

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

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Bulletin

GB postal stationery • Lundy stamps • Farm Animals issue



Royal Mail's Christmas stamp issue, featuring six new illustrations by Raymond Briggs, goes on sale on 2 November.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Royal Mail's Christmas issue, illustrated by Raymond Briggs, goes on sale on 2 November. The stamps were previewed in the September *Bulletin*. The cover illustration is reproduced courtesy of Mr Briggs.

2 November

Issue 2004 Christmas stamps, stamp books, presentation pack, Smilers sheet, airletters (standard and bilingual Welsh/English), and Christmas cards • 2004 Yearbook (standard and de luxe versions) and Yearpack.

3 November

Withdrawal 2003 Christmas stamps, stamp books, presentation pack, stamp cards, Smilers sheets (Ice sculptures) and airletters (standard and bilingual Welsh/English) • 2003 Yearbook (standard & de luxe) and Yearpack.

30 November

Issue Stamp roll: 1000 × 1st class gold • Coin cover: Scotland £1 coin & Scottish country stamps • Ingot pack: George V Mackennal definitive.

18 December

Withdrawal Rugby World Cup Winners miniature sheet and presentation pack.

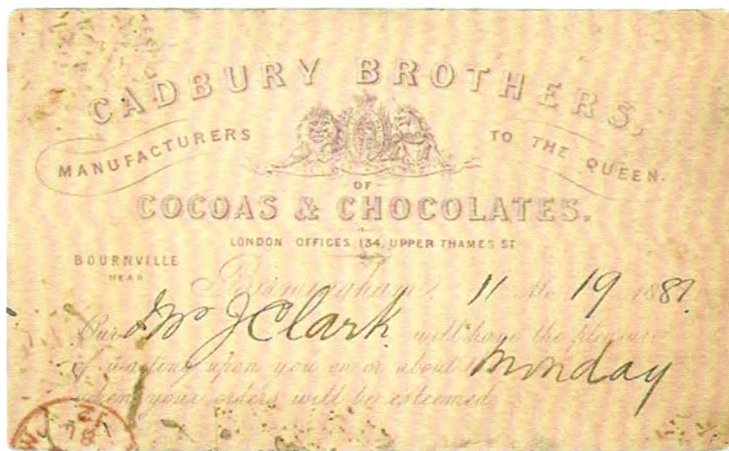
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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.10 single copies from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 UK & Europe; £16.75 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group plc, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any article should be addressed to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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Caricature Mulready design in the Royal Collection, on display in Washington DC. Reproduced by gracious permission of HM The Queen, to whom copyright belongs.

Royal Stamps display A display of stamps from The Queen's Collection is on show at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington until 11 January. It includes a representative selection from the collection featuring the lead-up to the introduction of the adhesive stamps and the Mulready envelopes and letter sheets in 1840. Of particular note are the 'Kirkcudbright Cover' bearing the largest multiple (10) of Penny Blacks known on first day of use, the unique block of 38 unused Twopenny Blues from Plate 1, the 'Post Office' Mauritius 1d and 2d, rare British Guiana and Bermuda material, and Cape of Good Hope 'Woodblock' errors of colour. A new book on the Royal Collection was reviewed here in August •

Basildon 2004 See website www.basildon2004.org.uk for further information.

Exhibitions The fifth ABPS National Exhibition – Basildon 2004 – will be held at the Towngate Centre, Basildon, 20-21 November. Open 20th 10.00-17.00, 21st 10.00-16.00. Admission free. The exhibition, organised by the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies on behalf of the ABPS, will include Aerophilatelic displays, competitions, and specialist society meetings. Basildon is very accessible by rail and road. There are frequent train services from London Fenchurch Street; road connection is by A127 off the M25 •

The second of this year's Thematica exhibitions will be held at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 on 26-27 November. There will be the usual mix of displays, dealers' and society stands, aimed primarily at thematic collectors. Visitors will be given a free souvenir sheet featuring a proposed design for the 1984 Heraldry stamps by Jeffery Matthews. The sheet was also given out at the Thematica exhibition in June, and shown here in May (page 263) •

Looking ahead to 2005, Spring Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1, 23-27 February. The exhibition will include a display by the Postal Stationery Society and the GB Philatelic Society •

Spring Stampex enquiries
Philatelic Traders' Society
01252 628006.

