

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

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Bulletin

World's Christmas stamps •
First lenticulars • 2010 review



The January 11 issue celebrates the genius of Gerry Anderson from Supercar to Thunderbirds and beyond

PREVIEW NEW 'LENTICULAR' STAMP, GIFTS FOR STAMP LOVERS

Issues and withdrawals



Cover Background of the Gerry Anderson special issue release minisheet. Details on page 106.

3 December	Withdrawal Monaco 2009 Exhibition Sheet
6 December	Issue Deluxe Album continuation pages 2010
24 December	Withdrawal Christmas 2006 Airletters
29 December	Withdrawal Smilers® for Kids.
31 December	Withdrawal 2008 Yearbook and Yearpacks

2011

6 January	Withdrawal Classic Album Covers stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Prestige Stamp Book
11 January	Issue FAB The Genius of Gerry Anderson: stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards Stamp book, Medal Cover
24 January	Issue Post & Go Stamps: Birds of Britain 2
25 January	Withdrawal Smilers® Business and Consumer Stamps 2010, Miniature Sheet, Generic Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
25 January	Withdrawal Stamp Books 6 x 1st, 12 x 1st issued 31/3/09

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Postbag The Editor answers your letters



Symbolism on stamps

As a Freemason, I couldn't help but notice the 'repair and reconstruction' symbols on the 3d 1946 Victory stamp featured in the 'Hope in the air' article in the last issue. Your 'British interpretations' comments do less than justice to Masonry, albeit that peace has a certain priority (mostly lacking in this day and age). These Masonic symbols are sacrosanct among Freemasons but just how they appear on this stamp is a mystery to me other than, perhaps, George VI was a Mason. Can you elaborate on this for the benefit of both Masons and philatelists?

David Young, California

Dear Mr Young,

While undoubtedly the set square and compass has long been associated with Freemasonry, to our knowledge, on the 1946 Victory stamp they represent the reconstruction post-war and draw on a universal symbolism even more ancient in its roots than Freemasonry. Unless *Bulletin* readers can tell us otherwise...?

Same or different?

This year sees the re-issue of the Lest We Forget 'Poppy' stamp sheet (28 October) and the Madonna and Child Christmas stamps (2 November). What is the status of such re-issues from a collector's point view? Will the re-issues be exactly the same as the originals, or will they be a prime source of variations?

Graham Divall, London

Dear Mr Divall,

There's no change at all. These are straight re-prints with nothing to suggest that they were printed this year. However next year we will be producing a new version for the Lest We Forget 'Poppy'.

Postbags of optimism

In the December issue of *Bulletin* please would you remind your readers that Stamp Active Network welcomes all used Christmas stamps – indeed any stamps and philatelic materials – to help our efforts to encourage children all over the country to take up stamp-collecting. Please contact me by email a.r.jones007@btinternet.com or telephone 0161 962 5180.

Alyn Randall Jones

SAN Youth Officer Liaison

Thank you for that timely reminder, Alyn Jones. We believe that *Bulletin* readers won't disappoint. For further inspiration to recycle your stamps youth-wards, turn to page 118. The Stamp Active Network (SAN) looks to the future of stamp collecting and brings our hobby into the lives of today's youngsters – the collectors of tomorrow. To find your local SAN network, visit www.planetstamp.co.uk



Permission to print

Could you tell me how I can get permission to turn photographs of the Penny Red and 2p Blue into a wooden jigsaw? It is for my personal use only. In the past, the jigsaw firm I used had permission to reproduce a Penny Black and a sheet of Italian stamps, which I have had framed and hung on the wall of our lounge.

Geoff Carroll, Mid Glamorgan

Dear Mr Carroll

I'm afraid we don't give permission as a matter of course, unless you are to go through the full Intellectual Property (IP) licence agreement, which was how the jigsaw company got the permission to reproduce the Penny Black and Rugs of Petworth were able to produce the kind of rugs shown, right. If you do want to proceed down this route, please contact the Royal Mail Solicitor's Office, 148 Old Street, Royal Mail House, London EC1V 9HQ.



A special issue

There have been special stamps issued on an ad hoc basis since the 1920s but the 'Special Stamp Programme' was started in the early 1960s. It is generally welcomed in philatelic circles, although ever since the second year of special issue, *Bulletin* has received letters of complaint alongside those entering the debate over the latest themes chosen. The most popular accusation is that by 'over-issuing' special stamps and associated items, Royal Mail is 'killing the goose that lays the golden egg' – devaluing collecting GB stamps. And this poses something of a dilemma. With special issue stamps we want to continue to commemorate important events and pay tribute to the UK achievements in science, humanities and the arts, while at the same time we understand the collector's desire for complete sets.

We have received a number of letters supporting Philip Mountford's point of view, as expressed in the 'Letting off Steam' letter in November's *Bulletin*, that

there are too many 'special' stamps. But among these are few suggestions as to how to resolve this issue.

If you have a view on this and what should feature on special issues, please let us know – your opinions are important to us. Also it's not too late to enter our annual stamp poll (see page 109). If there is a special issue that receives no votes, Royal Mail will certainly take note.

‘We're faced with something of a dilemma... there were few suggestions as to how to revolve this issue’

One service we have introduced to help collectors to feel less overwhelmed is a themed subscription. While ongoing subscriptions are available for you to receive every new special stamp issue included in our stamp programme, we now also offer a new range of selective subscriptions tailored to your collecting interests and budget.

To find out more about our subscription offerings, simply call the customer care line on 08457 641641 (overseas: +44 131 316 7483).

Keep the letters coming...

Editor of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Karin Ward welcomes your letters and has a topical selection of philatelic delights to give as a thank-you to the senders of those published.

Please note, however, that Royal Mail cannot reply to all

letters and reserves the right to edit for length. Please include an email address if possible. Send your letters to:
The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 1st Floor,
35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

What's new? Issues, products and events



Get into the Christmas spirit with the Wallace & Gromit Advent calendar

The Wallace & Gromit Christmas Presentation Pack is now on sale, including all seven stamps in the Christmas series. On 1 December everyone is allowed to open it and start using the advent calendar inside (order code AX36, £6.25) ●

January special issue: The Genius of Gerry Anderson. Innovative microlenticular technology is to be used in the printing of the miniature sheet so that, as the stamps move, the vehicles on them appear to 'take off'.

In conjunction with the FAB: The Genius of Gerry Anderson issue, a striking Medal Cover has been produced with the Royal Mint in a limited edition of 9,000. Its design is based on Gerry Anderson's best known work, *Thunderbirds*. The reverse of the medal depicts Thunderbirds 1 blasting off from Tracy Island and the front shows the International Rescue logo alongside Jeff Tracy and his five famous sons.

The microlenticular *Thunderbirds* Miniature Sheet features on the Medal Cover, complete with a unique cancellation mark, and the pack insert has been put together in the style of a newspaper special, carrying a wealth of information and about the International Rescue organisation, the Tracy family and their famous vehicles. ●

The first First Day Cover of the year As an alternative to the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark, pictorial and non-pictorial SLOUGH postmarks will also be available for the 11 January issue. SLOUGH was chosen as the postmark because it is the location of the studio where many of the Gerry Anderson shows were filmed.

