. Earlier special issues that included both types are the Christmas issues of 2005, 2006 and 2007, and the 2007 World of Invention. Note that appropriate Year Books and Year Packs also invariably (but not exclusively) contain the non-rouletted version •

Colne Valley Postal History Museum Public open days will be held on Saturday 4 July and on Sunday 13 September, when visitors can enjoy a display of 100 restored British Post Office letter boxes at this excellent private museum in the heart of East Anglia. There is no general public access outside of the open days except by prior arrangement with the Curator. However, visitors are welcome by prior arrangement at any reasonable time. New this year are 10 working stamp vending machines, 14 Victorian post boxes, 30 AA and transport signs of yesteryear, and much more. There will also be a stamp collector's sales table, and refreshments will be served in the garden. When visiting, look for the blue post box in the front garden •

Colne Valley PH Museum

The Laurels, 109 Head Street, Halstead, Essex CO9 2AZ. Open 10.00-16.00, admission free. For more details phone the curator, Steve Knight, on 01787 474412 or see website www.cvphm.org

The Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship Applications are invited for this travelling scholarship from philatelists, wherever resident, wishing to study Commonwealth stamps or postal history. The scholarship, up to £2500, is a contribution toward travelling costs, accommodation and subsistence for a trip, particularly overseas. Applications to be received by 30 September •

Apply to Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY.

Obituaries David Mellor, the Sheffield-born designer, died in May at the age of 78. Known as the 'cutlery king', he influenced British style for over half a century, receiving the OBE, CBE and a lifetime achievement award from the V&A Museum for his outstanding contribution to design. David designed the F-Type square pillar boxes for the Post Office (shown at right). These were revolutionary in being made up of rectangular panels instead of being cast, but very few are still in service, as rust corrosion was a major problem. He leaves a wife and two children, themselves both designers •

The well-known stamp dealer Tony Field sadly died recently, at the age of 78. A regular standholder at Stampex, he was on the Council of the PTS, the British trade body, and collected Edward VIII and Gibraltar •



Royal Mail news Previews of forthcoming special issues and products • BPMA news

Commemorative and exhibition sheets A new commemorative sheet, available from 21 July, marks the 40th anniversary of first Moon landing. It contains 10 1st class Union Flag stamps with attached labels featuring events from the launch of Apollo 11 on 16 July 1969 to the honour parade for the astronauts in New York in August. One of the labels shows what is regarded as one of the world's most iconic images, Buzz Aldrin pictured on the Moon. The sheet is supplied in a well-illustrated pack telling the story of man's interest with the Moon and the events leading up to 'one small step', written by Sir Patrick Moore who describes the Moon as 'our faithful companion in space... the source of the utmost fascination to us'. Shown is a detailed map of the moon, created by Sir Patrick and used by NASA for the Apollo 11 lunar landing 40 years ago. The commemorative sheet, designed by the Chase design agency, was printed in litho by Cartor. Price £13.50.

JOURNEY TO THE MOON
Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the first manned Moon landing

The Apollo 11 crew members make their way to the Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center on 16 July.

At 9.32am Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), the Apollo 11 spacecraft lifts off into the Florida sky at the start of its nine-day journey.

Four days later, Apollo 11 reaches the Moon. This image shows the rear side of the Moon taken from the orbiting command module.

Chief presenter of the BBC's television coverage of the Apollo 11 Moon landing, James Burke reviews its historic launch on 16 July.

Nineteen minutes after Neil Armstrong had stepped onto the Moon for the first time, Buzz Aldrin joins him on the lunar surface.

The footprints in the lunar soil left by Armstrong and Aldrin during their brief visit to the Moon will probably last for millions of years.

Regarded as one of the world's most iconic images, Aldrin is pictured on the Moon; Armstrong's reflection is clearly visible in Aldrin's visor.

The crew orbits the Moon in command module Columbia after lunar module Eagle successfully docks following lift-off from the lunar surface.

At 12.50pm EDT on 24 July 1969, Columbia splashes down in the Pacific Ocean. Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins are picked up by a US Navy tugboat.

In August 1969, the Apollo 11 astronauts are honoured in a parade in New York, believed to be the largest in the city's history at that time.

Stamp design © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2010

one of the - in the
surface of the
very long being
comprised of 4 or 5
great ones.

Sym. Aug. 4.
O. 50: 5 1/2. (5 1/2) main.

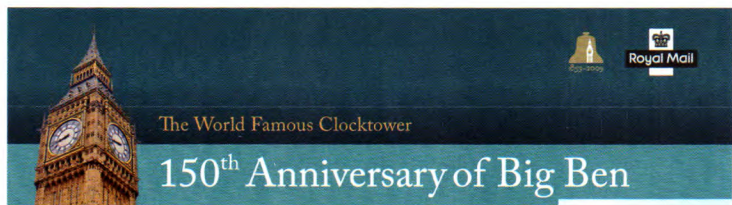
In 1609 Thomas Harriot became the first person to map the Moon, six months before Galileo.

The next commemorative sheet, to mark the 150th anniversary of 'Big Ben', will be issued on 18 September. It bears 10 1st class Union Flag stamps (definitive size, self-adhesive) and labels. The chimes of Big Ben were first heard on the radio in 1923. The clock, great bell and four quarter bells worked together for the first time in September 1859. By then the bell had acquired the name 'Big Ben', after the popular Parliamentarian Sir Benjamin Hall, but the nickname has become synonymous with the clock tower. The sheet was designed by Creator Communications and printed in litho by Cartor.

A further sheet (7 October) will mark the 800th anniversary of the University of Cambridge. There will also be a Big Ben medal cover (see p331).

The first of three exhibition sheets goes on sale on 3 August. The colourful Thaipex sheet contains 20 1st class Hello stamps (large size) with adjoining labels showing Bangkok tuk-tuks (local taxis). The sheet was designed by MarkStudio of Manchester, and printed in litho by Cartor. It is headed 'Hello from Royal Mail' in English and Thai, and bears the exhibition logo in the sheet margin. Price £8.35. Details of the Italia (21 October) and Monacophil (4 December) exhibition sheets will be published shortly •

The Big Ben commemorative sheet labels show: the clock mechanism; the Ayrton light (which shows if Parliament is sitting after dark); a view from the clock tower; Augustus Pugin (largely responsible for the design of the clock faces); Turner's painting *The Burning of the Houses of Parliament*, 1835; the clock faces; building the tower; the architects' drawing of the new Houses of Parliament; the bell; and the clock tower with fireworks.



The clock mechanism weighs about 4.5 tonnes and sits underneath the bells in the clock tower.



Members of the public can write to their local MP to request a clock tower visit.



J.M.W. Turner painted his famous picture, *The Burning of the Houses of Parliament*, in 1835.



The tower took 16 years to build and was one of the last parts of the new Parliament buildings to be completed.



Denison measured the shaft inside the tower before finalising the dimensions of the great bell, to be sure it would fit inside.