Philatelic Expertising Dr W C Hellrigl, PO Box 349, I-39100 Bozen, Italy. www.aiep.net

International events An International Congress on Philatelic Expertising, organised by the International Association of Philatelic Experts, will be held at Merano-Meran, Italy on 12-14 November. The event marks the 50th anniversary of the Association •

MonacoPhil enquiries e-mail mtm@gouv.mc

MonacoPhil 2004 (3-5 December) will comprise the annual exhibition of 100 philatelic rarities from the collections of HM The Queen, Prince Rainier of Monaco, major postal museums, and members of the Club de Monte-Carlo. These will be shown in the Stamp & Coin Museum in Monte Carlo. In the nearby Salle du Canton will be 100 frames from prestigious

collections presented by national philatelic federations (France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, etc), the Grand Prix Club FIP, Academie Europeenne de Philatelie, the 'Lombarda' and the famous 'Mormino' collection of the Banco di Sicilia. There will also be trade stands offering material from classic to modern issues. The 'Grand Prix International de Philatelie - ASCAT' will be awarded to a renowned personality; previous recipients include Prince Rainier, Antonio Samaranch, Bertrand Piccard, and footballer and stamp collector Luis Figo. Monaco has issued a 0.50 euro stamp showing the Salle du Canton and flags of participating countries. An article by James Mackay on Monaco's postal museum, philatelic bureau (the oldest in the world) and Prince Rainier's collection was published here in November 1997 •

In 2005, there will be international exhibitions in Sydney, Australia (21-24 April) and Brno, Czech Republic (10-15 May). The UK commissioners for these will be John Sussex and Yvonne Wheatley respectively •



Philatelic societies news On 4 November Neville Clifford-Jones will display 'Hand Illustrated Letters and Post Cards of the World 1840-1918' to the Royal Philatelic Society London. This will be followed on 25 November by 'Pioneer Air Mails to the Middle East and further East, 1902-36' by Peter Jennings, and the subject of Barrie Jay's display on 2 December will be 'The Continental Connection 1423-1815' •

The two displays to the National Philatelic Society this month are: 'Gambia' by Malcolm Roberts on the 13th (14.45) and 'An Irish Stew' by Peter Wood on the 25th (18.30). Enquiries to the address opposite, or see website www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps •

The Association of Great Britain First Day Cover Collectors was formed in 1995 to bring together GB FDC collectors and to try and encourage first day cover collecting. On 14 November the Association will hold its AGM, cover fair and charity auction at the Moat House Hotel, Southern Way, Harlow, Essex. The Association also holds meetings on the first Sunday of every month, usually at the Kellaway Arms, Henleaze, Bristol •

New SG catalogues A new (5th) edition of the Portugal & Spain and the 2005 edition of *Stamps of the World* are due for publication on 29 October. The 12th edition of the GB *Specialised Volume 2* (Four Kings) will follow on 26 November together with the 2005 edition of *Collect British Stamps* and a 2nd edition of *Collect British Coins* (£9.95 each) and the 1st edition of a new Cyprus, Gibraltar and Malta catalogue. A similar catalogue for Bangladesh, Pakistan & Sri Lanka, also the 6th edition of the Middle East catalogue are scheduled for publication on 17 December •

Auctions Cavendish will hold a Worldwide & GB auction on 24-25 November; for details of this and future sales contact Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY, telephone 01332 250970, or see website www.cavendish-auctions.com •

Spink will hold a Stamps & Covers of the World auction on 9 December. Enquiries: Spink, 020 7563 4000, or see website: www.spink.com •

Royal Philatelic Society

London 41 Devonshire Place,
London W1G 6JY. Telephone
020 7486 1044/5.

National Philatelic Society

107 Charterhouse St, London
EC1M 6PT. Telephone 020
7490 9610.

GBFDC For details contact:
Richard Park, 2 Chaffinch
Close, Horsham RH12 5HA.

For details of monthly meetings contact Trevor Jones on
0117 931 2692.

Stanley Gibbons catalogues

Telephone Stanley Gibbons
order line on 0800 611622 or
write to Stanley Gibbons Ltd,
Parkside, Ringwood BH24
3SH.

Profiles of Brian Asquith and John Hammonds were published in the *Bulletin* in March 2001 and January 2003.

