

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 48 Number 8

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Bulletin

Celebrating the RSC •
Morris & Co preview



Romeo and Juliet on one
of ten Royal Shakespeare
Company stamps issued
on 12 April

PLUS ROOSEVELT'S COLLECTION • YOUR VERY LOVING MADELINE

Issues and withdrawals



Cover photograph
© Angus McBean/Royal
Shakespeare Company.
Vivien Leigh as Lady Macbeth
in the 1955 performance
of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

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1 April

Withdrawal 2009 Year of Miniature Sheets and Year of
Presentation Packs.

Stamp booklets: Europe 40g and Worldwide 40g.

4 April

Tariff change implemented

11 April

Withdrawal Battersea Cats and Dogs Home Medal Cover

12 April

Issue The RSC: Stamps, Miniature Sheet,
Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards.

29 April

Withdrawal Welsh Airlifters

5 May

Issue Morris & Co: Stamps, Prestige Stamp Book,
Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

7 May

Withdrawal London 2010 Festival of Stamps:
Accession of King George V Stamps, Miniature Sheets
and Press Sheets; the King's Stamps Miniature Sheet,
Prestige Stamp Book, Press Sheets, Presentation Pack
and Stamp Cards. Treasures of the Archive Prestige
Stamp Book

8 May

Withdrawal London 2010 Festival of Stamps:
Exhibition Sheet and Instant Smilers® generic sheet

12 May

Withdrawal London 2010 Festival of Stamps: Stamp
Book, Jeffery Matthews Exhibition Sheet.
Britain Alone: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Prestige Stamp
Book, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards and Dunkirk
Medal Cover.
Stamp coils (pre-security features)

19 May

Issue Post and Go Stamps: Birds of Britain (3)

26 May

Issue Olympic and Paralympic Games Stamp and
Coin Retail packs: Taekwondo and Boxing.
Olympic and Paralympic Sports Coin Cover Collection:
Taekwondo and Boxing

Contents



Readers' poll results the voting results in the poll for your favourite stamp and stamp set of 2010 **232**

Issues and withdrawals

Stamps making their entrance and those taking final bows **226**

Correspondence

Answers to a selection of readers' letters and a summary online tweet action **228**

Royal Mail news

Preview and technical details of the forthcoming Post & Go stamps: Birds of Britain 3 issue of Freshwater birds. And the latest in mail-inspired collectibles – model vans and pillar box pin badges **230**

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Stamp Scene

Update your hobby diary with exhibition previews, publications and auction news, plus reports on Stampex and Indipex **234**



Happy Birthday RSC

A new stamp issue celebrates 50 years of the Royal Shakespeare Company **239**

William Morris issue

Preview of new stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of Morris & Co **242**

Presidential philatelist

Find out about the impressive collection of the eminent philatelist President, FD Roosevelt **244**



Pillar boxes

Martin Robinson describes the variations in post boxes from the era of Edward VII **248**



Thank you Madeline

A cameo from Dane Garrod's postal history collection on the life of Madeline, Lady Drummond **250**



Online review

Adrian Keppel reviews a website celebrating George V's Silver Jubilee **253**

Commemorative covers

A selection of new covers on offer **254**

Puzzles and prizes

April is the cruellest month – for cryptic crossword clues **255**

Postbox and inbox



Birds on the wire

The big news on the Twitter feed this month was the BPMA's announcement that their long-planned and

much anticipated move to Swindon is no longer happening. The downturn in the economy and a general tightening of belts was blamed. It's very sad

news; the BPMA do a sterling job at their archive and museum store sites in London and Debden, but desperately need a bigger space for permanent exhibitions, a place where we can all celebrate our nation's world-leading role in the field.



Northern stars

We are sorry to report the death of our President Alan Randall Jones, who was due to complete his three-year term of office at our AGM this year. Alan Stenning, the immediate Past President has agreed to fill the vacancy in the meantime. *Brian Sole, Insurance and Banking Philatelic Society of Great Britain*

As many readers will know, Alan was also an officer of the North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies for many years and very active in promoting his hobby. It is with regret that we also report the recent death of Les James of South Manchester, another of the North West's leading philatelists. They will both be sadly missed.

On a more positive note, the BPMA tweeted about a lady who'd been to the archive to trace her family history and had great success (see her story at <http://amyfindingmypast.wordpress.com/2011/03/14/charles-silk-post-office-sorter/>).

A member of the *Bulletin* team has also had a lot of luck searching for a Victorian postmaster in Derby who happened to be her great grandfather. As she wasn't able to spend time at the archive, the BPMA undertook the research for a very reasonable fee and found some fascinating facts. They searched through staff records, postal magazines, guides and circulars and even film. Well worth checking out if you're interested in genealogy.

In another tweet exchange, dealers were sharing their views – most of which were disapproving – about the rise in eBay sellers' fees – final value fees will be rising from 8.75% to 12% across most eBay categories in May.

The William Morris Gallery started tweeting. This year sees the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Morris & Co (special stamps out on 5 May). Look out for our feature by one of the Gallery's team of volunteers, coming up in next month's *Bulletin*.

Data good idea

I am a friend of the *Bulletin* and contributed an article about Medical Breakthrough on stamps for the July 2010 issue.

I am writing to ask if you could provide me with the full results for the 2010 readers' poll. I am researching 'science on stamps' and endeavouring to determine the public's reaction to science/scientists on postage stamps.

Mr Chris Yardley, Holt, Australia



Dear Chris Yardley

A summary of the 2010 Favourite Stamp Poll was published in *Bulletin* three month's ago, but we award you the first-class letter prize for requiring the full details in the true spirit of the collector – see page 232 for the data you desire.



Sticky subject refried

I have been collecting GB stamps for over 50 years but the recent Post Office policy of changing the type of

gum used on some of the stamps makes it impossible to remove the paper from some used stamps. I appreciate that the Post Office may have had good reason for this change, but I wonder if collectors of GB stamps were given much thought.

I collect both used and new issues of GB stamps. My collection consists of a page of used stamp together with a book of unused stamps for each new issue. As I can no longer collect all of the used issues I must consider whether to continue with collecting GB stamps. If other collectors feel the same way as I do, the loss in revenue to the Post Office could be considerable. Perhaps it is time for the Post Office to reconsider the type of gum used so that collectors such as myself can continue with our hobby.

H Leigh, Powys

Dear Mr Leigh,

The move away from gummed to self-adhesive stamps in 2000 was in response to demands from customers for a more modern alternative to traditional gummed stamps. One of the issues at the time was how would collectors keep the new stamps in their collections, because, unlike gummed stamps, the carrier needs to be retained with the stamp. Collectors, in the main, adapted their methods to meet the challenge and embrace this change.

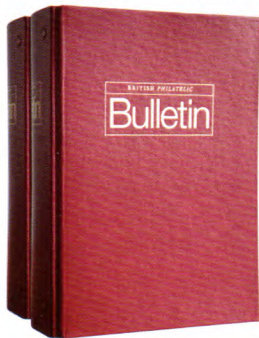
In 2009 new security features were added which included a change to the base self-adhesive laminate specification. The new specification does prevent the easy removal of stamps, as part of a wider revenue protection programme which is aimed at preventing the re-use of stamps.

This is a situation brought about by the misuse of stamps in the mail system. We appreciate that collectors of used stamps are affected and will, once again, need to adapt the way they collect used examples by moving away from the tradition of soaking and including the envelope material with the stamp.

Keep the mail coming...

The Editor of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* welcomes your letters and has a topical selection of philatelic delights to give as a thank-you to the senders of those published. The sender of the 'First Class letter' award will also receive the

Bulletin binder shown left. Please note that Royal Mail cannot reply to all correspondence received and reserves the right to edit readers' letters for length. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London WC1 1HQ.



One careful owner...

I ceased collecting stamps in 2004 and have in my possession copies of *Bulletin* from Volume 19 to number 9 of Volume 41. Perhaps they would be of interest to your readers; I would rather see them go to a collector than dispose of them as waste paper. They are filed in the Bureau's binders and are free to anyone willing to pick them up. Perhaps you could advertise their availability in the next *Bulletin*.