Hello from Royal Mail
Bangkok 2009

สวัสดีจากรอยัลเมลล์



IN 2009, BIG BEN CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY. IN 1859 THE CLOCK COMPLETED, THE CLOCK STARTED RUNNING AND THE GREAT BELL, BIG BEN ITSELF, SERVED CHIMING THE HOUR. BIG BEN HAS BEEN A CONSTANT PART OF LONDON. IT IS AN ENDURING LEGACY OF THE POMF AND GRANDEUR OF VICTORIAN LONDON. IT REMAINS A LANDMARK FOR TOURISTS AND A FOCUS FOR NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS.



Royal Mail
© Royal Mail Group Ltd 2009



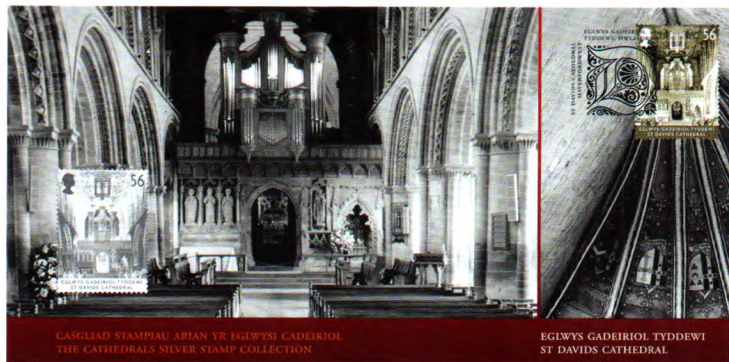
The first issue in the Miniature Medals collection, the Military Cross and Army Long Service & Good Conduct Medals, now available, price £89.95

New Miniature Medals Collection Now available is the first in a new 'Stamps & Miniature Medals' collection, jointly produced by Royal Mail and Royal Mint. Housed in an attractive presentation box, the collection comprises miniature versions of the Military Cross and the Army Long Service & Good Conduct Medal, both in 0.925 silver, with a set of the Army Uniforms stamps (2007) and a booklet, written by military historian Richard Holmes, about Army medals in general and the MC and Long Service & Good Conduct medals in particular. Limited edition of 1000. Available from Tallents House, price £89.95. The Collection will continue with RAF and Royal Navy medals, on 28 July and 17 September respectively.

The Military Cross, which was featured on one of the Gallantry Awards stamps of 1990, was introduced in 1914 as an award for junior and warrant officers. It is the 'third level' gallantry award, below the VC and the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross. It consists of an ornamental cross with imperial crowns on each filial and the royal cipher in the centre. The Long Service & Good Conduct Medal, which was instituted in 1830, is given to soldiers who have completed 15 years of exemplary service. This bears a crowned effigy of The Queen on the obverse and the words 'For Long Service and Good Conduct' on the reverse •



New stamp books The third 'British Design Classics' stamp book will be available from 18 August, containing four 1st class definitives and two Concorde stamps. The fourth book in this series, on sale from 17 September, includes two of the Mary Quant miniskirt stamps, as well as four definitives. The books cost £2.34 each •



The St Davids Cathedral silver stamp cover, available from 21 July, price £24.42.

Silver stamps The fourth in our silver stamp collection, reproducing the 56p St Davids Cathedral stamp, will be available from 21 July, price £24.42. The collection includes the 56p stamp on a card cancelled by a special St Davids handstamp. Collectors placing a regular order for this collection will receive a booklet about Cathedral stamps and a collection box. The fifth in the series will be available from 20 October ●

Big Ben medal cover A new medal cover, available from 18 September, will mark the 150th anniversary of Big Ben. It bears a Union Flag stamp (large size, gummed) with attached label showing the clock tower and fireworks, cancelled by a special Houses of Parliament postmark. The cover design features the Palace of Westminster and the famous bell. The informative and well-illustrated filler card provides key facts about the bell and clock mechanism. Until 1913 the clock was wound by hand, which took 30 hours a week; it is now done by electric motor. A timeline gives a history of the bell and clock – the bell was cast in 1858, and tolled for the deaths of Kings Edward VII, George V and George VI, and to mark the state funeral of Sir Winston Churchill in 1965. The medal cover, issued in a limited edition of 10,000, was designed by Creator Communications Ltd. Price £14.95 ●

Special stamps This month we preview the Eminent Britons stamps, which go on sale on 8 October. This will be followed by the Christmas issue on 3 November. The seven stamps – 2nd (30p), 2nd Large (47p), 1st (39p), 1st Large (61p), 56p, 90p and £1.35 – all feature the Christmas story in stained glass windows, and were designed by Andrew Ross. The stamps will also be issued in a miniature sheet format, the 2nd and 1st class in books of 12, and in generic sheets. Full details to be announced shortly. The 2007 2nd and 1st class Madonna & Child stamps, and the 2006 Christmas airletter (aerogramme) will again be available ●

Coming off sale The 14p, 46p and 78p definitives will be withdrawn on 30 June, also the pack containing 16p, 48p, 50p, 54p and 78p definitives (issued 27 March 2007). Last day of sale for the Air Displays stamps, pack, stamp cards and generic sheet will be 16 July ●

Smilers To order, phone 0845 074 2000 (UK) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas), or go to www.royalmail.com/smilers

An order form, showing the range of stamps available, is available at main post offices.

Smilers sheets The 'Flying high' and 'With love...' sheets with Hello and LOVE stamps have recently been reprinted and now carry the copyright notice Royal Mail Group Ltd instead of Royal Mail Group plc. These reprinted sheets will be used as existing stock is exhausted. Please note these are sheets for printing customers' own images on the labels adjoining the stamps ●

Smilers for Kids Users of Waitrose's Ocado on-line shopping may be interested to know that Smilers for Kids can now be ordered by this service ●

Generic sheets The third of the Castles generic sheet, on sale on 30 November (St Andrew's Day), will feature castles of Scotland. The Northern Ireland and England sheets are already on sale (price £8.35 each), and a sheet featuring Welsh castles will be issued on 1 March 2010 (St David's Day) ●

Post & Go machines Machines are scheduled to be installed during July and August at the main Post Office branches in: Aberdeen (Union Street), Durham, Edinburgh (Frederick Street and St James), Exeter, Gloucester, Harrogate, Liverpool (Corn Exchange), London (Broadgate, Broadway, Eastcheap, High Holborn, Houndsditch and Old Street), Milton Keynes (Crown Walk), Newport (Bridge Street), Paignton, Perth, Southend-on-Sea, Truro and Warrington ●

2009 First day postmarks The special issues for the rest of 2009 are listed below, with the alternative First Day of Issue postmarks ●

18.08 Post Boxes miniature sheet: Wakefield

18.08 Treasures of the Archives prestige book: London EC1

01.09 Fire & Rescue Services: Hose, Melton Mowbray

17.09 Royal Navy Uniforms (stamps and PSB): Portsmouth

08.10 Eminent Britons: Britannia, Bacup

03.11 Christmas: Bethlehem, Llandello

International Reply Coupon As reported here in October 2008 (p63), a new design IRC has been produced by the Universal Postal Union. In the UK, it will be available at main Post Office branches from 3 August, replacing the coupon issued in 2006 which will be valid until the end of 2009. An article on IRCs, by Michael St J Wright, was published here in October 2007.