ABPS Brian Asquith stood down as Chairman of the Council of the Association of British Philatelic Societies in July. Speaking at the AGM, he reviewed the work of the Association over 10 years: 'When we started in 1994 we had absolutely nothing, in fact we had less than nothing as everyone remembered the problems with BPF and many thought we might go the same way. Fortunately we had the goodwill and enthusiasm of a dedicated nucleus of collectors, and we relied heavily on the British Philatelic Trust for financial support, which has been readily supplied throughout those 10 years and for which we are most grateful. However, the decline in Stock Market values and heavy expenditure on this building, by the Trust, mean that we must now be self-reliant.

'This year we have been able to manage with a minimum of assistance from the BPT and in addition we have taken over the provision of "small grants" which until recently had been a joint venture with them.

'Another of our objectives was to bring philately to different parts of the country by means of exhibitions and this has been achieved through the bi-annual exhibitions starting with Newcastle in 1996. This was the first of our ventures and we had no idea how it might go, but on the first day when we were putting the exhibits together far more people turned up than had been anticipated. The atmosphere was tremendous with everyone working together and even if no one had come through the doors it would have been worthwhile purely for the comradeship and teamwork. All the exhibitions have been successful but I must mention Glasgow 2000 which was the most ambitious show to date and again the teamwork, camaraderie and enjoyment were exceptional. A huge success and a credit to all who took part. This year we have Basildon 2004.

'In alternate years we have had Midpex in the Midlands and Congresses every year, again held in diverse locations throughout the country. These projects could not have been successful without the active cooperation of members. Society membership of ABPS has gradually increased, although there is still room for improvement. We also have our fine publications – ABPS *News*, Handbook & Directory and Philatelic Lecturers and Displays – together with workshops, seminars and other activities where I think we are entitled to celebrate 10 years of solid achievement.

'However, things change and we have to move on and think about the future. We must examine all aspects of our activities and endeavour to encourage more societies to join. We need to look at the involvement of the trade in our activities, our association with the Trust, participation in youth work, international activities and national exhibitions. The only way that we can progress is to take on board new ideas such as making use of the web and endeavour to put the message across that philately really is fun. To me that is what it is all about.'

Brian thanked everyone who had assisted him in the ABPS, in particular John Hammonds, one of the original 'Sussex Mafia', which included the Michael Elliotts, and one of the driving forces behind the formation of the ABPS. He is an exceptional man who performs all the tasks he undertakes with great skill and dedication ●

Royal Mail news New issues and products

• Archive • Mt Pleasant • Your votes invited



2004 Yearbook and Yearpack The new Yearbook, on sale from 2 November, will contain information and spaces for all special issues of 2004. As always the book gives interesting background stories to each issue with details of the designers. Price £34.95 standard version (order code AY085) or £75 deluxe leather-bound edition (AY086). The latter is available only from Royal Mail Tallents House. The 2004 Yearpack containing the same special stamps will also be available from 2 November, price £29.95 (AR056) •

Personalised Yearbooks are available, priced £89.95. For details phone Tallents House on 08457 641 641.

Christmas This month's special issue is our annual Christmas set, this year featuring Father Christmas drawn by Raymond Briggs. As well as stamps, there is a miniature sheet, stamp books (24 2nd class or 12 1st class stamps), stamp cards, Christmas cards, and airletters (national and Welsh versions), and a Smilers sheet (see below). The stamps and related products go on sale on 2 November. For full details see the September *Bulletin*. Any unsold stocks of stamps will be withdrawn at Post Office branches on 24 December but remain available from Tallents House until next November •

Christmas Smilers The new Smilers generic sheet for Christmas, called 'Christmas Delivery', available from 2 November, will contain 10 1st class and 10 2nd class Christmas stamps, price £5.40. The sheet, printed in litho by De La Rue, has self-adhesive stamps. The stamps in sheets and books are printed in gravure. The labels feature two repeated series of five images of Father Christmas getting up in the morning and preparing for bed. The background design features an image of Father Christmas flying over Buckingham Palace about to make his last delivery. Customised versions can be ordered containing 20 1st class or 20 2nd class stamps. Price £14.95 for one sheet (1st class) or £9.95 (2nd).