F M Godden, Huddersfield,

Dear F M Gooden

Thank you for your thoughtful letter. We hope that your collection finds an appreciative home. Interested *Bulletin* readers should contact the Editor at the address on the left.

What's new? Birds of Freshwater • New collectibles • Farewell Festival of Stamps



Post and Go Birds of Britain
(3) pictorial postmarks



The third in the series of **Birds of Britain** Post and Go stamps features six Freshwater birds and will be available on 19 May from Post and Go machines in 146 Post Office® branches, which print the tariffs according to the customer's specification. The complete stamp set is available from Tallents House in a card carrier (shown above), and will be printed with first-class values and a philatelic Post and Go code in gravure. The card carries details of each bird and illustrations of their eggs. The First Day cover carries the six Freshwater birds stamps printed with the first-class value and the philatelic code, and contains a filler card with illustrations by Peter Horridge.

The birds featured are among the most commonly sighted around inland waterways in the UK: the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Mute Swan (*Cygnus obor*) and the Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*).

Unstamped First Day envelopes are available from selected Crown Post Office branches® (see page 7 of *Bulletin*, September 2010) approximately one week before the stamps go on sale. The Bristol first-day-of-issue postmark will be supplied to all Special Handstamp Centres, so that all First Day Covers posted at the Post Office® will be cancelled with the same pictorial postmark regardless of where they are posted. Serviced (i.e. stamped and postmarked) Post and Go Covers are available by mail order from Royal Mail, Tallents House at the address shown on page 226. The stamps will be cancelled with a first day of issue postmark of the Tallents House,

Post and Go Birds of Britain (3) Prices

Stamp Set	£2.76
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover	£3.79

Post and Go Birds of Britain (3) Specifications

Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Kate Stephens
Illustration	Robert Gillmor
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Kiss die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

Edinburgh or the Bristol postmark as required. Orders for Serviced First Day Covers have to reach the Royal Mail by 19 May 2011 •

Pillar Box Pin Badge Collection On 12 April the latest pillar box pin badge is released – the EVIIIR Type B pillar box, dating from 1936. It is the eighth classic pin badge to become available, following the first seven in the collection: the GVR Airmail pillar box, dating from 1933; the GVIR Type C with double aperture, of 1937; the VR Penfold from 1872; the 1857 VR Science and Art pillar box; the VR Fluted pillar box, also from 1857; the VR First National Standard of 1859; and VR Type B, dating from 1887. At just £6.95 each they make an original collection.

The collection will comprise over 20 pin badges. Each is hand painted and crafted from pewter in the UK to a consistent scale of 1:60, so the pin badges vary in size accordingly. A brief history of each model is included in their packaging. (The series is not recommended for collectors under 14.)

For more details and to purchase items from this collection, visit www.royalmail.com or phone 08457 641 641 (overseas +44 131 316 7483) between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday •

Join the mail van clan The Morris J model van is all geared up for 19 May, when it will join, as fourth in a series of eight in the Royal Mail Model Van Collection: Series One. Each van is precisely scaled at 1:43 and made in a numbered limited edition of 5000. The series includes some iconic marques of the British motor industry, such as those of the three models already available: the Ford Anglia, Morris Minor and Austin A35. Chris Hogan from the Post Office Vehicles Club is the consultant for this series. Please note that the model vans are not designed as toys and are recommended for collectors over the age of 14.

The Royal Mail Model Van Collection costs £15.95 per van and subscription terms are available at the phone number above •

Last chance to buy 2010 commemoratives Coming off sale this month are many of the stamp products produced for the London 2010 Festival of Stamps, as well as the popular Britain Alone stamps. See page 226 for dates •



Above: the first in the series of the Pillar Box Pin Badge Collection was the GVR Airmail model. The latest badge, a 1:60 replica of the EVIIIR Type B, is released this month



Results of 2010 readers poll

LAST DECEMBER we asked you to vote for your favourite set of special stamps and your favourite single stamp of 2010. This was our 25th annual stamp poll and a good response was received from our 11,000 readers worldwide.

Sadly we were unable to offer online entry, and so we cannot make the comparisons between the tastes of emailers and letter-writers that have suggested some interesting trends in the past. Nevertheless, once again we are delighted with the high number of responses and extend our thanks to all readers who took part ●

Favourite set Last year we used a points system for first, second and third favourite sets, but this year we operate the one-vote-one-point system, so the numbers shown in the votes list in the table, below left, represent the

actual numbers of readers who voted for that set as their favourite. Your votes gave us a clear winner in the poll for your favourite set of special stamps: British Locomotives of England steamed ahead of the competition to take first place. This set had always been a strong contender, as we know that railway themes strike a personal cord in many UK families, most of whom have a relative or ancestor who has worked on the railways. Another memorable aspect of this set of stamps was



that they were 'the world's first intelligent stamps', which means that one can scan a stamp into a mobile phone and see a video of Bernard Cribbins reading W H Auden's poem *The Night Mail* ●

Favourite stamps Do cuddly little animals seem to double their appeal when they peer out of a stamp – even rodents? It would seem so, as yet again *Bulletin* readers' favourite stamp of the year veer firmly towards the cute and furry. Perhaps not surprisingly, every single one of the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home set was someone's favourite. In third place was the Finch from the Birds of Britain series, the first ever pictorial Post & Go stamps. And pipping the bird by a convincing 50% to second place were Wallace and Gromit on the Christmas 2010 large first-class stamp. But ahead of the whole pack was a stamp from the Mammals issue of 2010: the Dormouse ●

Winners and losers All voting cards and letters went into a prize draw and the prize has been sent to Ian Mulligan of Surrey. Stamps with poll index numbers 1 to 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17 to 24, 35 to 39, 41, 42, 48, 56, 59, 63, 65, 66, 68, 70, 72 to 76, 87, 97, 99, 105 received no votes ●

FAVOURITE SETS 2010

	Votes
Great British Railways	55
Mammals	48
Post & Go Birds of Britain	28
Britain Alone	25
Winnie the Pooh	23
Christmas with Wallace & Gromit	20
Battersea Cats and Dogs Home	17
The Royal Society	14
Classic Album Covers	10
Medical Breakthroughs	10
Olympic and Paralympic Games II	6
House of Stuart	5
Girl Guiding UK	4
House of Stewart	2

Poll results The number in brackets following each value in the Favourite Stamps section below refers to the key numbers of the illustrations in the November 2010 Bulletin pages 90-92. Stamps are first class tariff unless otherwise stated.