All first-day-of-issue postmarking offices will be supplied with the alternative pictorial first-day-of-issue postmark. This will mean that all First Day Covers posted at any Post Office® counter will be cancelled with the same pictorial postmark regardless of where they are physically posted. The relevant codes are FD 11 02 (pictorial) and FD 11 02NP (non-pictorial) ●

Birds of Britain 2 Next month sees the issue of the second set in the Birds of Britain Post & Go Stamps series – on 24 January. Echoing the first set, which was launched at autumn Stampex, Birds of Britain 2 features six more garden birds of the UK: the blackbird, magpie, long-tailed tit, chaffinch, collared dove and greenfinch. They will be sold from the Philatelic Bureau at Tallents House and from Post & Go machines at selected Post Offices across the UK. At the time of going to press, this is likely to be the same 30 as before, but please see January's *Bulletin* for an up-to-date list.

Designed by Kate Stephens and illustrated by Robert Gillmor, Birds of Britain 2 Post & Go Stamps appear just in time for the national RSPB Big

Garden Birdwatch over the last weekend of January, when the RSPB asks us to spend one hour recording the birds seen in our garden or local park. (Teachers wishing to register their schools to take part in the activity during the preceding week can register at www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch.)

1st Class
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002011 1 51840 02



One of the new Post & Go stamps to be issued on 24 January

Birds of Britain 2 Post & Go Stamps – Technical Details:	
Feature Type	Detail
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Kiss die-cut simulated perforations
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

Special issue stamps Next month we will preview the Classic Locomotives of England issue and give you more details about the Birds of Britain 2 issue. Issues for the first part of 2011 are listed right. Stamp values, alternative First Day of Issue postmark locations and further details will be published in *Bulletin* nearer the dates of issue •

Christmas with Wallace and Gromit Generic Sheet The 20 Christmas special issue stamps on this Generic Sheet (£9.30) are accompanied by labels explaining the latest invention of prolific inventor, Wallace. The Stamp-O-Matic process is illustrated in the highly detailed background – including a hot tea urn, a rotating wheel of Santa boots and mechanised white-gloved hands performing seasonal tasks. Gromit’s keeping a safe distance •

New Year
special issues

- 11 January FAB: The Genius of Gerry Anderson
- 24 January Birds of Britain 2 Post & Go Stamps
- 1 February Classic Locomotives of England
- 24 February Musicals
- 8 March Magical Realms
- 22 March World Wildlife Fund



Annual pleasures The Royal Mail annual collections are now on sale at the following prices: 2010 Year Book £85, 2010 Leather Bound Year Book £127, 2010 Year Pack £8, 2010 Miniature Sheet Collection £32, 2010 Presentation Pack Collection £84. Royal Mail wishes to apologise for the typographical error in their advertisement for the Yearbook on the back cover of last month's *Bulletin*. The price of the Yearbook is £80, as listed above (and not £60 as the advert stated). And thank you to the readers who pointed this out ●



Coming off sale The highly popular Classic Album Covers Stamp Set, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, and Prestige Stamp Book come off sale on 29 December. However, the Souvenir Sheetlet and Souvenir Cover will remain on sale ●



Away with the fairies The Smilers® for Kids Themed Sheets are also to be withdrawn this month, on 29 December. They comprise the Flower Fairies Friends – Almond Blossom SK005 and Wild Cherry SK015; The World of Beatrix Potter – Peter Rabbit SK006 and Jeremy Fisher – SK016; Noddy & Friends – Noddy and Big Ears SK017; Mr Men & Little Miss – Mr Happy SK008 and Little Miss Sunshine SK018. For their Christmas finale all of these sheets have been reduced from £8.50 (from £8.90). Together with the Activity Packs on the same themes, they make great stocking fillers for young and old alike, and can help children enjoy writing all those post-Christmas thank-you letters. Also riding out at the end of the month are the reindeers of the two Christmas airletters, one bilingual, that were issued in 2006 (97p each) ●

BY AIR MAIL
par avion
Royal Mail
Airletter



Royal Mail Christmas cards Among the 700 million Christmas cards posted in the coming weeks, Wallace & Gromit Greeting cards will include some personalised messages. The range of 12 cards is patterned with the stamps from the special issue series and carries different messages, including To the both of you, To a special couple, To a first class friend, To a Cracking Mum and Across the miles. All left blank inside for your own additional greetings, the cards are 15cm square and cost £2 each •

Last posting dates The latest posting dates for airmail letters for delivery by Christmas are as follows:

South & Central America, Caribbean, Africa, Middle east, far East, Asia, Australia and New Zealand	4 December
Japan, USA, Canada and Eastern Europe	10 December
Western Europe	11 December
UK second-class mail	21 December
UK Special Delivery service	23 December
24- and 48-hour Parcelforce Worldwide service	22 and 23 December

Most UK cards qualify for the standard letter rate of 41p first class or 32p second class (with a weight limit of 100g). For more information, including rates for larger visit www.royalmail.com/christmasposting •

2010 Reader's Poll There's still time to take part in our annual Stamp Poll. In the November issue of *Bulletin* we showed all the special issue stamps of 2010 and asked readers to let us know their favourites.

Your opinions are important to us, so please take a moment to vote – just identify your favourite special-issue stamp of 2010 on a postcard and send to Karin Ward, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. If you include your name and address your entry will be included in a prize draw for a leather-bound Yearbook •

Stamping good elephant The Machins may not be strictly accurate in detail and scale, but this sculpture with postage stamps qualifies as the *Bulletin* team's favourite parcel of the year. For the splendid 2010 Grand Elephant Parade, around 100 artists were commissioned to decorate elephants that were displayed around London before being auctioned for charity.

Leinz created Frank, an elephant all wrapped up, stamped ready to post! Frank fetched £9,750 at auction. See how he was created at www.3will.co.uk •



News from the BPMA

Here's what the team want to achieve from the 2013 move to Swindon:

- Give the public access to the collection of the former National Postal Museum (in storage since 1998)
- Ensure the best possible future care of the renowned Royal Mail Archive
- Celebrate some of the most compelling hidden stories from modern British history through a programme of exhibitions
- Enable public enjoyment of the collections and encourage individual use of the Archive
- Promote the collections to create an international hub for historical research
- Offer opportunities for learning and training
- Preserve the objects in the collections through new conservation facilities
- Renew a Grade II listed 'at risk' building and contribute to the regeneration of Swindon's emerging heritage quarter at the historic Churchward Village.

DSA indicators Some niche postal marks



IN JULY 2008, AN ARTICLE BY Glenn Morgan appeared in the *Bulletin* about the Downstream Access (DSA) indicators which appear on much of our mail, as a result of private postal operators being given access to Royal Mail's delivery network. Since then, several developments have increased the number and variety of the 'C9' indicia in use, so-called as

DSA licences are granted to fulfil condition nine of Royal Mail's own licence from the Postal Services Commission.

Following the introduction of a DSA service with licence number C9 10001 by Businesspost (now UK Mail) in 2004, TNT Post (Netherlands-owned) and DHL Global Mail (Germany) soon followed – and these three companies still dominate the market. However, some other major players have not stayed the course, and MailPlus, the service owned by France's La Poste, was withdrawn in February 2007 after only a few months. Its DSA imprint, numbered C9 10011, is thus something of a rarity (above, left).

Niche businesses Nevertheless, some smaller companies have successfully developed niche businesses by concentrating on particular sectors, such as Brightpost with their 'swift' logo on charity mailings. Other DSA licences are held by firms which undertake the whole process of designing, printing and distributing mail – these include Onepost (C9 10031).

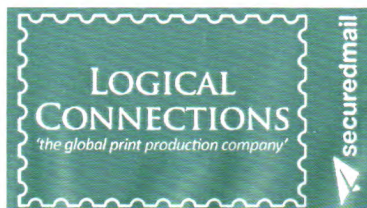
Several postal operators also offer 'hybrid' services, accepting mailings electronically from customers for printing at several regional centres, and thus reducing the long distance transport of mail. UK Mail's service is called 'imail', and a distinctive logo is used on such mailings.