To order customised Smilers telephone 0845 074 2000 or visit website: www.royalmail.com/smilers

Available until 3 November are the 2003 Christmas Smilers sheets (1st & 2nd class stamps) featuring Ice Sculptures. Other Smilers sheets (all 1st class stamps) still on sale are: Hong Kong Stamp Expo (30 January 2004), Occasions (3 February), RHS Dahlias (25 May), and Rule Britannia (27 July). All £6.15 each except 2nd class Ice Sculptures which is £4.20. Also available are sheets of 20 with your personalised image printed on the labels, price £14.95 for one sheet of 20 1st class stamps, £13.95 each for 2-4 sheets, and £11.95 each for 5-9 sheets. Sheets with 2nd class Ice Sculpture stamps are £9.95 one sheet, £9.25 each 2-4 sheets and £8.50 each for 5-9 sheets. Enquire for prices for larger quantities.

Personalised Smilers sheets can also be produced in Snap Digital photo booths in shops and Post Office branches around the country. These can produce any sheets from the current Smilers range. Price £15 per sheet. An album to house Smilers sheets is now available from Tallents House, price £16.50 (order code PA665) •



One of the six British Journey: South West England stamps, shown at proof stage, at 86% actual size.

Forthcoming special issues The 2005 programme starts on 11 January with 10 stamps depicting Farm Animals. This issue is previewed in this *Bulletin*.

There will be two issues in February – six stamps showing views of South West England in the British Journey series (8th), and six stamps, a miniature sheet and prestige book featuring Charlotte Brontë's novel *Jane Eyre* (24th). Both issues will be previewed next month. The South West stamps feature: Old Harry Rocks, Studland Bay; Wheal Coates, St Agnes; Start Point, Start Bay; Horton Down, Wiltshire; Chiselcombe, Exmoor; and St James's Stone, Lundy.

In March there will be an issue for the Magic Circle (15th) and a Castles miniature sheet (22nd). On 21 April we will launch a joint issue with Australia Post on the subject of World Heritage Sites. The eight stamps will be printed in four horizontal se-tenant pairs showing a British and Australian site. The British sites will be Hadrian's Wall, Stonehenge, Blenheim Palace, and Neolithic Orkney. The Australian sites are to be announced.

A set featuring the Trooping of the Colour will be issued on 7 June and the recent Transport theme continues with a set featuring motorcycles on 19 July. This year's Europa theme is Gastronomy and a set of food stamps will go on sale on 23 August, followed by a set marking the 50th anniversary of Independent Television on 15 September. A key set of the year will be the issue commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar on 18 October. The Christmas issue will go on sale on 1 November •

Going off sale Any remaining stocks of the 2003 Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp books, stamp cards, Smilers sheets, and airmailers (national and Welsh versions) will be withdrawn on 3 November. Also to be withdrawn will be the 2003 Year Book and Year Pack.

The England Winners Rugby World Cup miniature sheet and pack will be withdrawn on 18 December and the Classic Locomotives stamps, miniature sheet, stamp cards, and coin cover on 12 January. The Classic Locomotives pack is already sold out •

New Stamp Ingot The third in a new series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V will be available from 30 November. It features the George V 1d Mackennal profile definitive. Ingots for the George V 10s Seahorse high value, 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition, and 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress commemoratives will be available next year. Nos 1 and 2, featuring the Edward VII 1d and £1 stamps went on sale in June and September – see back cover of the July *Bulletin* for full details. The six ingots cost £26.95 each from Tallents House. Collectors subscribing to all six will be charged £13.50 for the Edward VII 1d and will also receive a free Collection storage box when they are sent the George V 1d Mackennal stamp ingot.

The Victorian stamp ingot series is still available, price £26.95 each – see the back cover of the September 2003 *Bulletin* for full details •

Royal Mail Archive An exhibition of Victorian stamps from the R M Phillips Collection is now on display at Royal Mail Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, open Monday to Friday 10.00-17.00 (Thursday until 19.00). The display will run until summer 2005. Large items such as vehicles are kept at the Postal Heritage Museum store which will be open to the public on 7 May, 11 June, 16 July and 17 September 2005. Royal Mail Archive, run by the Postal Heritage Trust, comprises the collections of the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum.