FAVOURITE STAMPS 2010

	Votes				
Mammals: Dormouse (50)	42	Great British Railways: 67p, LNER Class A1 (80)	4	Mammals: Sperm Whale (46)	1
Christmas with Wallace & Gromit: 1st Class large, Posting Cards (102)	17	Medical Breakthroughs: beta blocker, Sir James Black (83)	4	Britain Alone: 60p, Home Guard (54)	1
Post & Go Birds of Britain 1: Blue Tit (89)	4	Post & Go Birds of Britain 1: Winnie-the-Pooh: Pooh and Christopher Robin (95)	4	Britain Alone: 67p, Women in Factories (57)	1
Goldfinch (90)	12	Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Leonard (33)	3	House of Stuart: Charles I (61)	1
Mammals: Otter (49)	10	Great British Railways: LMS NCC Class WT (82)	3	House of Stuart: 60p, Charles II (62)	1
Christmas with Wallace & Gromit: 2nd Class large, Carol Singing (104)	10	Christmas with Wallace & Gromit: £1.46, Gromit's Christmas Pullover (107)	3	House of Stuart: 67p, William III (64)	1
Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Tigger (32)	9	Girl Guiding UK: 56p, Brownies (12)	2	The Olympic and Paralympic Games II: Rowing (67)	1
Britain Alone: 60p, Evacuees (55)	9	Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Button (26)	2	The Olympic and Paralympic Games II: Cycling (71)	1
Great British Railways: 1st Class, BR Class 9F (77)	9	Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Herbie (27)	2	Medical Breakthroughs: 58p, Penicillin (84)	1
Great British Railways: LMS Coronation Class (78)	9	Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Boris (30)	2	Medical Breakthroughs: 60p, Hip Replacement, Sir John Charnley (85)	1
Great British Railways: 97p, SR King Arthur Class (81)	9	House of Stewart: 81p, Mary (40)	2	Medical Breakthroughs: 67p, Lens Implant, Sir Harold Ridley (86)	1
Girl Guiding UK, Rainbows (11)	7	Mammals: Polecat (45)	2	Medical Breakthroughs: 97p, CT Scanner, Sir Godfrey Hounsfield (88)	1
Britain Alone: Churchill (52)	7	House of Stuart: James I (60)	2	Post & Go Birds of Britain 1: House Sparrow (91)	1
Great British Railways: GWR King Class (79)	7	Winnie-the-Pooh: 67p, Pooh and Eeyore (98)	2	Post & Go Birds of Britain 1: Starling (93)	1
Christmas with Wallace & Gromit: 1st Class standard, Posting Cards (101)	7	Classic Album Covers: Let It Bleed, Rolling Stones (5)	1	Post & Go Birds of Britain 1: Wood Pigeon (94)	1
Classic Album Covers: Tubular Bells, Mike Oldfield (7)	6	Classic Album Covers: Ziggy Stardust, David Bowie (10)	1	Winnie the Pooh: 58p, Pooh and Piglet (96)	1
Mammals: Wildcat (43)	6	Girl Guiding UK: 90p, Senior Section (14)	1	Winnie the Pooh: 97p, Pooh and Tigger (100)	1
Mammals: Hedgehog (51)	6	The Royal Society: Newton (16)	1	Christmas with Wallace & Gromit: 2nd Class standard, Carol Singing (103)	1
Olympic and Paralympic Games II: Modern Pentathlon (69)	6	Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Pixie (25)	1	Christmas with Wallace & Gromit: 97p, Christmas Pudding (106)	1
Post & Go Birds of Britain 1: Robin (92)	6	Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Mr Tumnus (28)	1		
Britain Alone: Land Girls (53)	5	Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Tafka (29)	1		
Britain Alone: 97p, Royal Broadcast (58)	5	Mammals: Brown Long-eared Bat (44)	1		
Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Casey (31)	4				
Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Tia (34)	4				
Mammals: Water Vole (47)	4				



Stamp scene – John Holman keeps you posted

The Railway Philatelic Group Convention On the weekend of Saturday 14 May 2011 it's all aboard for Peterborough and the perfect weekend for railway enthusiasts. The RPG will be holding its annual convention at the Nene Valley Railway, Wansford Station, Stibbington, near Peterborough. Visitors are most welcome, as they are at the The Nene Valley Railway TPO Weekend whose first day coincides nicely with the RPG convention.

At the TPO weekend you can see mail exchanged from NVR TPO carriages by the lineside apparatus and witness the morning's special TPO service. The annual general meeting of the RPG takes place in the afternoon and there will be invited speakers, displays, the members' competitions and opportunities for members to trade and exchange their own material during the day. The Group will have use of a special carriage at Wansford station, just off the A1 to the West of Peterborough.

A special souvenir cover will be produced carried by the NVR Railway Mail Service. Full details of the convention from Keith Downing, 16 Caves Lane, Bedford MK40 3DR •



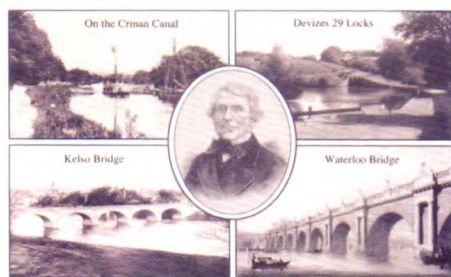
Above: the signalbox at Wansford Station.
Below: souvenir postcard of this month's Scottish Philatelic Congress in Perth

Perth Congress this month The Scottish Philatelic Congress, a major annual event in Scotland, will be held at the Dewar's Centre in Perth on 15 and 16 April. The event will be hosted by the Glasgow Thematic Society and the Strathclyde Postcard Club, and will include the Scottish National Competitions in eight classes: Traditional (GB and non-GB), Postal History, Scottish Postal History, Aerophilately, Thematic, Social Philately, Literature, and Open. About 50 dealers attend. The Congress was first held in Dundee in 1924 and has been staged in Perth since 2002. In 2012 Perth will be the venue for both the UK National Exhibition (18 to 20 October) and the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain (20 to 22 October).

A souvenir postcard (shown left) features works of the engineer John Rennie: Crinan Canal, Devizes 29 locks, and Kelso and Waterloo bridges. Rennie was also involved with the Bell Rock Lighthouse which features on the Congress postmark. The card will be available price 40p (50p from 15 April) from Mrs Janet Hughes, Magdala, Port Glasgow Road, Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire PA13 4SG. Serviced cards with special postmarks will be available at Congress

on 16 April, as well as a special limited edition of 50 cards signed by John F Boath, the last keeper stationed at Bell Rock lighthouse (priced £5 to include a donation to the RNLI).

For more information on the Scottish Congress and philatelic societies and events in Scotland, see the website of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies – www.scottishphilately.homestead.com •



Honouring John Rennie, Engineer. 1761 – 1821
82nd ASPS Congress 2011. Joint Hosts: Glasgow Thematic Society, Strathclyde Postcard Club

Overseas events The next international philatelic exhibition will be Philanippon 2011, to be held at the Pacifico Yokohama Exhibition Hall, Yokohama, Japan from 28 July to 2 August. (The Hall is located more than 250km away from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant and considered safe from the aftermath of the recent tragic earthquake.) Royal Mail will issue an exhibition sheet for the event, to be featured in a later issue of *Bulletin*.

An FIP-recognised exhibition, Paraguay 2011 will be held at Asunción on 5 to 11 May, marking the bicentenary of the Paraguay's independence ●

The National Philatelic and Picture Postcard Exhibition, under the auspices of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS), takes place at the Pond's Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield, 6 and 7 May and is being sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, and Grosvenor, Corbitts and Spink auctions. There will be major exhibits of George V stamps from the Royal Philatelic Collection, to mark the centenary of the King's coronation, and on the History of the Olympic Games by John Crowther.

The displays will be shown under the following class headings: Traditional (Great Britain and Rest of World); Open; Literature (Catalogues, Handbooks, Periodicals, and Articles); Postal History (GB and Rest of World); Aerophilately; Postal Stationery; Revenue; Special Studies; Thematic; Cinderella; One Frame; and Picture Postcards.

Presenters include David Beech on the Rarities of the British Philatelic Collection and Bob Wilcock on the London 1908 Marathon. The British Thematic Association and the Northern region of the RSPSL meet on the Friday and there are also meetings of the Faroe Islands Study Circle, Scandinavian Philatelic Society, and Society of Olympic Collectors. Over 25 dealers have booked to attend. The exhibition is hosted by the Sheffield Philatelic Society, which was founded in 1894 and now meets twice a month (except August) at the Central United Reformed Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield. This month's meeting is on 14 April, when Steve Jarvis will give a display on Jamaica. On 28 April the Society will hold its 2000th meeting. For details contact the Secretary: J H Grayson, 25 Whitfield Road, Fulwood, Sheffield S10 4GJ, phone 0114 230 5171 ●

Looking ahead to June The 93rd Philatelic Congress of GB will be held at the Queens Hotel, Southsea from 16 to 19 June, and the popular Midpex exhibition at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa on 2 July. A free shuttle bus will operate from Leamington station to the Exhibition Centre ●

Bell Rock's 200th Birthday The Bell Rock lighthouse, which featured on the 43p value of the 1998 Lighthouses issue (see illustration on the following page) is 200 years old this year. The lighthouse also featured on the Scottish aerogramme of April 1986 marking the bicentenary of the Northern Lighthouse Board. A number of events have been organised to mark the anniversary and the February 2011 issue of *The Scot's Magazine* included features about the lighthouse and its history. The construction of the ►



Above: a vintage stamp showing Asunción in Paraguay, host of next month's exhibition



Above: the Queen's Hotel, Southsea, site of this year's Philatelic Congress of GB



This 1998 Bell Rock stamp features on new commemorative covers produced to mark the bicentenary of the famous lighthouse

lighthouse on Bell Rock was approved in 1806. It took over four years to construct and the first beam of light from the Bell Rock shone out across the North Sea on 1 February 1811. The Arbroath Stamp and Postcard Club sponsored a special bicentenary handstamp used at the Royal Mail Scotland & Northern Ireland Special Handstamp Centre in Glasgow on 1 February, and the Club also produced a commemorative cover. For further details contact the Stamp & Postcard Club, c/o Brian Cargill, Elfin Cottage, Lilybank Street, Arbroath DD11 4TP •

Firm friends of stamps Brian Sole has been appointed as Chairman of the Trustees of The Friends of the BPMA. Brian is an internationally respected collector whose collecting theme of bicycles has achieved many awards both nationally and internationally. He replaces Cyril Macey who devoted unlimited time to further the work of The Friends; Cyril will continue as a Trustee.