The BPMA Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL (near Mount Pleasant). Phone 020 7239 2570 or see www.postalheritage.org.uk

British Postal Museum & Archive Now on show is a special exhibition about the eminent stamp designer David Gentleman, who has designed more than 100 issued stamps for Royal Mail since 1962. The exhibition features artwork for many of these, and some designs never seen in public before. It also focuses on the 'Gentleman Album' of 1966, which greatly influenced British stamp design – see Douglas Muir's article 'Off With Her Head!' in the June 2007 *Bulletin*, and Richard West's feature in last month's issue.

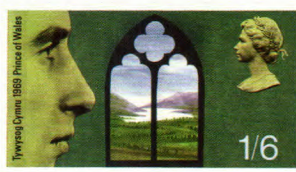
The BPMA is open Monday-Wednesday & Friday 10.00-17.00, Thursday 10.00-19.00, and also on certain Saturdays. See website for dates, and details of lectures and other events. The BPMA contains the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives ●

The Investiture

The 40th anniversary of the celebratory special issue, by Richard West

1969 was a good year for David Gentleman, with his designs being adopted for four special issues of the year. These were the series on British Ships, to mark the maiden voyage of the *Queen Elizabeth 2*, the maiden flight of Concorde, the Post Office Technology series, when the British Post Office became a Corporation, and the issue to celebrate the Investiture of The Prince of Wales.

In May 1967 The Queen had announced that Prince Charles would be installed as Prince of Wales in 1969. That same day, the then Postmaster General, Edward Short, advised that the occasion would be marked by a set of stamps. The usual practice was adopted, of inviting various artists to submit ideas, this time involving both David Gentleman and Rosalind Dease (separately), Jeffery Matthews, Roy Morgan and David Jones, while in addition invitations were also extended to the stamp printers Harrison and Sons and Bradbury Wilkinson and Co, and to Newport College of Art and Cardiff College of Art. Various suggestions were offered to the artists, ranging from a portrait of Prince Charles to Caernarvon Castle, St Davids Cathedral, Welsh scenes, and associations with the Prince of Wales.



Disappointing start No fewer than 83 designs were received, some unsolicited, including six from Cardiff College of Art and 27 from Newport College of Art. However, the recently formed Stamp Advisory Committee was disappointed that none of the designs satisfactorily conveyed a feeling of pageantry and occasion. Further designs were received, including more from David Gentleman. These included the three most prominent external features of Caernarvon Castle, which David suggested be shown as a strip of three. As David explains in his book *Artwork*, he tackled the stamps 'by turning the subject into fantasy, treating it as a fairy tale, and transforming its setting – Caernarvon Castle – into a white wedding cake, set against a tinselly silver backdrop'. ►

Top (from left): designs by Rosalind Dease, Roy Morgan and Cardiff College of Art. Bottom: three early designs by David Gentleman.



Four early designs by David Gentleman, submitted to the Stamp Advisory Committee in June and July 1968.

The SAC wished to pursue David's further designs, liking his idea of the three gates of Caernarvon Castle, to be shown on a metallic ink background, as well as his designs featuring a portrait of Prince Charles, an aerial view of the Castle, and a Celtic Cross, a specifically Welsh design. The triptych, Castle view and Celtic Cross were essayed with silver, gold or green backgrounds.

Queen's decision The question as to whether one stamp should feature a portrait of Prince Charles was left to The Queen. She favoured the portrait, (although David preferred a profile), and this replaced the aerial view. The Queen also approved the triptych and Celtic Cross designs, shown on silver and gold metallic backgrounds respectively. The designs feature the King's Gate, the Eagle Tower and Queen Eleanor's Gate of Caernarvon (5d), a Celtic Cross at Margam Abbey (9d) and a portrait of Prince Charles by Godfrey Argent (1s).

The metallic ink backgrounds did cause some problems, even though the printer, Harrison and Sons, used the best inks available. David was disappointed that the phosphor overprinting dulled the metallic ink. It was found that the metallic finish also meant it took a long time for the cancellation ink to dry, and items such as first day covers had to be handled very carefully after cancellation. It was also found that normal postmarks could be removed from the metallic finish by rubbing,

Additional items As well as the stamps, David also designed a pictorial air-letter to mark the Investiture. The stamps and airletters were issued on 1 July 1969. The 5d values are known with various colours omitted; all three values exist with the phosphor omitted.

In addition to first day covers, the Post Office made the three stamps available in a presentation pack. The standard pack was available with the text in English, and also in German for sale through the Post Office agents in West Germany. However, in addition on this occasion, a special pack was made available to local education authorities in Wales to be given free to schoolchildren. It had a grey cover as opposed to the deep blue of the standard version, and had the text in Welsh and English ●



Above: the five issued stamps, featuring the King's Gate (shown enlarged), the Eagle Tower and Queen Eleanor's Gate of Caernarvon (5d), a Celtic Cross at Margam Abbey (9d) and a portrait by Godfrey Argent (1s). Below: a panel from the airletter designed by David Gentleman.



FIRST FOLD HERE

An air letter should not contain any enclosure;
if it does it will be surcharged or sent by ordinary mail

Eminent Britons A special issue honouring



TEN 1ST CLASS stamps featuring eminent Britons go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 8 October. The issue honours men and women in various walks of life who have made a major contribution to the British way of life. The stamps commemorate anniversaries of their births or, in the case of Campbell and Ryle, of important achievements in their lives. The Ryle stamp includes the EUROPA symbol, as Royal Mail's contribution to this year's Europa series on the theme of astronomy. The Queen's silhouette and service indicator are positioned at top left on all stamps.

The stamps were designed by Together Design, and printed in litho by Walsall Security Printers in horizontal se-tenant strips of five in two separate sheets, with five designs in each sheet. The stamps are 35mm square.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to the nearest Special Handstamp Centre (for Britannia, Bacup), marking the outer envelope 'FD0927' (Tallents House) or 'FD0928' (Britannia). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Britannia postmark.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ •



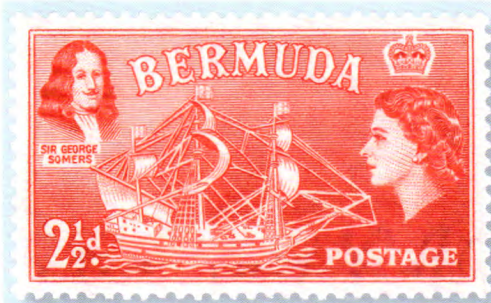
Martin Ryle 1918–1984
radio survey of the Universe 1959

Set of stamps	£3.90
Presentation pack	£4.40
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£4.95
Serviced FDC (overseas customers)	£4.31
Stamp cards set	£3.90

[illegible]

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Sir George Somers by Rosemary Bennett



The Elizabethan Age is famous for producing naval heroes such as Drake and Raleigh, but the name of Sir George Somers is perhaps less well known.

SIR GEORGE SOMERS, the son of the merchant John Somers, was born in or near Lyme Regis in West Dorset, then a thriving port exporting wool and salt and importing French wine. As a young boy he must have had contact with sailors at the artificial harbour known as 'The Cobb', who no doubt filled him with a thirst for adventure, for he later went to sea himself and did so well financially that by his thirties he was quite wealthy.