The third of this year's Postal Heritage Trust lectures will be held on 9 November when Douglas Muir will talk on the Machin design. For tickets for the lecture (7pm) contact Royal Mail Archive by phone/e-mail – details opposite. Douglas Muir is Curator Philately at the Royal Mail Archive and a former editor of this magazine •



Douglas Muir talks about the Machins this month. For more information on the Royal Mail Archive phone 020 7239 2570 or e-mail heritage@royalmail.com

Mount Pleasant anniversary The current Royal Mail sorting office at Mount Pleasant in London was opened 70 years ago this month by the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth). Writing in the *Bulletin* in October 1985 the late Malcolm James tells us that the first sorting office was completed in 1900, on the site of the old Cold Bath Fields House of Correction built in 1794 for the reform of convicted felons. The office was intended to handle the busy and successful Parcel Post Service introduced in 1883 and the London letter post transferred from the office at St Martin's-le-Grand. Necessary expansion and reconstruction resulted in completely new sorting office buildings covering nine acres, inaugurated by the Duke and Duchess of York on 2 November 1934. A commemorative machine cancel was used on the day on about 400 items of mail, probably all addressed to VIPs •



**OPENING OF MOUNT
PLEASANT SORTING
OFFICE BY H.R.H. THE
DUKE & DUCHESS OF YORK**

The Duke and Duchess of York applying the special slogan postmark at the opening of the Mount Pleasant sorting office, on 2 November 1934.

2007 special stamps We list below the subjects we are considering for special stamp issues during 2007, and invite you to nominate your favourite five subjects. Please list these on a postcard and send to: Russell Hawkins, Stamp Programme Manager, Royal Mail Philatelic Sector, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ by 31 December 2004. We look forward to hearing from you. All cards received will be entered into a prize draw; the winner will be sent a 2004 Yearbook ●

Dominion Status of New Zealand (100 years)	Great British monarchs	British Grand Prix motor racing (100 years)	Classic British family cars
Astronomy	Kings and Queens (monarchs and consorts)	Fishing	Butterflies
Great British Actors	The Beatles and pop music	Horseracing	Oceanography
Sir Edward Elgar	British poets	Great horse races	Royal Mail coaches
Thomas Telford	Pre-raphaelite paintings (and the Oxford Union murals)	Uniforms of the military	Piers/seaside life
Scouts	British winners of the Football European Cup	The Tudors	Ancient British coins
Abolition of the Slavery Act (200 years)	<i>Cutty Sark</i>	Rugby	Hot air balloons
Newspaper cartoons	Cricket	The Machin stamp (40 years)	British comedians
Diwali	British coastal sea animals	Postal Heritage museum	Charles Wesley
Act of Union (Scottish/English Parliaments, 300 years)	Ballet	Castles	Lincoln Cathedral
		Life saving voluntary crews	

Enquiries about the Rowland Hill Awards should be sent to Rachel Lonsdale, Royal Mail, Mail Media Centre, Stukeley Street, London WC1V 7AB, or phone 07736 787 122 or fax 020 7421 2160.

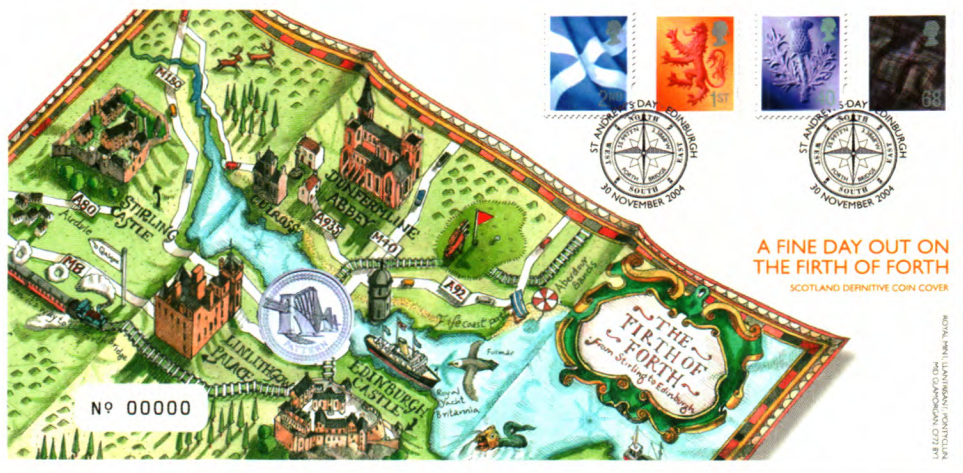
Rowland Hill Awards This month's *Bulletin* includes a form for nominations in both the Royal Mail Innovation and British Philatelic Trust sections of the Rowland Hill Awards. The nominations will be short-listed for final judging. The criteria are set out on the form. The Awards, sponsored by Royal Mail, the British Philatelic Trust and the Philatelic Traders' Society, were initiated in 1997 to recognise individuals and organisations who have made a major contribution to philately during the year. The awards for 2004 will be made at a ceremony in London next Spring.