The Friends of the BPMA is a charity whose objective is to encourage and assist the work and aims of the British Postal Museum & Archive. It is governed by a Board of Trustees which currently comprises: Brian Sole (Chair), Derek Brunning, Jean Elley, Avice Harms, Mark Kearnes, Brian Livingstone, Cyril Macey, Glenn Morgan, Cyril Parsons, Richard West and Pat Wortley •

Obituary We are sorry to record the death on 31 January (the day after his 90th birthday) of former stamp dealer Joe Urch. After working for the Wills tobacco company in Bristol, then Army service, Mr Urch founded the new issue dealers Urch Harris, with Geoffrey Harris, in 1954. He was a keen follower of the fortunes of the Somerset Cricket Club •

This month in history:

Shakespeare Festival stamps of April 1964

As the first British stamps to show a person other than a monarch or his consort, the Shakespeare Festival stamps caused quite a stir in 1964. Four of the five values featured scenes from *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Henry V*, designed by David Gentleman and printed in photogravure by Harrisons in three or four colours. A fifth stamp, a high value 2s 6d, featured



Queues formed outside the Stratford Post Office hours before opening, for the issue of the Shakespeare Festival stamps in 1964. A quarter of a million were sold in one day!

Hamlet contemplating Yorick's skull, designed by Robin and Christopher Ironside, and printed in recess (intaglio) by Bradbury Wilkinson. The four photo-gravure stamps were issued in both plain and phosphor versions, and for the first time the issue was available in a Presentation Pack and the Post Office produced its own First Day Cover. Large numbers were ordered through the new Philatelic Bureau and the covers were taken to Stratford upon Avon for postmarking. Such was the demand that some orders took several weeks to arrive. Two aerogrammes were also issued and one had to be reprinted as the original printing was wrongly captioned 'Shakespeare Memorial Theatre' instead of Royal Shakespeare Theatre. There were several printings of the stamps and the 2s6d can be found in a number of shades, including sought-after issues in black, possibly colour trials or proofs issued in error.

Exhibition reports home and abroad



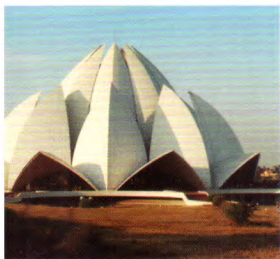
Spring Stampex: Esther Read, 14, reports from Islington Spring Stampex was the first ever stamp exhibition I have attended. So I didn't know what to expect. There was a free limited-edition postcard for everyone who attended, with an image that was proposed for the 1986 Halley's Comet stamp [image by Cooper Thirkell Ltd, reproduced by kind permission of The British Postal Museum & Archive]. The postcard had a different cancel for each day of Stampex.

My first impressions of the Business Design Centre was an enormous quiet space with millions of stamps to look at, but I soon found my way around. On the Village Green, facing the Royal Mail stand, The Postal History Society was celebrating its 75th anniversary with some great displays of postal history. Then I discovered the Stamp Network area at the back of the hall and got involved in the action before the auction! By collecting points through answering quiz questions you can 'spend' the points at the Saturday Free Auction. The crowd at the auction was borderline rowdy and competitive – in a friendly way – and Michael Thompson was on the rostrum to keep everything fair. I went home with an big envelope full of beautiful stamps and some of them are quite valuable, to me anyway – and I am really looking forward to the autumn Stampex in September.

The main trophies awarded in the Stamp Active Competition for 2011 were: Best overall entry (Kidstamps Cup) - Lynne Mitchell, Bobbing Along on the Canal; Best entry in Group A – Rhys Evans, From Canoe to Concorde; Best entry in Group B – Claire Mitchell, Is it a bird? Is it a plane?; Best entry in Group C – Lynne Mitchell, Bobbing Along on the Canal; Best entry in Group D – Rachel Foster, 100 Years of Girl Power; Best Group entry (Myers Shield) – Doonfoot Primary School, Where shall we go today? Best results from a single school – Doonfoot Primary School • ►

Above: Richard West explains the Stamp Active Network competition categories to our junior reporter Esther Read. Above left: Daniel Tucker (7) choosing stamps at the Stamp Active stand

A word on the WestBex Show by Dane Garrod, Chairman of the Thames Valley Philatelic Federation: For the past decade, the WestBex show has been held each spring at Thatcham in Berkshire and has steadily grown in size and stature. Last month, on 26 March, 24 dealers and hundreds of philatelists and stamp collectors gathered to enjoy the day, whose highlights included the Thames Valley 9-sheet competition and a country meeting of the National Philatelic Society featuring member's displays. Additionally, the venue at Kennet School provided car parking and restaurant facilities ●



Above: Pragati Maidan Exhibition Centre in New Delhi, site of the recent Indipex international stamp exhibition. Below: Royal Mail stamp sheet commemorating the event

Indipex – John Holman gathers the news from Delhi The first international stamp exhibition of 2011 was held at the Pragati Maidan Exhibition Centre in New Delhi, India in February and attracted over 75,000 visitors. The exhibition marked the centenary of the first air post on 18 February 1911, when a 23-year old French aviator took off from the grounds of the United Provinces Exhibition in Allahabad. In his British Humber Sommer biplane he carried a mail-bag containing 6500 letters which were franked by Indian stamps depicting King Edward VII cancelled by a special 'First Aerial Post' postmark applied in red ink.

Indipex 2011 – the seventh major stamp exhibition in New Delhi since 1954 which commemorated the centenary of the first Indian stamps – was inaugurated by the President of India, Her Excellency Pratibha Devisingh Patil who saw a special display on Indian Airmails in the Court of Honour. On the day of the President's visit, India Post issued a special 100 rupee stamp

depicting Mahatma Gandhi, the stamp affixed to a square of khadi cloth specially manufactured in Bengal. Khadi is a handspun cotton material which Gandhi held as the symbol of self-deliberation and self-reliance. The limited edition stamp was quickly sold out at the exhibition.

A number of countries issued special stamps for Indipex. Royal Mail issued an exhibition sheet comprising 20 Union Flag first class stamps with appropriate labels attached. The images on the labels are scenes near New Delhi and images of Indian life – Lotus Temple, Jama Masjid Mosque, rickshaws, silk cloth, India Gate, Red Fort, coloured dies, Akshardham Temple, and the Indipex venue – Pragati Maidan Exhibition Centre. Another label reproduces the British 1s 6d stamp issued in August 1969 to mark Gandhi Centenary Year. It was designed by Biman Mullick who was born in India and, at age ten, was fortunate to meet Gandhi.

There was a big success for British stamp company and philatelic publishers Stanley Gibbons Ltd at Indipex. The firm won six medals for its publications ●





The stamp's the thing The Royal Shakespeare Company celebrates its 50th anniversary in style

THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY is one of the UK's most prominent public funded theatre companies and its existence ensures that Shakespeare is always on show in the town and land of his birth. The world-renowned Company has also presented plays by Shakespeare's contemporaries and later dramatists, including modern playwrights commissioned to write new work. The original Shakespeare Memorial Theatre opened in 1879. It was granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation in 1925 and steadily built a reputation for the quality and innovative nature of its productions.