His naval career flourished; he became friends with Sir Walter Raleigh and sailed with him, and took part in the expedition against the Spanish Main in 1595 under the leadership of Sir Amyas Preston. In 1660, commanding HMS *Vanguard*, he

captured a Spanish treasure ship, and the following year as captain of HMS *Swiftsure* he attacked the Spanish fleet off Kinsale, repelling the Spanish invasion of Ireland. In 1603 he was knighted by King James I (VI of Scotland), and about that time became an MP and Mayor of Lyme Regis.

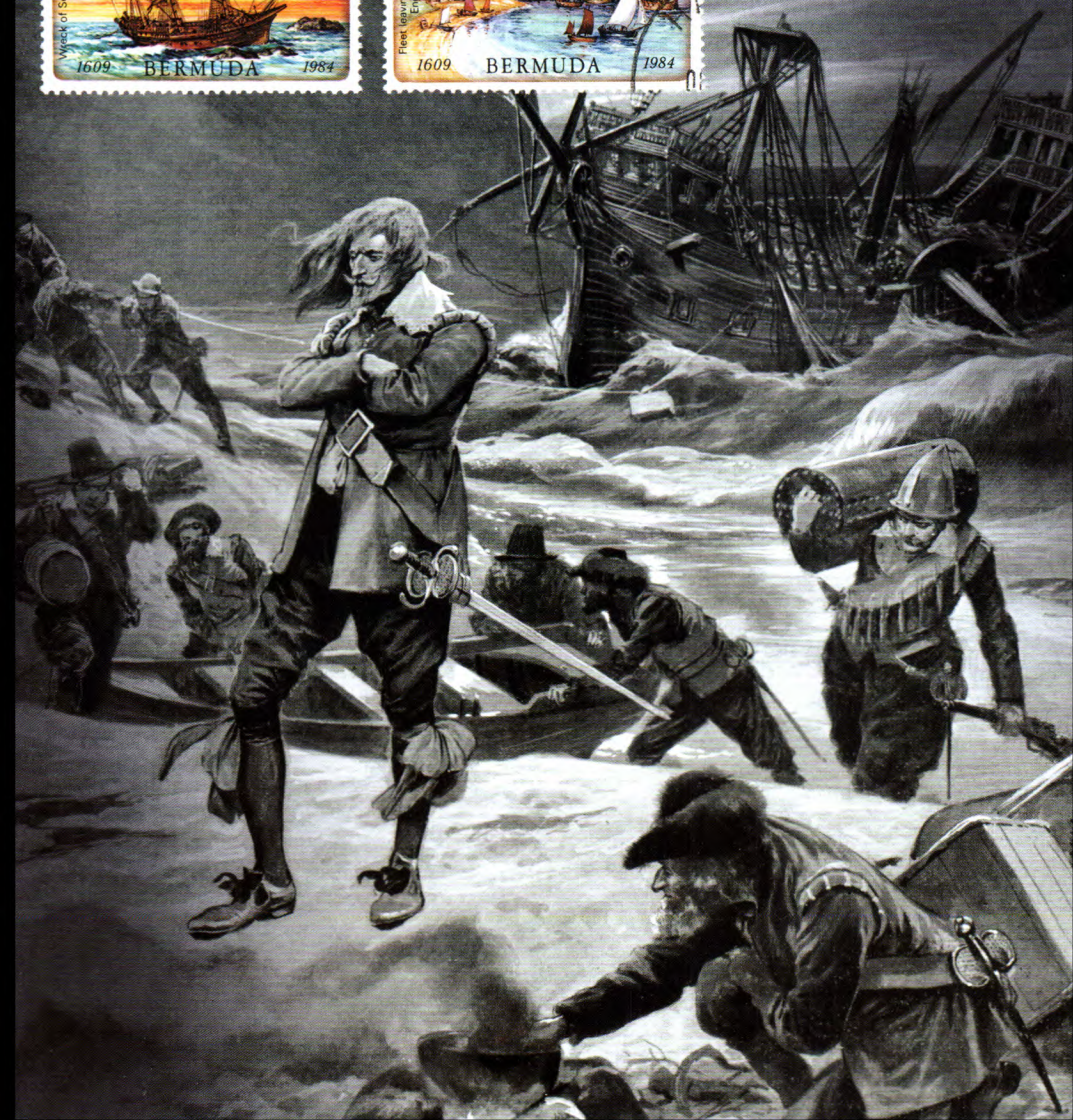
By now Sir George was thinking of retiring from the sea. He purchased a property at Berne near the village of Whitchurch Canonicorum, a few miles east of Lyme Regis, and no doubt began to look forward to a quiet future. It was not to be. In 1609 he agreed to lead an expedition of nine ships to relieve the settlers in Virginia, the first English colony in the New World, little knowing that he would never see his beloved Dorset again.

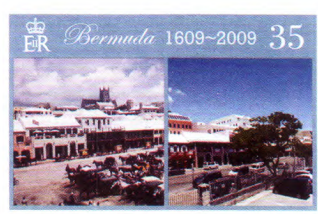
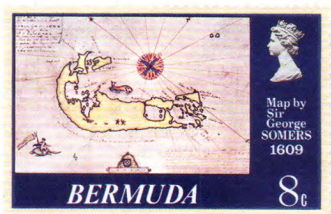
Shipwreck Sir George sailed in the *Sea Venture* as Admiral of the Virginia Company's fleet, and all went well until the ships were caught in a terrible tempest off the Azores on 25 July. They were blown hundreds of miles off course, one ship was lost with all on board, and the *Sea Venture* was finally wrecked on a Bermudan reef. Fortunately there was no loss of life, but Sir George and the crew and passengers were all stranded on Bermuda for 10 months. Conditions could have been far worse; food was plentiful and they had salvaged many things from the wreck. Sir George proved himself a leader more than equal to the situation, and before long they had settled on the island, even building a church, with the bell from the *Sea Venture* as a finishing touch. As might be expected a few people died during their stay, and several babies were born. However, the survivors had no intention of staying there indefinitely, so salvaged all the timber they could from the wreck, cut down local cedar trees, and built themselves two smaller ships.

In 1610, leaving three volunteers on the island, 150 members of the party set sail for Virginia. There they found the settlers in dire straits, very short of food and supplies, with only 60 left alive. Although most of the other ships of the fleet had managed to reach Virginia, they had been forced to jettison most of their cargo, so the settlers had received very little help and were now nearly starving. Having assumed that the *Sea Venture* and all on



Left: the 1984 stamps celebrating the 375th anniversary of settlement in Bermuda. Below: Sir George Somers and the wreck of the *Sea Venture*, by Richard Caton-Woodville. Opposite page: Sir George and the *Sea Venture* on a 1953 stamp.





From left: the coat of arms of James I, featured in the 1959 issue celebrating the 350th anniversary of settlement in Bermuda; a map of Bermuda by Sir George Somers, from a 1979 set of map stamps; and one of the four stamps issued to mark the 400th anniversary of settlement in 2009.

board her had perished in the storm, they were overjoyed to see them. Fortunately, Sir George had had the foresight to stock his ships with enough food for their immediate needs, and the situation was soon further relieved by the arrival from England of Lord De La Warr with three ships. Although this temporarily saved the situation, it was clear that more food would soon be needed, so Sir George offered to return to Bermuda for more supplies.