To increase the 'doorstep appeal' of what many people see as junk mail, some companies have introduced colourful designs – either as separate labels, resembling stamps, such as TNT's tulips – or printed directly onto envelopes or plastic packaging. The designs may relate to an individual customer (eg Cotton Traders), or to a mailing house (eg Logical Connections), and normally include the logo of the postal operator as well. The Brightpost ladybird design shown here also includes one of the most recent innovations, the licence number A9 10018, to show that the mailing qualifies for Royal Mail's discount for advertising mail.

The list of licence numbers has now reached C9 10043, but there are several gaps in the sequence with licences still to be seen. This is an ever-changing area of collecting and research, and most items can be picked up from one's own post, or that of friends and relatives, for nothing!

John Enfield is Treasurer of the British Postmark Society (www.britishpostmarksociety.org.uk). The BPS exists to promote and to co-ordinate the study and collection of British postal markings, particularly of the 20th century and beyond ●

are proving very collectable to interested specialists



Top row: Companies like Onepost designed, printed and distributed mail; Brightpost used their 'swift' logo on charity mailings. Second row: Designs may relate to an individual customer. Third row: The Brightpost ladybird design includes a licence number to show that it qualifies a discount UK Mail's distinctive logo. Bottom row: TNT's tulips resemble stamps

Stamp Scene News and events at the year's end



Right: the Basingstoke Philatelic Society marked its 75th anniversary this year with a commemorative Smilers® sheet

Society life Among the philatelic societies celebrating anniversaries in 2010 were Aberdeen and Isle of Thanet (centenaries), Basingstoke, Hammersmith, Worthing (75th) and Dudley (50th). The Basingstoke Society produced a limited-edition Smilers® sheet with 75th anniversary labels to mark the occasion. In 2011 the Norfolk & Norwich Society will mark its centenary, and the Eastbourne & South Downs, and Leytonstone, Wanstead & District their 75th anniversaries. The Milford-on-Sea Stamp Club will also be 50 years old.

The Welsh Philatelic Society celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2011. It publishes an excellent newsletter, which would be better described as a journal for the quality of its contents. A recent issue (No 115) includes features on Welsh postal history from the 17th century to the present. Among the articles is one by John Cowell on the history of the post office at Bodorgan on Anglesey. This office, which opened in 1887 and closed in 1972, wasn't based in a village (there was no village of that name) but it had a railway station on the main London to Holyhead line. The decision to open the office, to serve such a small widely-scattered rural community, was probably due to the influence of the Meyricks, a wealthy landowning family. Mr Cowell illustrates five of the datestamps used at Bodorgan from 1891 until closure in 1972. The Welsh Philatelic Society is noted for its friendly meetings, next year planned at Aberystwyth (5 March), Llangynidr (April), and Plas Tan y Bwlch (17-19 June). For details see the Society's website at www.wps.wales.org or write to the Secretary, Neil Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY.

One of the WPS's prominent members, Paul Reynolds, has recently published *The Ironmasters' Bags: The Postal Service in the South Wales Valleys*,

The Eastbourne & South Downs Philatelic Society was founded on 6 October 1936



c.1760-c.1860. It tells how the GPO and a multiplicity of private posts made a vital contribution to the success of the South Wales iron industry. It is based on information in Post Office Archives and of the various iron companies, from contemporary newspapers and from oral tradition recorded by later historians of the valleys. The 276-page book is available from Mr Reynolds at 87 Gabalfa Road, Sketty, Swansea SA2 8ND, price £23.95 including postage. The same content in pdf format can be downloaded from [www.lulu.com/search for Ironmaster's Bags](http://www.lulu.com/search%20for%20Ironmaster's+Bags) for £4.95.

The National Philatelic Society (NPS), founded as the Junior Philatelic Society in 1899, is second only to the Royal Philatelic Society London in terms of national significance. Its annual competitions take place on 11 December. The NPS offers a wide range of services to members, including well-organised events, an impressive library (over 7,000 books), and the respected magazine, *The Stamp Lover*, published since 1908. The October 2010 issue includes features on security Machins, Post & Go and Horizon labels; GB Framas of the 1980s, New Zealand scenic definitives, Niue definitives and postal rates, the story of Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps*, and a look at the 1923 international exhibition organised by the Society. For full details of NPS activities see its website (www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps/), write to National Philatelic Society, c/o BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, or e-mail nps@ukphilately.org.uk.

Collectors in the UK are also fortunate to have so many local philatelic societies which organise regular meetings, exhibitions and stamp fairs, and social events. If you're thinking of giving more time to your hobby in 2011 and are not yet a member of a society, to find details of one near you see the Association of British Philatelic Society's website at www.abps.org.uk or write to ABPS, c/o Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY •

Auction round-up Cavendish's auction on 8 September included some fine GB material. Wotton under Edge 'lined' Maltese Cross handstamps realised £1,100 each (estimates £1,500), and a George V ½d in very yellow 'Cyprus' green made £4,000 (est £2,400). Lot 857 comprised some of the scarce Parcel Post labels of 1851 from Birmingham and Cambridge, plus ten used labels – estimated at £100, they went under the hammer for £170. Two lots comprised the George Crabb collection of early Christmas cards. The first, of 72 items, including the rare 1843 Henry Cole card, made £340 (£160), the second lot, of approx 240 items, went for £800 (£360). Similar lots of Mr Crabb's Valentine card collection made £550 and £440 (£300 & £200). A collection of the private post stamps issued during the postal strikes of 1962, 1964 and 1971 realised £190 (£150), and a four-volume collection of decimal issues, largely in blocks of four or six (face ►



Above: these items are among the treasures of the Welsh Philatelic Society/ Cymdeithas Ffilatelig Cymru, which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2011: the cover from Llanfarian is addressed to the man who became the Attorney General of India in the late 1800s; the much-travelled letter was written in Tremadoc in 1841, addressed to Ohio





Above: recently auctioned by Harmers, this Coronation Aerial postcard was carried on Hamel's penultimate flight in September 1911

value £879) made £550 (£650). For details of future Cavendish auctions see www.cavendish-auctions.com or phone 01332 250970.

Harmers auction on 29-30 September included a 1839 Treasury ► competition 'Stamps' leaflet attributed to James Chalmers with text extolling the benefits of pre-paid stamps, with 1s, 2d, 4d and 6d designs; estimated at £4,000 it reached £4,250. Nine unadopted designs, on Harrisons presentation cards, by Michael and Sylvia Goaman for the 1964 Botanical

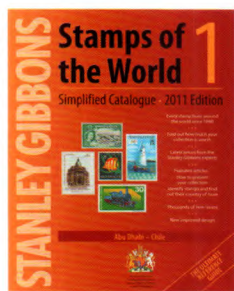
Congress issue made £1,300 each (£1,500 each). A Coronation Aerial postcard, in red-brown, carried on 15 September 1911 on the penultimate flight by Hamel who was forced down at Langley by engine trouble, went for £120 (£80). For details of future Harmers auctions visit www.harmers.com or phone 020 8747 6100.