Please complete the enclosed nomination form and return by 31 December to Rachel Lonsdale at the address given on the form. All forms will go into a draw for £100 worth of Royal Mail philatelic products ●

New stamp roll Going on sale on 30 November will be stamp rolls of 1000 1st class Machin definitives printed in gold by De La Rue. The roll will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets. Rolls of 500 have been on sale since May 2003 ●

Collect British Stamps The 2005 (56th) edition of the ever-popular Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps* colour checklist will be published on 26 November, price £9.95. It will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House as well as from Stanley Gibbons, and stamp and book shops. Readers are reminded that Tallents House also stocks the Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Coins* catalogue, published earlier this year, price £9.95. It was reviewed here in July. Both publications make good Christmas presents for stamp and coin collectors ●

New coin cover series Country definitives



A NEW Scottish definitive coin cover bearing the current Scottish country stamps and the new £1 coin showing the Forth Rail Bridge will be available from 30 November (St Andrew's Day). The cover shows a map illustrating some of the best-known tourist sites along the Firth of Forth, and has the four stamps cancelled by a St Andrew's Day Edinburgh special handstamp. The coin is encapsulated in the cover, displaying the reverse, which depicts the Forth Rail Bridge surrounded by a rail track motif.

Cover shown at proof stage.

One side of the attractive filler card gives details of Edinburgh and Stirling Castles, Glencagles and St Andrew's, Dunfermline Abbey, Deep Sea World, and the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, now a popular tourist attraction in Leith Docks. The other side includes a view of the Forth Rail Bridge at sunset and details of its construction. An article on the Bridge was published in the *Bulletin* in October 1990 in connection with an aerogramme issued to mark its centenary. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Forth Road Bridge, on 4 September 1964, when two stamps were issued. (The 6d stamp featured both road and rail bridges.)

The Scottish definitive coin cover costs £14.50 from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The cover is the first in a new annual series of country definitive coin covers, which follows the Royal Mint's £1 country coin programme. Covers for Wales, Northern Ireland and England will be issued on the relevant saints' days, 1 March 2005, 17 March 2006, and 23 April 2007 respectively. The reverse sides of the new £1 coins have been designed by Edwina Ellis, and feature Menai Straits Bridge (Wales), Egyptian Arch (N Ireland) and Millennium Bridge, Gateshead (England). The Menai and Millennium bridges have featured on stamps issued in 1968 and 2000. The obverse of the coins feature Ian Rank-Broadley's portrait of The Queen, which has been used on all British coins since 1998 •

Illustrated postal stationery of GB Part 2: Lettersheets and postcards, by Colin Baker



Last month Colin Baker looked at the overprinting of envelopes. In January he will conclude his series with lettercards, paper wrappers and airletters.

Lettersheets Privately printed lettersheets became popular, long after their Post Office counterparts had fallen from favour. Many of these private lettersheets were pre-printed with much important information, leaving the barest minimum to be added in manuscript. Many were prepared for the payment of company dividends. Cheques were attached to the bottom of the lettersheets, while the upper half contained details of the stock or shares held and the interest rate or dividend to be paid. Later examples also allowed for the deduction of income tax, and we can only look with

envy at the rates as low as 8d in the pound (equivalent to 3½p). Compare this with our current rate of 22p or 45½d. So a flat sheet of paper which could be folded and sealed by means of a pre-gummed flap was ideal. It also reduced costs by avoiding the use of envelopes.

One other form of stationery, popular when the Mulready stationery first appeared in 1840, was the advertising lettersheet. Enterprising businessmen would sell advertising space in lettersheets, and guarantee to print a minimum number of these to be sold at a substantially reduced price. Normally a minimum of 5000 were prepared and were sold at 8d or 9d a dozen, against the correct price of 1¼d each. When the Mulready lettersheets were used in this manner in 1840, the whole of the back of the sheet was covered with printed matter so that it could only be used as an outer wrapper. But once the Mulreadys had been withdrawn from sale and private lettersheets were produced, enough space was left on them for a reasonably long message to be written.