This time he was unsuccessful; on the voyage he became ill 'of a surfeit of eating of a pig', and died on 9 November 1610. As he wished, his heart was buried on Bermuda, and his body pickled and taken to Lyme Regis by his nephew Matthew, where it was met at The Cobb with a volley of muskets and a cannon salute. He was buried at Whitchurch Canonicorum.

The twinning For a time, Bermuda was called 'The Somers Islands' in Sir George's honour, and it is said that Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* is based on the wreck of the *Sea Venture*. In 1996 the town of St George in Bermuda, named by Sir George not for himself but for the Patron Saint of England, was twinned with Lyme Regis in a ceremony in Lyme Regis. During this, the RAF Red Arrows used smoke to form a heart-shaped image over Lyme Bay, in tribute to the fact the Sir George's heart is buried in Bermuda. The following year a similar ceremony took place in St George. There are now many friendly contacts between the two towns, including an annual darts match, originally carried out by telephone, but now updated to a web link. Each town also has a town crier, and this has led to much friendly rivalry.

Our island nation has bred many adventurers who answered the call of the sea and journeyed far and wide to defend the realm and to bring wealth to their country and, of course, to themselves. Some have become famous and part of our folklore; others have remained relatively unknown, except perhaps in the areas from which they came. In 1908, a commemorative tablet was erected at Whitchurch Canonicorum in honour of Sir George Somers, and an identical plaque was unveiled in the Somers Garden, in Bermuda. Lyme Regis did not forget its brave and daring son, and a large plaque detailing many of his exploits and achievements can be found on The Cobb – a fitting place for a memorial to a great Elizabethan seaman.

Sir George Somers features on Bermudan stamps of 1953 and 1984 (sg 139, 473). Stamps marking the 350th, 375th and 400th anniversary of Bermuda's settlement were issued in 1959, 1984 and 2009 (157-162, 473-6, 1028-31). The 1959 set features the coat of arms of King James I. A stained glass window featuring the wreck of the *Sea Venture* featured on a stamp of 1992 (651), and a map by Sir George was shown on an 8c stamp of 1979 (404) •

text © Rosemary Bennett 2009

China 2009 Richard West looks back at the exhibition and the role of the Commissioner



CHINA 2009, the first international stamp exhibition of 2009, was held 10-16 April in the ancient capital of China, Luoyang, whose history dates back some 5000 years, and which is now home to a population of more than 6 million.

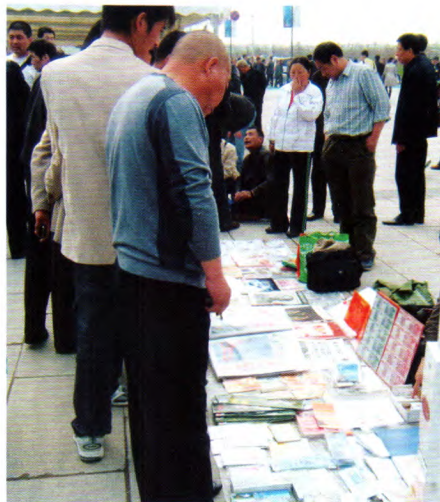
The event was held in the recently completed exhibition hall of the Luoyang Museum, with the dealer and postal administration stands, plus special features from the China National Philatelic Corporation and stamp printers, on the ground floor, and competitive exhibits on the first floor. Among these exhibits was material from 11 of the UK's leading collectors, as well as two exhibits in the Literature Class.

For every international stamp exhibition, the task of bringing together these exhibits is entrusted to the Commissioner. Every country likely to send entries is invited to appoint a Commissioner, and I was the UK Commissioner for China.

The Commissioner's task is first to ensure that an event is well publicised, so that collectors who have qualified to exhibit internationally can decide whether to submit an application. It comes as a surprise to some to learn that applications often have to be submitted a year before the exhibition is staged (applications for London 2010, in May next year, have long since closed). Having checked that the information provided on the application forms is correct, these are submitted to the exhibition organisers. Increasingly this task is being undertaken online. At the same time, many applicants submit a draft first page of the exhibit – this not only provides the organisers with more information about each exhibit, but later will be sent in advance to the judges to enable them to be prepared for what they will be asked to assess.

The organisers will receive the applications from around the world. It is usually the case that more are received than can be shown at the event. A choice has to be made. The organisers will wish to provide a balanced exhibition that they know will appeal to the majority of visitors; they will also wish to ensure that a good number of collectors who have not previously shown internationally are given the opportunity (in fact, at least 20 per cent of the entries should be from new exhibitors).

Once the decisions have been made, these are made known to the Commissioner, who must then advise the exhibitors whether their request has been successful or not. This is the time when some feel aggrieved that their exhibit has not been accepted: for China 2009, seven exhibits from the UK were not accepted. ►



China Post had all of its many sales booths outside the hall: those who wanted exhibition stamps, etc., did not have to go inside the exhibition itself. Also outside were many more traders, selling stamps and other 'souvenirs'.



The main entrance to the new Luoyang Museum, the venue for China 2009.

The cost of exhibiting The next communication between Commissioner and exhibitor is normally the least welcome, as far as the exhibitor is concerned. It is the time to ask for the fees. These are divided into two parts. The exhibition itself will require a fee for each frame the exhibit occupies. In addition, the Association of British Philatelic Societies, responsible on behalf of UK philately for all international events, must ask for a share of the costs faced by the Commissioner. While the exhibition organisers provide hotel accommodation for the Commissioner throughout the exhibition, no other costs are met. There are the

flights to be paid for, plus the excess baggage charges (it is impossible to carry 11 exhibits as hand baggage!), the cost of transporting the exhibits to and from the airport, plus more mundane matters such as paying for a visa. Exhibitors also have to confirm that they have made their own insurance arrangements. The fees paid to China were required in US dollars – and we all know how the exchange rate has varied over the months.

Transporting the exhibits The organisers will send envelopes in which the pages for each frame will be placed. Also sent are inventory forms – the exhibitor is asked to itemise every item in the display. In the case of China 2009, two sets were required: one for the exhibition organisers and one for China Customs. When travelling to non-EU countries, it is useful to have an extra set of forms for use with UK Customs, although these are not always needed. A few days before the exhibition, every exhibitor will bring his or her exhibit to a secure collection point in London, where each entry is checked against its inventory. The entries are then sealed in secure metal cases. On the day of the flight the cases are transported to the airport and accompany the Commissioner on the flight. It is normal for the exhibition organisers to greet the Commissioner on arrival, and to ease local customs formalities. The entries are then taken to the exhibition venue, ready to be mounted in the frames.

During the exhibition the Commissioner needs to be on hand to answer any queries raised by the organisers or by members of the Jury. If the Jury needs to inspect any item, the Commissioner needs to be present when the frame is opened and the item examined.

At the end, the exhibits are removed from the frames, checked and then returned to their metal cases, ready for their flight home. After clearing through customs, the exhibits are returned to the safe store, until collected by the exhibitors at a pre-arranged time. At the same time, each exhibitor will receive a copy of the exhibition catalogue, the full list of awards, the medal achieved and maybe even a prize. These extras have to be carried by the Commissioner on the return flight. Some exhibitors, of course, are able to visit the exhibition personally: in such cases they are given two admission tickets.