In 1961 Sir Peter Hall founded the Royal Shakespeare Company and this year marks its 50th anniversary with the first full season of new productions designed especially for its new home. ►



'All the World's a stage'
– the famous quotation from
As You Like it on one of the
RSC alternative postmarks



The acclaimed performance of *Hamlet* by David Tennant in 2008



Prospero in RSC's *The Tempest* of 2009, played by Antony Sher



Henry VI played by Chuk Iwuji in the RSC production of 2006



A quotation from *Hamlet* on the RSC Talents House postmark. An alternative postmark is shown on page 239

A home for the Bard Ever since the actor David Garrick organised a Shakespeare Jubilee there in 1769, the link between Stratford-upon-Avon and Shakespeare has been acknowledged. But it wasn't until a similar celebration in 1864 – the tercentenary of his birth – that a campaign to build a theatre in Stratford began in earnest. A local brewer, Charles Edward Flower, donated a two-acre site beside the Avon and in 1879 the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre opened, attracting the leading actors of the day, including Ellen Terry and Frank Benson.

That theatre was destroyed by fire in 1936 and its replacement opened in 1932, bringing John Gielgud, Laurence Olivier and Peggy Ashcroft to Stratford and, by 1961, giving the newly formed RSC an official, permanent home. The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, as it was renamed, saw many performances from Paul Scofield, Judi Dench and many other major actors, but its proscenium arch came to be seen as dated as its backstage and other facilities. So the Royal Shakespeare Theatre was reconstructed as part of a major £112.8m transformation project. This new theatre is similar in shape to its temporary replacement, the Courtyard Theatre, and is attached to the Swan Theatre, a 430-seater modelled on the designs of original Elizabethan playhouses.

Philatelic celebration Working closely with the RSC, Royal Mail has selected six RSC productions of Shakespeare's plays from the last half century as subjects for the special issue of stamps (shown above) released on 12 April to commemorate the RSC's important anniversary.

The stamp designs are inspired by the RSC's dynamic, modern take on Shakespeare and feature graffiti-style famous quotations from the

Royal Shakespeare Company Prices

Set of stamps	£4.66
Miniature Sheet	£2.90
Presentation Pack	£8.10
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover Stamps	£6.07
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£3.96
Stamp Cards (11 in set)	£4.95

Royal Shakespeare Company Stamp Specifications

Number of stamps	Six
Design	hat-trick design
Typography	Marion Deuchars
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



Traditional views of *King Lear* were overturned by Paul Scofield in 1962



Titania, played by Sara Kestelman in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 1970



Romeo and Juliet of 1976, with Ian McKellen and Francesca Annis

plays. The words of the quotations are overlaid to flow around the shapes of powerful monochrome images taken from photography by the designer Marion Deuchars. The use of a simple black, white and red palette adds to the sense of drama and echoes the bold, forward-thinking ethos of the RSC.

The specially issued Miniature Sheet comprises four stamps showing the cut-out shapes of each of the four theatres where the RSC has performed in Stratford-upon-Avon through the years, set against a stage-themed background with famous Shakespearian characters 'walking the boards' ●

Royal Shakespeare Company Miniature Sheet Specifications

Number of stamps	Four
Sheet design	hat-trick design
Typographer	Marion Deuchars
Stamp format	Landscape
Size of sheet	115mm x 89mm
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing, France
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



Left: The RSC Miniature Sheet, shown smaller than actual size of 115mm x 89mm

A design revolution Celebrating Morris & Co, who changed the face of British interior design



Morris & Co pictorial postmark

Issued on 5 May, the Morris & Co special issue commemorates the 150th anniversary of the founding of this seminal design collective. The company was set up by socialist, poet, writer, artist and designer William Morris, together with Pre-Raphaelite partners Edward Burne-Jones and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the architect Philip Webb, the artist Ford Madox Brown, his associate, surveyor and amateur artist Peter Paul Marshall, and Morris's and Burne-Jones's Oxford friend, the mathematician Charles Faulkner.

The firm was inspired by two mutually supportive ideas: respect for traditional methods of hand-craftsmanship and manufacture, and design

Morris & Co Prestige Stamp Book

Written by Morris expert Linda Parry and designed by Kate Stephens, *Morris & Co, A Definite Claim To Beauty* contains four unique stamp panels:

Panel 1 shows the interior of the drawing room at Standen in East Sussex, and has mixed Machins comprising 4 x 5p, 2 x 10p and 2 x 50p

Panel 2 Has two 1st Class *Cherries* and two £1.10p *The Merchant's Daughter* stamps

Panel 3 Carries the 1st Class *Cray*, 76p *Seaweed*, 76p *Peony* and £1.10p *Acanthus* stamps

Panel 4 Has four 2009 Christmas 2nd Class *Angel* stamps



Royal Mail Mint Stamps

MORRIS & Co

456 5.511



principles of medieval times. The Company initially concentrated on ecclesiastical decoration, including stained glass, architectural carving, tapestries, embroidery and furniture. And they soon ventured into textiles and wallpaper, allowing their distinctive designs to be enjoyed by a wider audience.

The objective of the May stamp issue was to reflect this breadth of creative achievement in the six Morris & Co stamps, as shown above on the Presentation Pack, clockwise from top left: Gray fabric print by William Morris 1884; Cherries by Philip Webb 1867; Seaweed wallpaper design by John Henry Dearle 1901; The Merchant's Daughter stained glass panel by Edward Burne-Jones c.1864; Acanthus slip-covered hand-painted glazed tile design by William Morris and William De Morgan 1876; and Peony design for ceramic tiles, by Kate Faulkner 1877.

Although Morris & Co was part of the Arts & Crafts movement, the company survived for far longer. With the purchase of the original firm by Arthur Sanderson & Sons Ltd in 1940, the Morris & Co name continues to thrive, and a new generation is discovering the timeless patterns. To find out more visit www.william-morris.co.uk •



The book *Morris & Co: A Revolution in Decoration*, by Michael Parry is published by Morris & Co for the company's 150th anniversary. Available from Talents House by mail order £9.99

Morris & Co Prices

Set of stamps	£4.64
Presentation Pack	£5.15
Prestige Stamp Book	£9.99
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover Stamps	£6.04
First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book	£2.16
Stamp Cards (6 in set)	£2.70

Morris & Co Stamp Specifications

Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Kate Stephens
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	37mm x 35mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

Mail to the chief

Adrian Keppell traces the philatelic life of US leader, Franklin D Roosevelt

'PHILATELY: THE KING OF HOBBIES and the Hobby of Kings'. We're all familiar with this well-used phrase, and King George V springs to mind whenever we hear it repeated. We may also think of Monaco, Romania and, even further afield, Egypt, where there were also royal collectors. But luckily for those with a more republican strain in their blood, it's not just royalty that built up

famous collections – there are presidents to be found as well! The most famous stamp collector among those must undoubtedly be Franklin D Roosevelt, the 32nd President of the USA.

Like so many of us, Roosevelt started his stamp collection as a child, it being just one of his many pastimes. He also collected stuffed birds and naval prints, for example. Roosevelt's family was very much involved in overseas trade, making it easy for the young lad to lay his hands on stamps from all over the world. He kept them all, and even catalogued them meticulously.

A comforting pastime When Roosevelt was later struck by what was believed at the time to be polio, at the age of 39, his stamps became his only solace during his long illness, which is now thought could have been Guillain-Barré syndrome. He got even more hooked on stamp collecting than he already was and would remain so throughout the rest of his life. Even when his presidential duties saw him

lead his country into a world war, he would always have his trunk with his stamp collection with him, wherever he went. That way he could ensure that he could spend at least half an hour each and every day on his stamps, at the close of day, so he could de-stress and go to sleep with his mind at peace.

His stamp collection also helped Roosevelt educationally. Through it he gained a very thorough geographical knowledge, something that often amazed his military advisers. The general public, also, seemed to be strangely comforted by this picture of their president putting the world in order in his stamp albums, trusting him to do the same with the real world.

Another advantage to being a stamp collector *and* President of the United States meant that Roosevelt was able to influence the United States stamp issuing policy of his day. And he did just that, and with a vengeance. The President and his Postmaster General at the time, James Farley, formed a





tight team and together they were responsible for a number of postal innovations, not least new philatelic press releases and philatelic sales windows in post offices.