Government departments also used lettersheets on a regular basis when sending out questionnaires, such as the annual agricultural returns. These would be printed and stamped on both sides of the sheet of paper so that when they were folded back on themselves, the return address and second stamp were exposed. It was a legal requirement for these forms to be returned to the relevant Government department. As with all government papers of this nature, they were destroyed as soon as the information was extracted from them and so very few have survived. Those that are in collections today have usually come from the offices of solicitors who were handling estates for probate.

In the 19th century, and to a limited extent in the 20th century as well, lettersheets were used by a number of official authorities to notify the results of vaccinations, recruiting forms for the army and navy, by the Inspector of Factories for overtime reports, and by the Privy Council for Clergy's duties and expenses. Similar lettersheets were also used by Local Authorities and County Councils for returning a variety of reports.

RETURN FOR THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

To Mr

Rev. C. P. Eaton
CavalryL. Glynne
Radnorshire

Left and below: an official lettersheet produced for the Board of Agriculture, asking for information on land use. Below left: this lettersheet, privately produced in 1869, was sold at 9d a dozen; the deficiency was made up by advertising revenue.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

It is requested that the Forms may be filled on the other side. The Return

Occupiers of separate Farms in one Parish
Farm partly in one and partly in

es under Crops, Bare Fallow, and Grass in the oc

RESTED and Occupied. No. of Acres OWNED (if any) and Occupied

Column I. Number of Acres of the Holding on the 5th JUNE, 1893:—

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Postcards The introduction of the postcard on 1 October 1870 gave rise to a wealth of opportunities for private printing. For many years the Postcard Regulations forbade anything but the delivery address from appearing on the fronts of cards, but no regulations applied to the reverse. As a consequence, although many cards carried simple messages of orders, acknowledgements, etc, some were decorated with intricate designs promoting firms' abilities and the goods they produced.

A huge number of cards which carried an extensive range of designs and engravings were stamped at the 1/2d rate and were intended for inland destinations, with only a few in comparison rated for overseas use. Of these latter items, nearly all were printed on Post Office issue postcards. By Universal Postal Union agreement postcards intended for use to foreign countries had to be sold at their face value from 1875 until 1917. Thus it was cheaper to use these postcards and to have them overprinted rather than submit paper and card to Somerset House for impressing with stamps under the stamped to private order facility. By contrast inland postcards were not subject to such fixed selling prices and from 1872 onwards Post Office issue cards carried a premium to allow fair competition between the Post Office and the private stationery trade. Thus many inland postcards which were printed with private designs were privately produced and stamped at Somerset House rather than being Post Office issues.

Opposite page: a detail from one of the advertisements on the 1869 lettersheet shown above.



Clockwise from top left: food supplier's card advising shopkeepers that a representative would call to take orders; an early postcard from Cadbury; a PO issue card from the *Daily Mail*, reminding readers overseas that subscriptions were due; and a typical commercial use of inland reply paid cards, this one asking for the return of empty drums.

The commercial use of postcards gradually declined in the 20th century. The increasing use of window envelopes and fold-over cards (sent as printed papers, at the same postage rate as postcards) allowed more space for both correspondence and advertising, as well as giving a little more privacy to correspondence. However, printed papers could not be sent in sealed envelopes at the printed paper rate until second class post was introduced in 1968. In the latter half of the 20th century, production of many postcards carrying special illustrations was gradually taken over by the philatelic trade. At the same time the commercial use of postcards declined to such an extent that the Post Office decided to withdraw their stationery version from sale in 1981. This brought to an end the illustrated postcard, as the stamped to order (STO) facility had been withdrawn eight years earlier.

The reply postcard, first introduced in 1882, was only used to a limited extent by private firms. They had to be reasonably sure that the additional postage costs in paying for the reply would be worthwhile, and many of these cards were restricted to seeking orders for goods. Some firms got around the extra expense of paying for the reply by having only the outer half of a reply postcard stamped, leaving the respondent to pay for the return postage. The introduction of the business reply service, and latterly Freepost, meant that firms paid for a reply only when it was received, taking away both the risk and expense of prepaid stationery being wasted.

Postal Stationery Society

Enquiries to: Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veney, Warminster BA12 7AY or see www.postalstationery.org.uk (This site was reviewed in February Philately On-line.)

Philately online Ron Negus finds out about stamp printers



www.stampprinters.info As well as working on this site, Glenn Morgan FRPSL is also Hon Librarian of the National Philatelic Society. This has provided him with access to a large range of sources that he has used to excellent effect to summarise this extensive listing of stamp printers and their activities.