Lasting impressions The lasting impression of China 2009 is of vast crowds of people. The opening ceremony, held in a local, modern sports stadium, had an audience of 40,000 and a cast of 10,000 including international stars such as Sarah Brightman and Jackie Chan. The attendance over the seven days was probably in the region of 750,000. The Court of Honour included material from The Royal Philatelic Collection: some queued for four to five hours just for a glimpse of the items. The people were friendly and helpful, although in truth the vast majority who attended speak only Chinese. However, the organisers had arranged for a large team of volunteers, mainly university students, to act as interpreters and to provide whatever help was needed. Not all the activities were inside the exhibition hall. China Post had all of its many sales booths outside the hall: those wanting exhibition stamps, etc, did not have to go inside the exhibition itself. Also outside were many more traders, selling stamps and other 'souvenirs'.

The event culminated in the Awards Presentation, including a dinner and entertainment, which, like the opening ceremony, was shown live on national television. Clearly China 2009 was important to the entire nation. Throughout Luoyang, probably elsewhere, there were posters advertising the event.

British success For the British exhibitors it proved to be a successful event. Alan Holyoake was showing his 'Development and Use of the First Postage Stamps' internationally for the first time: it received a Large Gold medal, and was a candidate for the Grand Prix International. Five British exhibitors were awarded gold medals: Graham Booth for 'The first 35 years of the Cayman Islands Post Office 1889-1923'; Alan Huggins for 'GB Pre-stamped Telegraph Forms and Cards 1870-1954'; Peter Motson (who also won a Special Prize) for 'Newfoundland Airmail Stamps and Flown Airmails 1919-48'; Brian Sole for 'Go by Cycle!' and Arthur Woo for 'Mexico – The 1856-66 'Hidalgo' and 'Eagle' issues. There were five Large Vermeil medals for the British exhibitors: Clive Akerman for 'The Revenue Stamps of Peru'; Peter Cockburn for 'Revenue and Judicial Stamps of the Straits Settlements'; John Dahl for 'Revenues of Macau from 1879'; David Hunter for 'Sugar'; and Roger Lawson for 'Portuguese India, The Classic Issue. In the Literature Class, Edward Proud won a Large Vermeil medal for *Intercontinental Airmails Volume 1: Transatlantic and Pacific*, and Clive Akerman a Vermeil medal for *The Revenue Journal*.

Grand Prix d'Honneur went to Tay Peng Hian for his 'Netherlands East Indies 1655-1870'; Grand Prix International to Karnasuta Charnchai, for 'Development of Early Post Office in Siam 1880-1909'; and Grand Prix National to Wei Gang for China: 'Postal History of Mongolia 1841-1921'.

I now look ahead, again as UK Commissioner, to the next international in Rome in October, and to London 2010 Festival of Stamps next May •



The exhibition logo, above, and crowds in the exhibition's main hall.



Ffestiniog Railway's letter service Peter Johnson celebrates 40 years of operations



Ffestiniog Railway postmaster Robert Smallman with Fairlie locomotive *Merddin Emrys* on 3 May. Both locomotive and railway letter box have been adorned to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Railway's letter service.

ON 3 MAY the Ffestiniog Railway commemorated the 40th anniversary of its railway letter service. One locomotive carried a commemorative headboard, and guests toasted the anniversary with champagne whilst travelling on the 10.15am departure from Porthmadog to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Unlike other heritage railways operating letter services, the FR had signed a GPO agreement in 1891 but did not start a service until 28 May 1969. The service's founder, Harold Creamer, produced 9,400 covers for the first issue of four stamps. Until his untimely death in 1999, all FR's stamps and cancellations were designed by Michael Seymour, the railway's archivist, and most of them were printed on Merseyside by T Stephenson & Sons. One of Mr Creamer's assistants in 1969 is the current postmaster, Robert Smallman, who calculates that over 40 years the service has produced 63 different designs of stamps, 4,334,000 stamps and 108,400 first day covers. A new cover was serviced on 3 May – see Commemorative Covers, p349 •

Philatelic Congress of GB: 1909-2009

The centenary meeting, by Martin Robinson



THE FIRST British Philatelic Congress was held at Hulme Town Hall, in Manchester, in connection with a philatelic exhibition arranged by the Manchester Junior Philatelic Society in February 1909. This was a novelty in this country but not in Germany, the USA and other countries. In Germany the idea was 30 years old, and even in Britain it had been mentioned many times. It seemed to approach reality in 1907, with suggestions in the philatelic press. When in 1908 the Manchester branch of the Junior Philatelic Society planned an exhibition for February 1909, I J Bernstein, the main mover behind the exhibition, suggested in a letter to the press that it would draw in philatelists from all parts and so form the basis for a Congress; he was chosen as first president.

In July 1908 it was decided to hold the first British Congress at the same time as the exhibition, with some anxious hope that the exhibition would draw philatelists together and make a Congress possible. At a meeting of the Society's exhibition committee in July, J J Darlow was appointed Congress secretary and W D Beckton chairman. The philatelic press welcomed the news, and support came from every quarter of the kingdom.

By October a draft prospectus was agreed. It said that this would be the first opportunity for philatelists in Britain to confer upon many important philatelic matters. The most important British societies had expressed their willingness to take part, and delegates had been appointed. Matters to be discussed would include: the formation of a national federation; holding an annual Congress; suppression of unnecessary or speculative issues; and the compilation of a collector's catalogue and guide. The first offer of a paper for the Congress was made in November 1908; in December the Postmaster General refused permission for a special postmark, but relented in January 1909. A souvenir postcard was designed and accepted. ►



Two souvenir postcards from the set of eight issued for the centenary Congress.



The first Congress The Congress met in the afternoons and evenings of 18-20 February 1909, with showings of the lantern lecture 'Our Penny Stamps' one evening. Some 62 delegates from 32 societies, including some from Scotland, Wales and Ireland, attended; meetings were 'open to the public as far as space will permit'. Only delegates were allowed to address the meeting unless previous permission was obtained. The items discussed are outlined below.

1: The formation of a national society or federation; some disquiet was expressed about possible interference with existing societies' organisation and work, and discussion ended without a vote. 2: Collector's catalogue; this was also inconclusive, but general opinion was that it would be difficult to supersede existing dealers' catalogues, and it was hoped that dealers might be persuaded to agree standard prices. 3: Unnecessary issues; a proposal unanimously passed to present a petition to the Postal Union soliciting their help in 'the prevention of future issues of commemorative and other stamps which are unnecessary for the public service'. 4: Annual Congresses; it was resolved that the Congress next year be held in London, hosted by the Herts Philatelic Society, and that the organisation of future Congresses should be left to the host society. 5: Deceased collectors' stamps; it was concluded that it would be better that individuals and societies, rather than a national organisation, should attend to this. 6: Proposed encyclopædia of philatelic literature; it was agreed that this was too immense to be contemplated, and that even an index of philatelic works would be a very large subject. Most serious collectors and societies had libraries, so members should have little difficulty in being able to refer to most handbooks. The Congress ended with the presentation of a diploma to each delegate.