The Stanley Gibbons auction on 15 December includes some good GB material, including a block of eight Penny Blacks, block of four of Twopence Blues, a misperforated 1897 3d 'Jubilee' issue, and a single 1997 Golden Wedding stamp with 20p value omitted. For details see Stanley Gibbons website, phone 020 7836 8444 or e-mail auctions@stanleygibbons.co.uk

Spinks will auction the Wilkin collection of British West Africa stamps on 8 December; for details see www.spink.com or phone 020 7563 4000 ●

New catalogues Stanley Gibbons has recently published the 2011 edition of its *Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1970* catalogue. As well as updating prices, there are some editorial improvements. Numerous varieties, hitherto described in notes, are now illustrated for the first time, including New Zealand George V definitives. Several newly discovered watermark inverted varieties are now listed and 'Specimen' overprints are now more clearly displayed, with the lists now reflecting the typefaces used. Price £74.95. A new, 9th, edition of Part 7 of the *SG Stamp Catalogue – Germany* is now available. It includes German Occupation of Serbia for the first time, as well as about 175 new issue stamps and updated listing of booklets and machine labels. There are notable price increases in the early German States issues. Price £37.50. A new, 4th, edition of the *New Zealand catalogue* is now out, price £22.50. Nearly 140 new stamps have been added and prices extensively revised.

The 2011 edition of the famous *Stamps of the World Catalogue* (first published as the *Simplified* in the 1930s), is now in six volumes. It lists commemoratives, definitives, airmails, official stamps, postage dues, and miniature sheets. Over 2,000 stamps have been added since the 2010 edition. Price £199.95 set of six volumes – or you could win one by trying your hand at our Christmas Quiz on pages 126-127. For more information on SG catalogues see the Stanley Gibbons website or write to Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 3SH ●



Above: the first volume of the 2011 *Stamps of the World Catalogue*. Turn to page 126 for a chance to win all six volumes

Looking ahead There are some exciting events planned for 2011. Spring Stampex will be held, as usual, at the Business Design Centre, London N1 (23-26 February 2011) and will include a display by the Postal History Society to mark its 75th anniversary. The national exhibition, under the auspices of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) takes place next year in Sheffield, following successful exhibitions in Newcastle (1996), Hove (1998), Glasgow (2000), Chester (2002), Basildon (2004), Torquay (2006), Croydon (2007), and Harrogate (2008). The 2011 event takes place at the Pond's Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield (6-7 May) and is being sponsored by Grosvenor, Corbitts and Spink auction houses. 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 93rd Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Southsea (16-19 June). The first Congress was held in Manchester in 1909. The popular Midpex exhibition will be at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington on 2 July. Autumn Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1 (14-17 September). Further details of these events will be published in the *Bulletin* as they become available.

Two international philatelic exhibitions are scheduled for 2011 – Indipex 2011, New Delhi, India (12-18 February), and Philanippon 2011, Yokohama, Japan (28 July-2 August). For more on Philanippon, see the August 2010 *Bulletin*, page 363. A third international which was to have been held in Luxembourg in April has now sadly been cancelled •

This month in history

John Holman recalls the first stamps of Elizabeth II's reign

In December 1952 collectors were awaiting the first stamps of the new reign. Work on new definitives began shortly after the death of King George VI on 6 February. It was hoped to have the most commonly used values ready by September but the issue of finding the right royal image took longer than expected.

The Queen was photographed at Dorothy Wilding's studios on 26 February, and on 20 March the PO examined seven portraits. None were considered satisfactory and at a second sitting on 15 April, The Queen exchanged her tiara for a diadem produced for George IV. By 30 June some 75 designs were received from 20 designers and printers.

Five designs were selected and the two used for the first stamps – 1½d green and 2½d carmine-red – were by Enid Marx and Michael Farrar Bell. During November 100,000 stamps a week were being printed, so the Postmaster General could announce the stamps would go on sale on 5 December in time for Christmas posting •



Top stamp tweeters

More and more enthusiasts are sharing exciting news on Twitter these days. Here are our favourites:

- Scott Thomson
[@positivelypost](#)
- The Post Culture
[@PostCulture](#)
- Tony Stampman
[@GBStamp](#)
- stampexpert
[@stampexpert](#)
- Prestige Philately
[@PrestigeStamps](#)
- Klaus Friedman
[@stampguru](#)
- Dessi
[@stampstweets](#)
- Isle of Man Stamps
Coins
[@IOMstampscoins](#)
- SI Postal Museum
[@PostalMuseum](#)
- BPMA
[@postalheritage](#)
- worldstampnews.
com
[@worldstampnews](#)
- Don Schilling
[@stamp_guy](#)
- MyPhilately
[@myphilately](#)
- Philatelic Database
[@pdb_feed](#)

Global greetings

We bring you a selection of seasonal stamps from across the seven seas, as a way of wishing *Bulletin* readers everywhere a Happy Christmas and New Year ahead



Aland



Alderney



Andorra, Spanish



Belarus



Denmark



Eire



Faroe Islands



Greenland



Guernsey



Iceland



Luxemburg



Singapore



Slovakia



Slovenia



Belgium



Canada



Christmas Island



Czech Republic



Finland



France



Gibraltar



Isle of Man



Italy



Liechtenstein



Spain



Vatican City

Please note:
stamps not
shown at actual
size. Please turn
over for details

Here are a few details of the Christmas 2010 stamps featured on the previous pages.

Aland

A couple of Christmassy characters have felled a tree to carry home across the snow.
Stamp size 35.40 x 26mm
Printer Cartor
Design Inge Löök

Alderney

Christmas songs theme, Alderney's first Christmas issue in 27 years.
Stamp size 40 x 40.5mm
Printer Joh Enschede
Design Two Degrees North

Andorra, Spain

Detail from artist Josep Oromi, Església de Sant Joan de Sispony.
Stamp size 28.8 x 40.9mm
Printer FNMT
Design J Carrero

Belarus

One of three Christmas designs for gummed 138 x 156mm sheets.
Stamp size 52 x 29.6mm
Printer Offset
Design Anna Romanovskaya

Belgium

The stamps shown is for postage in Europe and the rest of the world.
Stamp size 30 x 25mm
Printer Mechelen
Design Jean-Pierre Lorand

Canada

Shows a wood carving of the Madonna and Child.
Stamp size 24.75 x 32.25mm
Printer Lowe-Martin
Design Joseph Gault/Scuptor A. Caruso

Christmas Island

Australia Post continues the light-hearted tropical-themed series. The 60-cent stamps shows the Golden Bosunbird (*Phaethon lepturus*).
Stamp size 26 x 37.5mm
Printer McKellar Renown
Illustration Rob Kieley

Czech Republic

An illustration from a 16C hymn book.
Stamp size 40 x 23mm
Printer Poštovní tiskárna cenin, Praha
Design Zdenek Ziegler

Denmark

A happy snowman melts with pleasure after a kiss on a park bench.
Stamp size 39 x 29mm
Printer Post Denmark Stamps
Design Maria Bramsen, Camilla Hübbe

Eire

Robin stamp size 25 x 30mm
Religious stamp size 36 x 36mm
Printer Irish Security Stamp
Design Steve Simpson

Faroe Islands

Two stamps celebrate light in a dark place.
Stamp size 26.5 x 42mm
Printer LM Group, Canada
Design Anker Eli Petersen

Finland

The Finnish Christmas set comprises this very jolly Santa and a handsome reindeer.
Stamp size 150 x 213mm
Printer Walsall Security
Design Tommi Vallisto

France

Flowers and baubles in bright abstracts on the *Meilleurs Voeux* of the French Christmas stamps.
Stamp size 21 x 20mm
Design Valérie Besser

Gibraltar

A wooden soldier and a mantle clock evoke times gone by in Gibraltar.
Stamp size 40 x 30mm
Printer BDT International, Ireland
Design Stephen Perera

Greenland

Two views of the 'Father Christmas Jelemandala' character.
Stamp size 31.90 x 24mm
Design Nuka K Gotfredsen