Original sketch by FD Roosevelt for the 1938 US Airmail stamp (left) and the actual 1938 US Airmail stamp

Policy and philately Roosevelt's first presidential term, from 1933 to 1937, was marked by his attempts to help America recover from the severe economic crisis of the Great Depression in the late 1920s. Roosevelt's 'New Deal' programme was aimed at getting the economy up and running by stimulating large state-funded projects to create work and jobs. He understood how stamps could play a major propaganda role in this, and from the very beginning he put his mark on new stamp issues. The first example of this is the 'National Recovery Act' stamp issued in August 1933. Sir Winston Churchill is actually to thank for this stamp being issued. He saw the NRA posters promoting Roosevelt's New Deal programme, and thought it would be a great subject for a stamp. Churchill contacted the American Postmaster General who set the wheels in motion. The design depicts an allegory of agriculture, commerce and industry, together determined to get America back on its feet again.

More stamps were issued which depicted the great works that were being constructed, such as the Boulder Dam in Nevada on a 1935 stamp. The general idea of such issues was to give people hope and to show them, through the medium of stamps, that America was recovering.

Further stamps in this vein were to follow, either with or without a political message. Roosevelt was deeply involved in the design phase of issues such as the 1933 Byrd Antarctic Expedition and the 1934 Mothers' Day issue. He would either submit ideas for subjects, or would comment on and/or change submitted designs, or suggest design ideas himself. Roosevelt considered the 1938 airmail stamp to be the only one completely by his hand, with just a few very minor alterations made later. Sometimes, his involvement would be very subtle. He advocated, for example, the use of lighter colours, as a way to lighten people's moods during the times of economic hardship.

Firmly back on the propaganda agenda was the 1942 Independence Day issue, which is better known as the 'Win the War' issue. America had just ►

‘Stamp collecting dispels boredom, enlarges our vision, broadens our knowledge, makes us better citizens and, in innumerable ways, enriches our lives’

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

been attacked by the Japanese and was finally forced to abandon its isolationist position and take part in WWII. In order to take the American people with him on this road to war, Roosevelt knew he had to change the hearts and minds of the majority of his fellow countrymen. The Independence Day issue was therefore an ideal way to reach out to the patriotic feelings of the American people. The design showed the American eagle with its wings in the shape of a V for Victory, with on top of that the slogan 'Win the War'. The ploy worked fantastically well, and the stamp became a very popular and patriotic way to show support for the war.



Top: A 1986 US commemorative postal card to promote the hobby of stamp collecting
Above: A 1950 Philippines cover honouring Roosevelt

The President as subject Being such a figure of world renown inevitably meant that 'Roosevelt the Stamp Collector' became a very popular subject for stamp designs. During his presidency, he was sometimes photographed enjoying his stamp collection. These images have since appeared on many stamp issues, from countries as far afield as the Cook Islands, India, Upper Volta and Monaco. Special commemorative covers also abound, again often incorporating photographs of Roosevelt studying his stamps. The Asociación Filatélica de Filipinas, for example, issued a special cover in 1950 to celebrate their 25th anniversary, honouring Roosevelt on both stamp and cover as honorary member of the Association.

The United States issued a special postcard in 1986, as part of their Ameripex '86 issue. The imprinted stamp on the card celebrates philately as the 'universal hobby' and the images shows

Roosevelt looking at his stamps. If you study these photographs you will notice that Roosevelt never seemed to use tweezers. And a close look at the Monaco stamp reveals an oddity – the illustration of the left-hand shirt cuff makes it look rather like a fifth finger!

An epic collection Back to his own collection and it's obvious that, being at the top of the American administration, Roosevelt was able to lay his hands on many philatelic beauties, and his collection included wonderful die proofs of classic American stamps. But Roosevelt was a generalist – some say even a hoarder – as well as a philatelist, and he kept each and every stamp that came his way. He also ordered all covers sent to the state departments with stamps on to be sent to him as well. His collection soon took on enormous proportions.

It is very fitting for this philatelist president that one of his last actions had to do with stamps. It was about a fortnight before Roosevelt was to address a United Nations Conference on 25 April 1945. A stamp marking this conference in San Francisco would be issued on that same day. On the 12 April he phoned his then Postmaster General, Frank Walker, to make arrangements for the First Day of Issue ceremonies in which he would be



involved. Hours later he collapsed and died. Frank Walker's immediate response was to alter the stamp design in such a way that it would include Roosevelt's name as well, as a tribute to the country's most famous philatelist. A proper commemorative issue soon followed in June 1945.

Roosevelt's widow, Eleanor, decided to sell the stamp collection for charity. This initially caused some controversy, as some stated the collection actually belonged to the State. But the auction went ahead regardless and was a great success. Many of the top items would have sold anyway, even without the Roosevelt association, but the remainder of his vast collection, consisting of many more or less ordinary or even trivial items, were cleverly marketed and all sold like proverbial hot cakes.

Today many of these items can be found on the market, still bearing the rubber handstamped mark of Harmers, the original auctioneers. Roosevelt had the habit of signing each and every album page he made, so these pages too remain very collectable.

Since then, the National Postal Museum of America, the Smithsonian Institution, has been trying to buy back some key items from the Roosevelt collection, so they can be preserved for the nation. Their collection now boasts a good number of die proofs of the classics in American philately, and many of the design sketches by Roosevelt's hand •



Above: 'Roosevelt the Stamp Collector' depicted on stamps from the Cook Islands, Upper Volta and Monaco. The magnification reveals an oddity in the Monaco stamp

Franklin D. Roosevelt Collection



The above HONG KONG, K.S. v. 10 bearing the auctioneer's authentication of origin is guaranteed to be from the stamp collection of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt London, W1.
David Field Ltd.

Left: an item from Roosevelt's collection showing the Harmers' stamp

Saxe-Coburg style Martin Robinson on pillar boxes during the nineyear reign of Edward VII



1



2

By THE END OF Queen Victoria's reign the pillar box had reached a recognisably modern shape after almost 50 years of experiment and evolution. It had been through the square, the hexagonal and the round, the ornate and the plain, the fluted and the smooth, the short and the tall, and regional and national designs.

By 1900 we have three standardised pillar boxes: the large Type A, small Type B and Type C double aperture to separate 'Town' and 'Country' mail. They all had the monarch's VR cipher on the door, horizontal 8in x 2in posting apertures (increased in the last year of the reign from 7in x 1½in) with POST OFFICE either side, and a collection times plate and 'next collection' tablet (1). They were painted the familiar red with a black base, and were made by Andrew Handyside & Co Ltd of Derby.

When Edward VII came to the throne in 1901 the now established range of letter boxes was made with his cipher, including the pillar boxes listed above, as well as large, medium and small wall boxes, large and small Ludlow wall boxes (made specially for sub post offices), and lamp boxes. But there were still refinements to be made.

The first of these concerned the position of the posting aperture. Victorian envelopes were originally much smaller than those we are used to these days, but larger envelopes gradually became popular and this was the reason for the introduction of the larger aperture already mentioned. From time to time items would get trapped out of the postman's sight at the top of the box, so from 1883 pillars were made with a lower aperture. The final solution came in 1905 with the introduction of a full-length door reaching up to the cap of the box and with the posting aperture set in it. The words POST OFFICE, which had appeared on either side of the posting aperture, were now below the royal cipher on the door. At the same time the opportunity was taken to add to the casting the words 'NEXT COLLECTION' to the left of the time tablet above the posting aperture at the top of the door. A door-pull was added just below the keyhole (2).

Change in crown and curliness These changes were practical, but there had been another change, more aesthetic in nature, in 1902, when the royal cipher was improved. The earlier cipher – only used in the first year of the King's reign (so considerably rarer than the later variant) – had a St Edward's crown and sharp-ended letters, whereas the later one – seen on boxes made between 1902 and 1910 – had a Tudor crown and letters with curlier ends. Illustrations 3 and 4 show this difference clearly. These different ciphers can also be found on lamp boxes of the same period. A second type of the later EVIIR cipher can occasionally be found on pillar and wall boxes, which has been bolted on rather than cast, and has extra lugs to secure it in place. There is no crown with this cipher (5).