Centenary displays include

The History of Manchester Beryl Jones

Sudan Richard Stock

The English Civil War Malcolm Ray Smith

Stamp Collecting & Philately Past, Present & Future, by Dr Alan Huggins

A Welsh Miscellany Paul Gaywood

Australian Gold Malcolm Mynott

The 1909 Congress Martin Davies

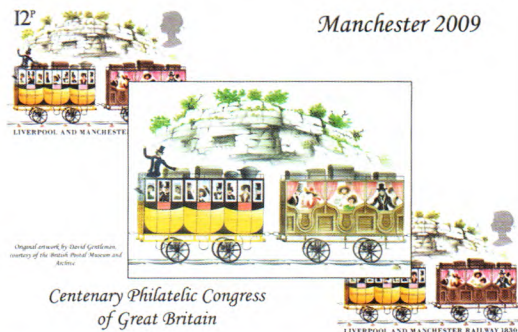
King Edward VIII S Parkin

New Hebrides J Crompton

The Kay Goodman Lecture, by Francis Kiddie, will be on 'The Evolution of Congress from the Past to the Future'.

A hundred years on The Centenary Congress (not the 100th because of interruptions during the two world wars), will take place in Manchester, Thursday to Sunday, 16-19 July 2009, hosted by the North West Philatelic Federation with Paul Gaywood, Federation Chairman, as Chairman of Congress. Most events will be held at the Copthorne Hotel Manchester, Salford Quays. Nearby are the Lowry Museum, Imperial War Museum North and Manchester United's Old Trafford. In addition delegates have the opportunity to visit shopping outlets at Salford Quays, and Manchester city centre and its shops, museums and galleries. There are good transport links, as the venue is close to the end of the M602 (a spur off the M62), and the Metrolink light railway connects Manchester Piccadilly Station and Exchange Quay, 100 yards from the Copthorne.

The organisers are proud that The Queen has agreed to be the Patron of the event, as the first to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was her grandfather, George V. This year's RDP ceremony and presentation of the Congress Medal will take place at Manchester Town Hall on Friday afternoon. The traditional Congress banquet will be held on Saturday evening.



Emmeline, above; Cristabel below.



Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Cristabel and Sylvia were all born in Manchester. Emmeline was arrested several times.



Stamps of 1968 & 1999



Congress souvenirs A number of mementos have been produced. These include a set of eight postcards (price £3 + 65p postage). They all feature a Manchester connection and show: a contemporary view of Hulme Town Hall, home to the first Congress and stamp exhibition (see p345); the first Congress postcard (p345); a rare registered cover with the first Congress postmark (above); a Lowry painting of Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester, and the stamp issued to commemorate him (not shown); Alcock and Brown who made the first non-stop Atlantic flight (not shown); a contemporary print of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway (above); the Midland Hotel in Manchester, where Charles Stewart Rolls and Henry Royce first met in 1904 (not shown); and Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughter Cristabel, both in the forefront of the movement for women's suffrage (above). The pack of postcards comes with a set of explanatory notes.

There is also a souvenir sheet showing the original artwork for and issued version of one of the Liverpool & Manchester railway stamps designed by David Gentleman, price £1 + 65p postage. This is also available in limited quantities overprinted 'Specimen' for £2 + 65p postage. There will also be a commemorative cover postmarked with the Manchester permanent pictorial handstamp and with a different coloured cachet for each day. There may also be a second souvenir sheet, showing the head of Queen Victoria as used at the 1910 Congress, but full details were not available at the time of writing. ▶

Above: three postcards from the set of eight produced for the centenary Congress, and (top right) the Liverpool and Manchester Railway souvenir sheet.

Orders and enquiries about souvenirs should be sent to Paul Gaywood at 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX; telephone 01772 713917; or email gaywood@talktalk.net



Centenary book A profusely illustrated 168-page book, entitled *100 Years of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain*, edited by Colin Searle, has been published by the Association of British Philatelic Societies. It contains several articles and details of every Congress, illustrated by items from the collection of Francis Kiddle and others. For details and orders, contact Colin Searle: email him at searlecol@gmail.com or write to The Old Post Office, 1 Wellesbourne Road, Barford, Warwick CV35 8EL. Also contact Colin if you would like to attend the Congress on a full- or part-time basis.

The first part of this article was adapted from *A History of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain*, compiled by F A Bellamy and J J Darlow, 1914, and first published in *100 Years of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain* by Colin Searle (ABPS, 2009) ●

Text © Martin Robinson 2009

Postal transport Photographs by a reader



THANKS TO Colin Peachey, we feature three interesting photographs of postal transport. At left is the old Dorking postbus, which is now owned by the British Postal Museum & Archive, and on display in the BPMA's 'Moving the Mail' exhibition at Stockwood Discovery Centre (formerly Stockwood Park Museum), Luton until 27 September. Another 'Moving the Mail' exhibition can also be seen at the Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire, until October ●



The Llandrindod Wells-Rhayader postbus at Rhayader Post Office; the last service in Wales, it ended on 1 May 2009.



Above: a current mobile post office at Llanwrtyd Wells.

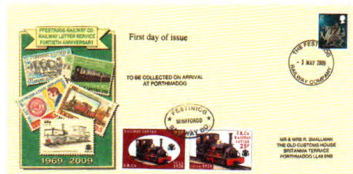
Special draw Win a Penny Black ingot pack

FIRST PRIZE this month is the Penny Black Stamp Ingot Pack. Two runner-up prizes of *Elizabeth II – A Portrait in Stamps* books are also on offer. To enter, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Penny Black Ingot Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ to arrive by 31 July ●

Commemorative covers New this month



GB Covers Limited edition of 40 Official First Day, full set FDCs, featuring a Unicorn and cancelled with a special 'Unicorn' handstamp for the Mythical Creatures issue. Each signed and numbered. **Price** £16.50 inclusive. Make remittances payable to GB Covers ●



Ffestiniog Railway A cover serviced on 3 May for the 40th anniversary of FR's railway letter service. It features a selection of stamps, and bears two 2008 FR stamps with the Minfordd station cancel and a Royal Mail stamp with the FR circular datestamp cancel. **Price** £5 or £15 signed by Allan Garraway, General Manager in 1969. Postage extra ●



Bletchley Park Post Office This Industrial Revolution issue cover features coal and the integrated circuit silicon chip, with Alan Turing and PO engineer Tommy Flowers who created the beginnings of the computer age, in which Bletchley Park played a part. **Price** £15, plus postage £1.50 ●



M Tanner A handmade Mary Rose cover (18/20 numbered) bearing 1st class Henry VIII, 1st class Mary Rose, and 15½p Henry VIII/Mary Rose stamps postmarked twice 'Mary Rose' 21 April 2009. **Price** £16.99 plus £1.50 worldwide postage, including free postcard of cover image plus another cover image. Postcards 60p each plus postage. Two similar 6 X 4 maximum cards with differing stamps/postmarks (2/3 numbered) £11 each plus postage ●



Buckingham Covers Covers and a business customised sheet for the centenary of Louis Blériot's flight across the English Channel – official souvenirs for Dover2009 celebrations on 25-26 July. There are three covers: official souvenir cover, postmarked in Dover (£7.95 or £14.95 pilot signed); double-postmarked, French & GB stamps and postmarks (£14.95, signed £24.95); and a commemorative coin cover, bearing a genuine 1909 penny (£14.95/£24.95). All depict Blériot XI planes and bear a stamp and label from the customised sheet ●

Orders and enquiries

Bletchley Park Post Office

The Mansion, Bletchley Park,
Milton Keynes MK3 6EB.
Telephone/fax 01908 631797.
www.bletchleycovers.com

Buckingham Covers

Warren House, Shearway Road,
Folkestone, Kent CT19 4BF
Telephone 01303 278137.
www.buckinghamcovers.com

Ffestiniog Railway

Rob Smallman, Hon Postmaster,
1 Kepax Gardens, Barbourne,
Worcester WR3 7LB. Tele-
phone 01905 28233. e-mail
robgaye@tiscali.co.uk

GB Covers

102 Regal Way,
Kenton, Harrow HA3 0RY. e-
mail derek@gbcovers.co.uk

M Tanner

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

Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words in the style above. The text should briefly describe the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear, and give retail prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Copy for consideration for the September *Bulletin* should be sent to The Editor (address on p323) by 8 July. Copy for October should arrive by 7 August. The Editor regrets he cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning covers announced here.