Guernsey

Famous Christmas songs theme.
Stamp size 40 x 40 mm
Printer Joh Enschede
Design Two Degrees North

Iceland

White doves and Christmas wreaths.
Stamp size 29 x 40.5 mm
Printer The Lowe Martin Group, Ottawa
Design H Olafsson & S Hallgrimsdottir

Isle of Man

Local photography, chosen by public vote – The Dhoo Glen.
Stamp size 25.73 x 25.73 mm
Printer BDT
Design Emma Cooke of ejcdesign
Photographer Simon Park

Italy

The wooden toy train:
Stamp size 48 x 40mm
Design Silvia Isola
Christian theme shows Botticelli's Adoration of the Magi:
Stamp size 48 x 40 mm
Printer Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca

Liechtenstein

A beautiful stamp, printed in halftone gravure including gold colour.
Stamp size 34.50 x 30 mm
Printer OeSD Österreichische Staatsdruckerie, GmbH, Vienna
Designer Cornelia Eberle

Luxemburg

Snow scene with child and sled.
Stamp size 35 x 35 mm
Designer Frederic Thiry
Printer bPostStamps

Singapore

The Christmas stamp in this 2010 Festival series is an attractive design of candles blue and cerise on gold.
Size 26 x 37.5mm
Designer Silvia Isola
Printer Southern Colour Print
Designer Tze Ngan

Slovakia

The Nativity from the Bratislava Missal graces the stamps of Slovakia.
Size 27 x 34mm
Printer Postovni
Engraving: Arnold Fecke

Slovenia

A traditional glowing candle wreath, available in sheets of 50.
Stamp size 26.50 x 35.50mm
Designer Gorazd Uakar
Printer Poštovni tiskarna cenin Vienna

Spain

One of a pair showing a baby cradled by a parent at the gates of heaven.
Size 28.8 x 40mm
Designer J Carrero
Printer FNMT

Vatican City and Romania

Joint issue of two stamps, featuring religious paintings. The Birth of Jesus, shown on previous page, is a work by 19th century Romanian painter, Gheorghe Tattarasu.
Size 35 x 35mm
Printer Cartor, France



A year that excelled

Richard West looks back over the philatelic developments of 2010, the 'year of stamps'

EVERYONE IN THE STAMP WORLD was looking forward to 2010. The tradition of London hosting an international stamp exhibition every ten years is well established, and great things were expected. The focus was on how London would meet expectations, particularly now finances are so tight. The larger venues previously used for internationals were simply not feasible this time but, such is the appeal of major stamps events in London, it quickly became evident that demand for trade stands and exhibition frames would exceed supply. And traditionally London internationals have featured a 'court of honour' with material from The Royal Philatelic Collection, The BPMA, and the British Library. How could it all be accommodated?

A yearlong celebration

So 2010 had to be different. The idea for a year of events, to be known as 'London 2010: Festival of Stamps' was conceived. The focus would be the international exhibition, held at the Business Design Centre in May. To accommodate the exhibits from the many collectors around the world who wanted to display, there was a show of two halves. Many were sceptical as to how it would work but it was a success.

Another ingenious development was the idea of having separate, distinctive exhibitions. Thus The BPMA and the Royal Philatelic Collection joined resources for the major event 'Empire Mail: George V and the GPO' staged at Guildhall Art Gallery. It looked not only at the stamps, but also at developments within the Post Office and with mail communication during ▶

The Guildhall exhibition showed many fascinating items, including an intaglio printing machine (bottom)



the reign. Holding the exhibition separately from the international meant it could stay in place until July and be enjoyed by a much larger audience.

The British Library took the opportunity to re-present many of the treasures in its philatelic collections, putting these on public view throughout the year. All of the various events proved highly successful, with thousands attending.

Eight days a week

Back at the Business Design Centre, some 50,000 visitors came along, many attracted by the fine exhibits. The grand prix was won by British collector Alan Holyoake for his magnificent display tracing the development and use of the first line-engraved stamps of Great Britain, which went on to win the grand prix at the international stamp exhibition held in Lisbon in October.

Royal Mail enjoyed a busy exhibition, releasing two special issues relating to the centenary of the accession of George V and the stamps of the reign. For the accession, the stamps featured the famous portraits of the King that had been used on stamps. The second issue focused on two key stamp designs – the British Empire Exhibition in 1924 (Britain's first commemorative stamp), and the classic seahorse high values. Another classic design of the reign was the £1 issued in 1929 for the Postal Union Congress: a reproduction of this stamp was specially printed in intaglio by Enschedé of the Netherlands, and

made available in blocks of four in a presentation pack. In addition, during the exhibition at Guildhall Art Gallery, Enschedé demonstrated how the stamps were printed using an old printing press.

Royal Mail issued a miniature sheet and Prestige Stamp Book to recall the days of the Second World War, named 'Britain Alone'. The Stamp Show of 2000 had seen the launch of Smilers® stamps, allowing customers to have their own labels attached to stamps. The tenth anniversary was marked by a sheet that could only be customised there and then, at the Business Design Centre.

The Festival of Stamps did not end there, but included events held throughout the United Kingdom, involving philatelic societies and Federations, plus many other museums in London including the British Museum. It proved to be a fine celebration of our hobby.

This year's issues

However, the event did not overshadow what has been another fascinating year for British issues. It is becoming traditional to start each year with a set that will really capture the imagination of the public, and what better for 2010 than Classic



Record Covers. There was a time when the sleeve in which LPs came was just as significant as the record itself, and Royal Mail chose ten that have proved truly memorable. Among the other subjects chosen to grace stamps this year have been the Girl Guides, The Royal Society, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, the Houses of Stuart and Stewart, Endangered Mammals, Great British Railways, Medical Breakthroughs, Winnie-the-Pooh, and the second series in anticipation of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012. And last but not least came the Christmas stamps featuring the ever-popular Wallace & Gromit.

Away from the special issues, collectors of the Machin definitives had things to look for: on the 1st and 2nd class values the year of printing can be seen within the security background, this year shown as '10'. It was also found that the 5p and 54p values in the first two Prestige Stamp Books of the year had a changed font for the denomination, creating a very collectable variety.

Collectors are showing increasing interest in the items dispensed from machines, whether it be the 'Horizon labels' printed by counter staff at the time of posting an item, or the labels produced by the Post & Go machines. The machines offer two products: labels for use now, or 'stamps' for use later. The latter have been available since 17 September 2010, with six pictorial designs featuring British garden birds. Not all the machines are dispensing these bird designs, but as further designs are issued, all machines will eventually use the pictorials.

One of the Post & Go stamp labels, launched at the Festival. Below: the most valuable stamp in the world

Stamp snippets

There were fears that not all the visitors hoping to come to London for the international would arrive because of the Icelandic volcano's eruption. Those whose travel plans were disrupted may not appreciate the three stamps issued by Iceland on July 22, with particles of the ash used in the printing!

On display at the London international was the Sweden Treskilling printed in error in yellow instead of green. Regarded as the world's rarest stamp, having realised £1.6 million when sold by auction in 1996, the stamp was again sold, this time by private auction. The price hasn't been revealed, but was bought by a private consortium.

And it may sound surprising, since postcodes were introduced in the UK over 50 years ago, that a decision was announced early in the year that they will finally be added to Irish addresses.