Most pillar boxes of Edward VII's reign were cast by Andrew Handyside



3



4



5



6

& Co of Derby, whose signature can take three forms: HANDYSIDE/DERBY & LONDON either 8 inches or 11 inches wide, or HANDYSIDE/DERBY & LONDON all in capital letters. The first two appear on boxes made in 1901-02 and the third on boxes made in 1902-10. The contract for making the improved Type A and B pillar box passed to McDowall, Stephen & Co Ltd of Glasgow in 1904, Handyside retaining only the contract for the Type C double aperture pillars, which they held until 1933.

The double aperture boxes, by the way, can be found with the royal cypher cast centrally on the box or on each door. An oddity is shown in illustration 7, which shows a Type C box with the cypher of Edward VII on the box and that of Queen Victoria on the door. It is presumably an EVIIR box with a replacement door recovered from an earlier one. This was photographed in Grays Inn Rd/High Holborn, London WC1 in 1985.

Let's finish with another oddity. In 1985 I also photographed a large EVIIR box in Battersea Park Rd/Queenstown Rd, London SW11. It is free-standing and has a pointed roof surmounted by a ball, so perhaps counts as a pillar box (6). A similar box, modified with an additional casting to provide double apertures, was photographed in the same year at Waterloo Station, SE1.

One final word: it is easy to tell the difference between Edward VII and Edward VIII pillar boxes as the royal cypher is quite different. There are no surviving Edward VIII wall boxes, but there are Edward VII and VIII Ludlow wall boxes – the ones bearing a large white enamel plate – and the difference between these is harder to spot, which is a matter for another article ●



7

Readers' photographs We're looking for photos of post boxes, particularly early wallboxes, for publication in a future *Bulletin* article. Please send your photographs to The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. Readers' photos chosen by Martin Robinson will receive a special post-box themed prize. We regret that we cannot promise to return your photographs.

For more information contact the Letter Box Study Group for details of their publications and activities. Write to the Membership Secretary at 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES or contact through www.lbsg.org

Thank you Madeline...

... or rather 'Diolch yn fawr
Madeline' were words on
everyone's lips at the opening
of the West Wales Sanitorium
on an April day long ago.
Dane Garrod's unique postal
history collection explains why



AMONG THE MANY DIFFERENT episodes of social history that are still unfolding from the 'Madeline collection', there is one that nicely illustrates an important 19th-century development in medicine and its specific application in Wales: Madeline, Lady Drummond's crucial role in the 'war against consumption'.

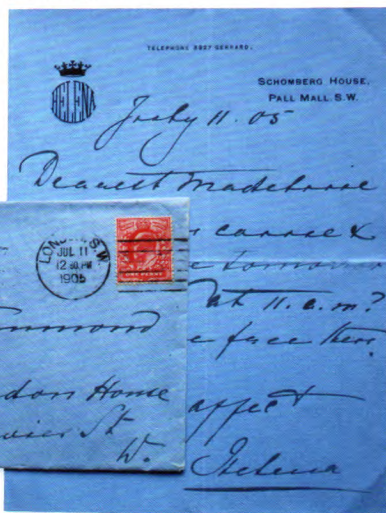
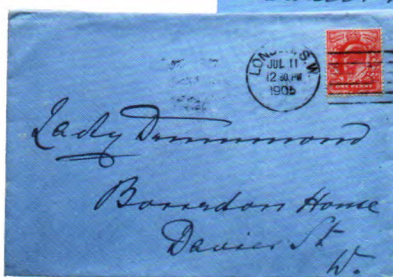
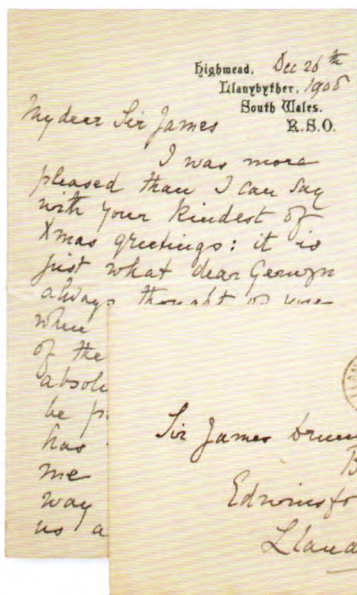
Medical science has made great strides in the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis since the 19th century, when it was an 'unmentionable' disease that took a great many lives and the very mention of 'TB' filled people with fear. By 1900 there were many hospitals dedicated to the treatment of TB sufferers, but not one in West Wales. To remedy that situation Madeline, Lady Drummond (wife of Sir James Drummond of Edwinstford, Lord Lieutenant of Carmarthenshire) teamed up with her friend in a neighbouring county, Mary Davies Evans of Highmead (wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Cardiganshire) to organise fund-raising events with a view to building a dedicated sanatorium in their region.

Lady Drummond's extensive records of correspondence, as well as those of her husband, give substance to this story and reflect the postal rates, routes and transmission times applicable in those years.

Born in 1847, Madeline was the eldest daughter of baronet Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw and so was no stranger to the high society circles (and their funding sources) of both the Scottish



and London scene. At the age of 19 she married Harry Clifton, only son of the squire of Lytham, and lived at Lytham Hall with her MP husband and seven children until his death in 1880 when Madeline was just 31. A decade later she married again, to Sir James Drummond, a gentleman of title and land, and nearly ten years younger than Madeline. Joe Drummond (as he was known) had been keeping all his correspondence since at least 1872 when he was 15 and now his wife's communications – and they were many and varied – were also archived. From the time they married in January 1889, the couple kept all their letters and envelopes from family and friends, and to and from each other when they travelled separately.



How this extensive postal archive survived the gradual dereliction of their home at Edwinsford after their death, how it was found, dispersed and re-assembled in part, is a story with too many

facing page: letter to Madeline from Princess Helena, staying at St Fagans Castle. Left: a letter from Madeline's co-fundaiser Mary Davies Evans at Highmead. Above: another letter from Helena to 'Dearest Madeline'. Below: a postcard produced to mark Helena's visit and showing the five key people involved in establishing the sanatorium

twists and turns to precis here, so I have chosen just one aspect of their lives and times – the items of correspondence that relate to the founding of the West Wales Sanatorium at Alltymynydd, near Llanvbyther.

Documentation shows land was purchased in the middle of a larch plantation on the side of a Welsh mountain, about two and a half miles from Llanvbyther and roughly midway between the main fundraisers' residences of Edwinsford and Highmead. The next step was to arrange the laying of the foundation stone to demonstrate that the project was underway, and here Madeline Drummond played a royal celebrity card. For many years she had been a close friend of the Princess Christian (Helena), a sister of the King, and Madeline's daughter Cecily was Lady-in-Waiting to the Princess. And so an invitation was sent for the Princess Christian (Helena), a sister of the King, to stay at Edwinsford for four days in late ▶





Above: West Wales sanatorium in 1906. Top right: photo taken at Edwinstord in April 1905, showing, clockwise from centre, Princess Helena, Madeline, Helena's daughter Victoria, Jimmy Drummond and father Joe. Below: a letter written by Talbot Clifton from Claridge's in London to his stepfather at Edwinstord

April 1905, attend a Welsh Concert at Highmead, and lay the foundation stone at a ceremony at Alltymynydd.

The Princess accepted the invitation and made the journey to West Wales by GWR train from Windsor to Llandilo on Tuesday 25 April 1905 with her daughter Princess Victoria. They departed by train on the Friday morning, 28 April – as evidenced in the thank you letter and envelope written later that day by Princess Helena on her arrival St Fagans Castle in Cardiff (page 250). A later letter and envelope in the collection (page 251) was sent from the co-fundraiser Mary Davies Evans from her home at Highmead to Sir James Drummond at Edwinstord.



The contemporary Royal Visit postcard (page 251) was produced locally and carries a photograph of the prime-movers in this enterprise. The Edwardian postcard of the completed sanatorium (top left) shows a larger forested area than exists there today, although the site still commands good views and the building has been developed into a nursing home with excellent facilities.