Competitions Enter for a chance to win the 2008 Yearpack



April identify The detail was from the Tower of London Olympic Games stamp.

April knowledge Answers: 1) 1962; 2) Saints Augustine and Columba; 3) Association of British Philatelic Societies.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1973 and 1974 'Tree' stamps?
- 2 What was the face value of the Olympic Games set of 1948?
- 3 How many delegates attended the first Philatelic Congress in 1909?

Send your answer (addressed to either the July *Identify* competition or the July *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 14 August will each receive a 2008 Yearpack. Runners-up in each competition will receive presentation packs, FDCs or stamp cards. These competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

Until further notice David Gentleman exhibition at BPMA. **Enquiries** See page 332.

26-27 June Thematix '09 stamp fair (trade section of former Thematica exhibition) at Jester Suite, Harlequins Rugby Club, Langthorne Drive, Twickenham, Middx. **Enquiries** P Cant, 01256 415699 or B Lee, 020 8397 2332.

30 June Walking Tour: GPO London, organised by BPMA. Starts Farringdon Station, London, 13.00. **Enquiries** See page 332.

1 July Open Afternoon at BPMA Store, Debden, Essex, 14.00. **Enquiries** See page 332.

6 July Open Evening at BPMA Store, Debden, Essex, 18.00. **Enquiries** See page 332.

11 July Midpex 09 at Xcel Leisure Centre, Coventry. **Enquiries** www.midpex.co.uk or searleco@gmail.com

15 July Grimsby & District PS Auction at Grimsby Central Library: viewing from 18.00, auction 19.00. **Enquiries** J H Mileman, 01472 827396.

16-19 July Philatelic Congress of GB: see p346 for details. **Bookings** Colin Searle: see p348.

19 July BPMA Walking Tour: GPO London. Starts Farringdon Station. 14.00. **Enquiries** See page 332.

30 July Tour of Royal Mail Archives, Freeling House, London WC1, 14.00. **Enquiries** See page 332.

30 July - 4 August Philakorea 2009 (24th Asian International Stamp Exhibition), Seoul •

Late news

Royal Mail news Fire & Rescue Service stamps (1 September) were printed by the following cylinders: D1 pale yellow D1 magenta D1 yellow D1 cyan (blue) D1 black D1 phosphor. For specialist collectors, the 1st and 90p stamps were printed 'four up' so there are four cylinder positions to collect (black dot in a four-box grid); the other values are 'two up' (dot in two unshaded box positions, two other boxes shaded). The stamps have all-over phosphor, perf gauge 14.5, and the sheets of 50 yield vertical gutter pairs •



Midpex 'Rowland Hill' will open Midpex on Saturday 11 July at the new Xcel Centre at Canley, Coventry, set to be the best ever with over 50 dealers and 45 specialist societies taking part. It is the premier exhibition for specialist collectors in the UK. The Chairman of the Organising Committee, Bryan Jones, said 'You will find some changes in the content and layout of the Exhibition when compared with its predecessors. First of all, we have had to adjust the layout to fit the new surroundings, hopefully without losing the character of the Exhibition. Secondly, we have tried to

fit in as many specialist societies as possible and although the amount of display space available on each stand is reduced, each Society will still have space to advertise its presence and specialist publications. In addition, society stands are more closely integrated with those of the dealers.' Supported by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, Midland Philatelic Federation, and Association of British Philatelic Societies, Midpex will feature displays covering many different aspects of collecting, ABPS will also hold its AGM and Council Meeting during the day. The British Thematic Association, Canadian Philatelic Society, Postal Order Society, and Oriental Philatelic Society will hold meetings, and Stamp Active Network will provide information and advice for organisers of school and junior stamp clubs. Midpex will take place at the Xcel Centre, Canley, near Coventry on 11 July, 10.00-17.00. Entry free, shuttle bus from Canley railway station. The venue will be signposted from the A45 for those arriving by car. For more details visit www.Midpex.co.uk •

Obituary We are sorry to record the death in May of Michael Goaman, who, with his wife Sylvia, was a prominent stamp designer of the 1950s and 60s. Individually or together they designed issues for more than 40 countries including GB, Barbados, British Honduras, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Malawi, New Hebrides, St Helena, St Vincent, Samoa, Sierra Leone and Zambia. Mr Goaman designed the Colonial stamps for the 1963 Freedom from Hunger, 1965 ITU Centenary, and 1966 WHO Headquarters omnibus series. For GB the Goamans were responsible for the 1953 Coronation 4d, the 1961 POSB 3d and 1s6d, 1961 CEPT, 1964 Freedom from Hunger, 1963 Nature Week 4½d, the 1964 Botanical Congress, 1967 Francis Chichester, 1969 Concorde 4d, and 1969 Anniversaries 9d and 1s9d. Their designs were often noticeably bold and colourful and their work was much appreciated by collectors at the time. Mr Goaman was 88; his wife, daughter of the writer J B Priestley, died in 2006 •

Smilers for the young and young at heart



The four new sheets feature: Jeremy Fisher by Beatrix Potter ('Hello' stamp); Wild Cherry from the Flower Fairies stories (Flower stamp); Little Miss Sunshine, of the Mr Men Little Miss series (Balloons stamp); and the ever-popular character Big Ears, from Enid Blyton's Noddy stories (with Balloons stamp).

Prices

Packs £7.95 each

Themed sheets £8.50 each

Handling charge £1.45 UK,
£1.55 Europe, £2.15 rest of
world

Royal Mail's colourful new range of stamp sheets has been designed specifically with young collectors, parents and grandparents in mind.

Smilers for Kids sheets comprise 10 stamps plus pictorial labels, sold in packs with writing paper and envelopes, colouring-in sheets, stickers, bookmark, and other items that will appeal to children and young collectors. The Jeremy Fisher pack includes baby announcement cards – especially useful to new parents.

Also available in A4-size themed sheets containing 20 stamps/labels

Packs are available from Tallents House and selected Post Office outlets; themed sheets from Tallents House only.



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

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

Royal Mail, the cruciform and the
colour red are registered trade
marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd.
© Royal Mail Group Ltd 2009.
All rights reserved.



5 014721 103112