Now to the future. The good news is that the BPMA's plans for a new postal museum at Swindon have taken a step forward with an initial Heritage Lottery Fund grant and the appointment of architects. Let's hope philately thrives next year as vigorously as it has done in 2010. ●





Collectors of character

Recent GB stamps featuring children's characters inspire these young thematic collectors



Layla puts together what she hopes will be a prize-winning cartoon characters collection. She has already won several competitions

NOSTALGIA IS IN THE AIR – DC Thomson has just relaunched that children's favourite, *The Dandy* and coupled with this the first stamp issue for 2011 also has childish appeal. Marking 50 years since the invention of Gerry Anderson's Supermarionation technique, the *Thunderbirds* series shows those fabulous craft as they lift off, made even more graphic by groundbreaking lenticular printing. Many of us may remember those flight-of-fancy TV shows but what does it mean to the next generation of collectors?

An inspiring subject

'I know *Thunderbirds*,' eight-year-old Layla Donnelly laughs. 'I've got their DVD.' In the meantime ten-year-old India Birrell is busy on her Loudoun Trophy competition entry. 'I'm doing Walt Disney,' she explains, 'I like Disney because it's crazy and funny.'

It's Wednesday lunchtime at Doonfoot Primary School in Ayr. In the activity room at heart of the school the tables are strewn with album pages, yoghurt pots full of hinges, filing trays overflowing with stamps, philatelic bits and bobs. This is Doonfoot's weekly stamp club, and there's a buzz in the air, as Layla and India get stuck into their hobby. Clusters of children are rifling through piles of stamps, sorting, arranging,

changing their mind. Why is Layla looking for stamps linked to cartoons? 'I think cartoons are really funny, and they make me laugh,' she says. Turns out she's putting together an entry for the competition.

David Rossall of Stamp Action Network (SAN) helps to run the Doonfoot club, and he takes up the story. 'There are about 30 children in the club and they're all really enthusiastic. So we start off by teaching them the basics of collecting. Once they have picked that up, they can move on something more imaginative – like using the stamps to illustrate a theme. It could be simply for a display, or for an entry to a competition. The children pick the subject and I try to show them how to structure the theme.'

Take Layla's entry – each of her eight album pages focuses on a different aspect of cartoon characters and her choice takes in all media – TV, film, books. For the first page, she's chosen stamps with single drawings, and she's making this page up using GB stamps, though the club has stamps from around the world. The second page has characters from popular strip cartoons, like *Peanuts* and *Tin Tin*; next comes books – *Asterix*, the Rupert annuals, for example; and finally films – think Hanna Barbera, perhaps *Tom and Jerry* or *Looney Tunes*.

The sheer fun of collecting

Why did India join the club? 'My older sisters collect stamps, and I used to think it was really interesting,' she replies. She's rooting around for stamps to illustrate her first page. 'I try to steer her towards what is available from our stack,' comments David – all the resources for the club are provided through donations and funding from the PTA and dealers. Everything, including membership, is free. 'Doonfoot has a fairly mixed catchment area and we don't want the club to be seen as one only for kids who can afford the stamps.'

'Local philatelists give me stamps for the club, which is a great help. We are backed by the school parent teacher association and the local Philatelic Traders Association. Plus we do some fundraising at the school fete and the stamp congresses,' he explains.

So India's not short of stamps for her Disney entry. 'But children need to marshal their ideas,' adds David. India's theme includes a page on characters such as *Mickey Mouse*, *Donald Duck*, *Pluto* and *Goofy*. Understandably, film plays a major role with a page on early children's movies like *Bambi* and *Dumbo* and, of course, there's a Scottish connection with JM Barrie's *Peter Pan*. Another element is films based on those evergreen fairy stories – *Cinderella*, *Snow White* and *Aladdin* – and the later movies, such as *Wind in the Willows* and *The Lion King*.

Clearly, the children find the club stimulating. Layla is interested in several subjects. 'I like animals, flowers, boats and flags,' she says, and ►



Above: India's collection is inspired by Disney
Below: the first GB stamp in the children's characters theme was for 1979's Year of the Child issue





Layla's joy in collecting is palpable. This page concentrates on Mickey Mouse and popular US cartoon characters

her competition entry, *Grow Your Own*, gave her the top prize for her age group in the main UK children's thematic competition – the Friends of Thematica Barclays Cup Young Collectors' Competition – at the ASPS Congress this April. 'In fact, Doonfoot won all three classes,' says David proudly.

Controversially popular

As we welcome another stamp issue that will might inspire even more young collectors – an important criterion in planning the special issues programme – many philatelists will recall a momentous Parliamentary exchange about the 1996 children's character theme issue. Barbara Castle challenged the Stamp advisory Committee's decision not to issue a William Morris

Centenary commemorative and opt instead for Muffin the Mule, who turned 50 that year. She asked that the 'philistine decision' be reversed. Lord Fraser of Carmyllie took the opposite position and responded, 'five decades of children's television should be celebrated. The SAC has chosen not just *Muffin the Mule* but *Sooty*, *Stingray*, the *Clangers* and, doubtless the noble Baroness's favourite, *Danger Mouse*, to represent the 1980s. The reasoning behind the choice is that, in part, it is keen to encourage children to begin stamp collecting, which is a dying hobby.' Certainly not by the evidence to be seen at Doonfoot ●

GB ISSUES FOR COLLECTORS OF CHILDREN'S CHARACTERS ON STAMPS

As well as last year's Winnie the Pooh issue, there are many to collect. 1979 Year of the Child: The Tale of Peter Rabbit, 9p; The Wind in the Willows, 10½p; Winnie-the-Pooh, 11p; Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, 13p. 1993 Greetings stamps – giving: Long John Silver and Parrot, 1st; Tweedledum and Tweedledee, 1st; Just William, 1st; Mole and Toad, 1st; Teacher and Wilfrid, 1st; Peter Rabbit and Mrs Rabbit, 1st; Snowman and Father Christmas, 1st; The Big Friendly Giant and Sophie, 1st; Bill Badger and Rupert Bear, 1st; Aladdin and the Genie, 1st. 1996 Big Stars from the Small Screen – Children's TV Characters: Muffin the Mule, 20p; Sooty, 26p; **Stingray, 31p**; The Clangers, 37p; Dangermouse, 43p. 1997 Birth centenary of Enid Blyton: Noddy, 20p; Famous Five, 26p; Secret Seven, 37p; Faraway Tree, 43p; Malory Towers, 63p. 2002 150th Anniversary of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, Peter Pan: Tinkerbell, 2nd; **Wendy, John and Michael Darling in front of Big Ben, 1st**; Crocodile and Alarm Clock, E; Captain Hook, 47p; Peter Pan, 68p. 2006 Animal Tales: Kipper, 2nd; The Tale of Jeremy Fisher, 2nd; **The Enormous Crocodile, 1st**; Paddington Bear, 1st; Comic Adventures of Boots, 42p; White Rabbit, 42p; The Very Hungry Caterpillar, 69p; Maisy's ABC, 68p. 2007 Harry Potter: Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone, 1st; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, 1st; Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, 1st; Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, 1st; Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, 1st; Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, 1st; Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, 1st; Gryffindor, 1st; Hufflepuff, 1st; Hogwarts, 1st; Ravenclaw, 1st; Slytherin, 1st.



The Enormous Crocodile
by Roald Dahl
Illustrated by Quentin Blake



Fabio's world at your fingertips For collectors who like to keep a keen eye on global issues

Who is the website for? Anybody with an interest in worldwide philately, and all those who like to discover online links to stamps and philatelists in far-flung places. The main function of Fabio's Stamp Resources website is to offer a single, comprehensive listing of every stamp-issuing authority on planet Earth.

The website's heritage Back in 1997 Fabio Alarici produced a short online list of philatelic bureaux, hoping to prompt people to provide more contacts. And the response led to the site being expanded to its present format. It grows as more information is submitted by collectors.