The construction of the sanatorium went ahead between 1905 and 1908, and Princess Helena agreed to come again to West Wales to open it. True to her word, the Princess attended the grand opening ceremony in 1908. Unfortunately Madeline could not be there herself, but that's another piece of postal history... •

Dane Garrod is a social historian, Chairman of Thames Valley Philatelic Federation, and ABPS Representative for Specialist Societies. On 21 April at the BPMA in London he gives an illustrated talk entitled 'Your Very Loving Madeline,' after the manner in which Madeline signed her letters to her husband.

George V Silver Jubilee Adrian Keppel

reviews an omnibus site for the omnibus set

Who is the website for? Neil Donen's site at www.philatel2.com/jubilee, is a must for collectors of the 1935 omnibus set celebrating George V's Silver Jubilee, from beginners to the fully initiated. It also includes information on other Silver Jubilee issues.

What's the website's heritage? The site has been in existence for at least a decade and is still growing, thanks to the continuous input of the site's owner and many other collectors as well.

How is it organised? The site boasts more than 500 pages. From the home page you can access a simplified navigation menu at the top, or a more specific navigation menu on the left. The site is subdivided into main categories such as stamps, postal history, variety locator, etc, and from these you are guided to more specific subjects. There is a general information page that explains what you can find where, and there's a help/site information page giving details of how the website works.

What are the best bits? Undoubtedly, the fact that everything you wanted to know about the set is here in one spot is its USP. From general info, for example who printed which stamps, to long lists of all major and minor varieties of every stamp issued, it's all here for the reading. There are glossaries, a bibliography, background information on the Silver Jubilee set, on KGV, Windsor Castle, the printers and more. You will also find links to dealers and auctions that may offer relevant material, and there's information about the Silver Jubilee Study Circle. Another very good feature is the elaborate postal history section, where a database is being built of all relevant postal rates in all countries and of slogan postmarks that can be found on Silver Jubilee covers.

What could be improved? With so much information at hand I'm not sure if it *can* be improved, but the site could be quite daunting on your first visit – with all the pages on how to use the site, it doesn't immediately invite you to just 'have a browse'. It's also quite easy to get lost completely and it may then be hard to find previous pages you had looked at. But try get over any initial shyness, as any visit is absolutely worth the trouble.

In conclusion A glorious website that exudes love and admiration for this most magnificent omnibus set. It is without doubt the definitive site on the subject and if you aren't hooked on the stamps yet, you probably will be after you've seen all the collecting possibilities •

Adrian Keppel is a philatelic reporter whose collecting interests include the Queen Wilhelmina era of the Netherlands and the philatelic aftermath of WW1.



Above: an example of the pages to be found on www.philatel2.com/jubilee

Commemorative covers

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Tiger, tiger A toothy Siberian tiger and a line-up of Golden Lion Tamarin monkeys illustrate this limited edition of 30 official FDCs from GBCovers to mark the World Wildlife Fund stamps issue (released on 22 March to coincide with the global celebration of WWF's Earth Hour on 26 March). The cover comprises a handmade envelope, with each of the complete set of WWF stamps cancelled with a special 'TIGER WAY' handstamp. **Price** £16 + £1.50 UK p&p ●

RSC 50th Anniversary

Featuring the new Royal Shakespeare Company Miniature Sheet, this Bradbury cover carries an illustration of swans on the River Avon and is postmarked Hamlet Rd, Birmingham. Limited to 100 worldwide. **Price** £20 including p&p worldwide (stock code 36926) ●



Macbeth FDC Three fiery witches tend their cauldron and evoke the dark tragedy of Macbeth on this first day cover of the special stamp issue celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Limited to 100 copies. **Price:** £20 including p&p (BFDC stock code 110) ●

Bell Rock Anniversary Built by Robert Stevenson, the Bell Rock Lighthouse had its 200th anniversary on 1 February 2011, the date of the postmark of 25 commemorative covers published and numbered by M Tanner. Ten of this limited edition are reserved for *Bulletin* readers, the rest allocated to the Association of Lighthouse Keepers. Each cover comes with an filler postcard bearing a picture of the Bell Rock Lighthouse.

Price £18.99 plus £1.50 worldwide p&p ●



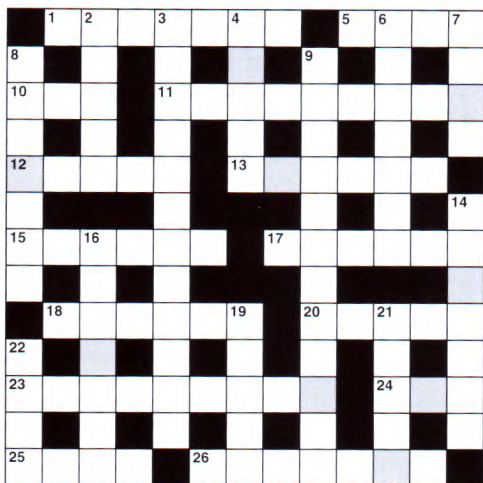
Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words and an image of the cover. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis or around a theme, at the discretion of the editor. Please send submission for June *Bulletin* to the address on page 229 to arrive by 29 April 2011

Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 2 May 2011. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent service after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to Melanie Williams, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Prize draws A cryptic crossword and two stamp teasers

CROSSWORD On completing the puzzle, rearrange the letters in the grey squares to form a stamp-related word and send this, with your name and address to the address below. The first correct entry drawn after 2 May wins all the items in this month's Royal Shakespeare Company issue.



CLUES

Across

- 1 Propose dispersing guests around the Grand (7)
- 5 Honour a new country (4)
- 10 Corpulent dad loses that woman (3)
- 11 The RSM can rattle traders (9)
- 12 Strips off to rest upside down (5)

- 13 Apprehensive about Catholic battle call (3,3)
- 15 Article essential to cancel yearbook (6)
- 17 Whip hard to find in rubbish (6)
- 18 Accountant on board has a wallet, right? (6)
- 20 Sit with a retiring storyteller (5)
- 23 Let through hand by journalist (9)
- 24 Bird in the Murrumbidgee (3)
- 25 Some feel sure that they're fish (4)
- 26 Stupid as one figure (7)

Down

- 2 Topless relative to release (5)
- 3 Cunning practice smashing me and pa to pieces (12)
- 4 Almost astute little creature (5)
- 6 Junior going on about an island in the Med (7)
- 7 Is aware of, we hear, this feature (4)
- 8 Cheap-rate mountaineering here? (3-4)
- 9 Pipe, a help to the vicar (12)
- 14 Push pea around and become fit (5,2)
- 16 Renault changed gear (7)
- 19 Tears out local taxes (5)
- 21 Gloss observed around front of house (5)
- 22 Weapon among the peelings (4)

Identify and Knowledge

- 1 *Identify* the stamp from this detail, right. Please give the name of the stamp and its year of issue.
- 2 Test your philatelic *Knowledge* by answering the following questions:
 - a) When were the first GB stamps issued in celebration of Shakespeare and his work?
 - b) Who designed the stained-glass panel on the £1.10 stamp of the William Morris special issue released this month?
 - c) How many birds have been released so far (April 2011) on Post & Go stamps?

Send your answers on postcards marked 'April *Identify*' or 'April *Knowledge*' to British Philatelic Bulletin, 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place,

London W1T 1HQ to arrive by 2 May 2011. Senders of the first correct answers drawn after the closing date receive a prize selection of stamp products. See facing page for regulations •

February results

IDENTIFY The stamp detail was of the Maidenhead Bridge, on the 68p of the February 2006 issue marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Winner P Majlund Nielsen, Tenerife.

KNOWLEDGE Answers a) India b) Sheffield c) Lenticular. **Winner** C.J Barber, Chesterfield.





VR FLUTED PILLAR BOX

This fluted pillarbox design, with a horizontal rather than vertical aperture, was cast in 1857 by Smith & Hawkes for the Birmingham and Southern Districts. An earlier version produced the previous year stood 8ft tall, with a crown and cushion positioned on top of a large domed cap. This design was adjusted later that year. Only five examples of the 1857 Fluted box still exist; three in Malvern, one in Solihull and one in the British Postal Museum & Archive's collection.

Badges of distinction

The Royal Mail Pillarbox Pin Badge Collection is a series of over 20 pewter badges that capture the iconic postboxes of the past 150 years in authentic detail

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