How it's organised A link to a complete list of postal authorities can be found at the top of the left-hand navigation menu on the home page. Click on the link to be taken to an alphabetical index of every stamp-issuing authority in the world. Each entry carries a flag alongside it as an extra visual clue, and here you will find contact and website details for all the postal authorities and, where they exist, their philatelic bureaux websites and email addresses. Another link in the navigation menu takes visitors to the producers of stamp catalogues from around the world, including smaller producers, such as Costa Rica, Malaysia and Turkey.

The best bits The site is a great source of information and a good starting point for research – for instance, you can contact the St Helena philatelic bureau online if you need to, or save time buying Brazilian stamps by not having to wade through countless search engine pages.

What could be improved Some links don't work and some international exhibitions have not been updated for years (although there are plenty of other online resources for these). The design has all the colours of an old-fashioned box of toffees, with little of the charm but all of the flavour.

My view Fabio's Stamp Resource is my first port of call when I'm looking for a post office anywhere in the world; it has helped me to locate obscure material, such as stationery and booklets, that are not usually stocked by dealers. The only downside is that it's all too easy to get sidetracked by one of the fascinating links and end up spending far longer online than you intended! Click a link and see where it takes you... you might be surprised.

Keith Downing collects all aspects of Railway Philately and is President of the British Postmark Society ●



Above: Fabio's Stamp Resource may not have cool design, but it's hot on function. Visit www.fly.to/philatelic to find the addresses of postal authorities and philatelic bureaux all over the world

The Royal Mail Yearbook includes all 16 sets of GB special stamps issued over the past 12 months



The envelope charm (above) can carry a secret message across the miles, while the 'Seahorses' coaster below adds a touch of culture to cocoa time



The Philatelist's stocking James H Cooper is here to dispel the stress of Christmas shopping

SPENDING HOURS WANDERING around a philatelic exhibition is my idea of happy window-shopping, but ten minutes in department store looking for Christmas gifts has me losing the will to party. So I've put together this collection of stamp-related items to make shopping more fun for the philatelist – I hope you'll find something to put on your own Christmas wish-list, too.

Capture the highlights As most people who read these pages are GB collectors, I make no apology for beginning on home turf with the Royal Mail Yearbook. It brings together all 15 sets of special stamps issued in 2010, accompanied by 64 pages of well-illustrated, behind-the-scenes stories about the stamps' production. In the hands of a philatelist, it will obviously bring hours of pleasure. And it will also make a delightful gift and heirloom for anyone for whom 2010 has held one of life's special landmarks. (The Yearbook is available online at www.royalmail.com/stamps for £85 and £125 for the leather-bound version.)

Of all the stamp collector's tools, a good album makes the most welcome gift. The album pictured is the 'deluxe' member of a reliable selection at www.royalmail.com, at prices from £19. Pop in a few stamps and you have an inspiring gift for a would-be collector.

Small and perfectly formed I recently happened on a cool set of coasters featuring stamps, mostly in convenient shades of coffee, tea and wine. The coaster shown left features the George V half-crown Seahorse (£2.50 plus p&p from www.stanleygibbons.com). It makes

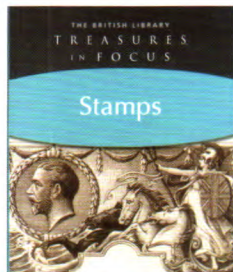
a cool stocking-filler, as does the little *Stamps* book (right) from the Treasures in Focus series from the British Library (£3.99 plus p&p at shop.bl.co.uk).

A delightful gift for the stamp-loving lady is the clip-on sterling silver, cubic zirconia envelope charm (below left) by Giorgio Martello at www.ErnestJones.co.uk (£30 or £36 to include gift box, personal greeting and postage). Tiffany & Co sell a silver envelope pendant necklace with a tiny diamond for a stamp, while Links of London offers an envelope charm that holds a sterling silver card with room for an engraved message.

Royal profile For collectors who need to drink as they walk, ceramic travel mugs can be found with classic stamps illustrations, including the young Queen Victoria on an 1873 green one-shilling and the senior on the 1897 Diamond Jubilee label (both £16.50 plus p&p from www.cafepress.co.uk). I can't help but feel that Victoria would not be amused; such stamps are reproduced on a vast range of gizmos and garments, from baby-grows to boxer shorts, which rarely go down a storm with serious philatelists. Although, I confess, I have succumbed to a rather smart Penny Black cushion (below right, £60 plus p&p from www.rockingpony.com).

Suiting up A high-spec pair of cufflinks with swivel fittings and screen-printed with Machin stamps is available at www.hotcufflinks.co.uk (£19.99, p&p free if you mention *Bulletin*). Ties are more difficult. The BPMA has a tie on sale at prices so low as to be beneath Christmas gift level unless you give them to enemies. But it's useful to have a few in stock. And at www.zazzle.co.nz there is a tie with a stamp for all themes, from Russian space travel to 'Malaria Philatelists'. The same site sells dog shirts (sic) with a stamp honouring Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, the Soviet 'father of theoretical astronautics' – a stylish snip for any pooch of philatelic bent (at £25.35 plus p&p).

Gifts of virtual stamp love Feeling 'virtually virtuous'? Then consider a donation to help look after an original piece of stamp artwork. Just £25 a year will help support the preservation of a unique piece of philatelic artwork. Details at shop.postalheritage.org.uk ●



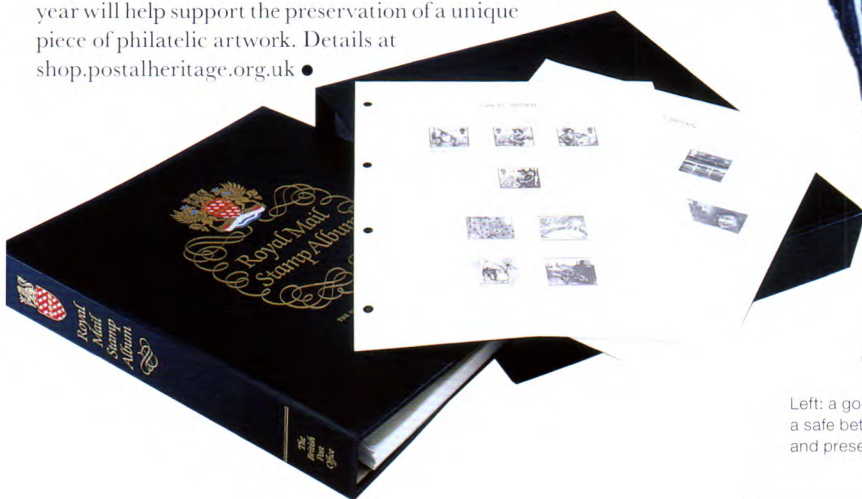
This tiny but beautiful tome from the British Library offers an expert introduction to philately for beginners, and some nice nuggets of knowledge for the experienced collector



Screen-printed Machin cufflinks (above) and a Penny Black cushion, licensed by the Royal Mail Group, 46 x 46cm



Left: a good album is a always a safe bet; it helps to protect and preserve a collection



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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. Please send submissions for February 2011 *Bulletin* to the address on page 101 to arrive by 20 December 2010.

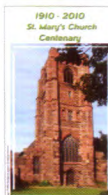


Buckingham Covers Superb coin cover (above) for Edward VIII, the shortest reigning monarch in British history has either the Carrickfergus or Windsor stamp from the Castles set of 2008 and the set of four original stamps issued in 1936. The coin is a rare unofficial crown struck many years ago. BCC123
Price £18.60 (including p&p). (A few will be autographed by actor Edward Fox, £28.60.)

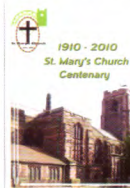
Sheet (below) commemorating the centenary of deck landing and take-offs. The sheet is signed by Eric Winkle Brown, the test pilot who made the first jet deck landing. BCSHEET50.
Price £28.60 or £41.60 signed (including p&p) ●



BFDC Ltd This features a Post Early for Christmas poster reproduced by kind permission of the BPMA. It is limited to just 100 numbered copies. Stock Code 35889.
Price £20 (including p&p) ●



Phil Sheridan Two official covers to commemorate St. Mary's Church Centenary, Widnes, for the Christmas issue. One has the full set of stamps and one the full miniature sheet. The postmark is St. Mary's Church Centenary, Widnes. Each cover will be limited to around 55 numbered covers. **Price** £16.20 each (including p&p) ●

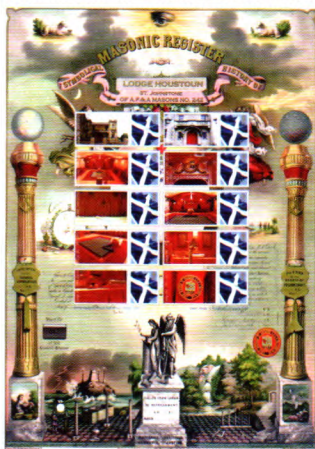




Royal Mail The High Value Definitives Coin Cover (left) goes off sale on the last day of the year. Grab yours before it's too late. Stock code AN062. **Price** £15.95 (plus p&p) ●



Royal Mail The Smilers minisheets (left) go off sale on 25 January 2011. Stock code MZ061. **Price** £4.85 (plus p&p), as does the Indipex commemorative sheet and the highly popular Classic Album Covers issue goes off sale on the 6 January 2011. (above) ●



Ridgewood Stamp Sheets A limited edition of 500 sheets issued to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Lodge Houstoun, St Johnstone. **Price** £34.95 (plus p&p) ●



Farrukh Jamil Spitfire Battle of Britain 70th Anniversary A4 Size Smiler Generic Sheet First Day Cover produced in a limited numbered edition of ten covers, cancelled with a corresponding Battle of Britain, 70th Anniversary, Biggins Hill, Spitfire pictorial special handstamp ●

Rules and regulations for Quiz prize draw on page 126

1 The closing date is 7.01.2011. **2** Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 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.

Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date. 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. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 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. Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to Karin Ward, The 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 EC4V 0HQ.

Are you a stamp Mastermind?

Test your wit to win excellent prizes



What **John Humphrys** asked...

Fancy a challenge for the festive season? Let *Mastermind* contestant Chris Hill test your mettle. When he appeared on the BBC, Chris answered 18 questions on 19th-century philately. Now you can try the same questions, listed below. The questions on the right are those that he would like to have been asked. The prize is a copy of the Royal Mail *Yearbook* and a set of Stanley Gibbons's *Stamps of the World*. Happy quizzing...

1 In which month of 1840 were the Penny Black and Two Penny Blue issued?

2 What is the colour error of Sweden's 1855 Three Skilling-Banco, one of the rarest stamps in the world?

3 In 1863, who is said to have paid two sailors five pounds for a kit bag full of thousands of Cape Triangulars?

4 What was the unusual shape of the first stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia?

5 Which British colony was the first to issue authorised stamps? It is traditionally thought that most of these first stamps were used to send out admission cards for a fancy dress ball.

6 What term is applied to a basic stamp design used for two or more countries, such as the colonial issues of Britain, Portugal and Spain?

7 From 1893 Belgium issued stamps with an attached label; what did it signify if the stamp was used with the label?

8 What nickname is given to the first stamps of Brazil?

9 In 1893 what did the New Zealand Post Office allow to appear on the back of stamps?

10 Who was portrayed on Austrian stamps with coarse whiskers in 1867 and then fine whiskers in 1874?

11 What was the only design to feature on the stamps of Western Australia throughout the 19th century?

12 Where in London were forgeries of the one shilling green used in vast numbers on telegrams in the early 1870s?

13 Who became the first person other than a head of state to feature on a

stamp when he appeared on the American Five Cent issued in 1847?

14 In 1871, which South American country issued what is cited by Stanley Gibbons catalogue as the world's first commemorative stamp?

15 Which Roman goddess appeared on the first French stamps of 1849?

16 Who, as the Postmaster of Hamilton, Bermuda, issued the colony's first circular stamps in 1848?

17 In 1897, the Universal Postal Union standardised the colours of stamps to be used for printed matter, postcards and letters. What colour was the stamp for letters?

18 What words, in addition to the denomination and the word 'Postage', appeared on the British one-penny lilac, first issued in 1881?

19 Which territory was ruled by the 'white Rajahs' of the Brooke family whose portraits appeared on its stamps before it became a British Crown Colony in the 20th century?

20 Which corporate territory issued stamps known as 'light bulbs' before becoming a British Crown Colony?

21 Where were British stamps used in the mid 19th century if they were cancelled with an 'OXO' postmark?

22 Where were British stamps of Queen Elizabeth II overprinted with '25 np' intended for use?

23 Where were stamps issued with a denomination payable by weight of gold dust?

24 Where were stamps 'Chrysanthemums' issued?

25 Which British Crown Colony issued a series of stamps for over 50 years, all featuring the bird that was the emblem of the colony?

26 Which part of the UK issued stamps with values denominated in 'puffins'?

27 What is the '2d Tyrian plum'?

28 Some Victorian GB issues are postmarked with a circular datestamp for 'Greytown'. Where is it?

29 What was the name given to the Crown Colony that took over the lands of the British Central Africa?

30 A special version of the Penny Black for official use was prepared for use in 1840

but was withdrawn before issue. What distinguished this stamp from the regular Penny Black?

31 In British philately what is an 'abnormal'?

32 Which territory issued stamps produced on a typewriter by a local missionary?

33 What technology preceded phosphor lines on the stamps of Queen Elizabeth II in an attempt to automate letter sorting?

34 Which ephemeral British colony used stamps of a neighbouring colony overprinted with a 'G'?

35 In British philately what is an 'ivory head'?

36 And what is a 'duplex'?



What **Chris Hill** would *like* to have been asked...

Answers will appear in January's *Bulletin*, as will the regular Knowledge and Identify prize draws.

Win over £300 worth of prizes

What philatelist wouldn't want to get their hands on these – a set of Stanley Gibbons' *Stamps of the World* (rrp £249.95) and a Royal Mail *Yearbook* (rrp £85)? The former is an easy-to-use illustrated description of all the world's stamps including over 2,000 new stamps, 600 new illustrations and 400 newly recognized SG numbers. The *Yearbook* contains all of this year's issues plus background information and the stories behind their creation. Five runners-up will be awarded prizes of the latest stamp issue.



Once you've finished the quiz, rearrange the first letter of the answers to questions 1, 3, 9, 11, 18, 23 and 28 to form a philatelic term. Send your answer on a postcard, marked Christmas Quiz to the *British Philatelic Bulletin*, 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ to arrive by 10 January 2011. For rules and regulations, see page 125.





A cracking time to try claymation!

When Karin Ward, *British Philatelic Bulletin* Editor, visited www.wallaceandgromitstamps.com the result was the striking self-portrait shown above.

Visit the site yourself and you'll find myriad face parts and headgear to help you experiment with portraiture. And once you are happy with your likeness you can save it to pass on to future generations, or you might like to make your art public and add it to your Christmas stamps, Smilers®-style.

While you are online you can also do something sensible, such as checking the last posting dates for Christmas •

www.wallaceandgromitstamps.com

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