GLENN MORGAN has contributed articles to this magazine on a number of different subjects, including his recent series about Royal Household mail. Interviewed by our Editor for the February 1998 *Bulletin*, Glenn was asked who had most influenced his collecting development. He replied that 'instead of individuals, he favoured types of collectors and preferred those who undertake research and publish their findings'.

In keeping with this philosophy, Glenn has produced an informative website of his own (see address above). It is designed mainly to provide detailed information about stamp printers of the world, which is a subject that he is keenly interested in. However, many of Glenn's other philatelic sidelines are also covered in depth, and a full summary of what is covered can be found under the 'siteplan' heading on the home page. The site has now expanded to more than 1000 pages of A4 text, with nearly 1500 images. A searchable index facility is also provided on the site, giving quick access to specific items amongst this mass of information.

An introductory section contains the following disclaimer explaining the background to the site that Glenn has worked on over many years. It says 'Created with the sole purpose of disseminating knowledge about the subjects contained within this website. It is the result of the initiative and endeavour of the author and has not been endorsed or otherwise supported by any individual company or governmental institution, except for the information that they have provided.'

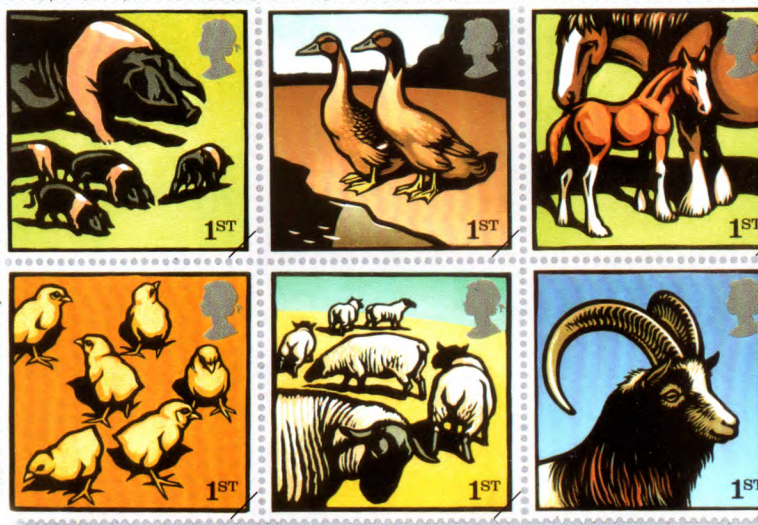
The main listings on the site detail stamp and postal stationery printers from 1840 to date. They are arranged by country, and the sources used include new issue reports, articles, catalogues, handbooks, company literature and the internet. Where appropriate factual information has been confirmed for accuracy by private correspondence with the firms concerned.

For each country the amount of detail varies. Some printers have only a minimal entry giving their name and the date upon which the first example of their stamp printing activity was recorded. With others, a lengthy history of security printing work is provided, and this is sometimes illustrated with examples of their work. The latter images may include printers' sample stamps, that will be of interest to Cinderella enthusiasts. A separate page provides an index to printers listed by their sets of initials, since these can often appear in the margins of stamp designs.

To extend the research potential of the site, past articles about stamp production that Glenn has written are reproduced, which cover visits to specific printing plants as well as more general subjects, like the use of holography in stamps. There are also two bibliographies included that cover many of the sources that were used during the site construction.

Amongst the 'other interests' areas of the site there are individual sections listing Glenn's articles on the Channel Islands, Letter Boxes, Royal Household Mail, Stamp Vending Machines, and a small group about miscellaneous philatelic subjects. The site also links directly with the internet copy of the priced catalogue of British Stamp Exhibition material that Glenn published initially in 1995. This has now been supplemented on the site with the listing of British Souvenir Mail that my brother James produced prior to his retirement from philately four years ago ●

Farm Animals A colourful new stamp issue



Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé
Security Print

Process Gravure

Size 35mm square

Sheet size 30 and 60

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter strips Horizontal

Cylinders and colours

All values E1 silver ● E1 black
● E1 cyan (blue) ● E1 magenta
● E1 yellow ● E1 phosphor

THE FIRST SPECIAL ISSUE of 2005 will feature Farm Animals and goes on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 11 January. The stamps, all 1st class, and printed in a se-tenant block of 10. Post office branches will be supplied with sheets of 30; sheets of 60, with gutter margin, will be supplied to Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 11 January, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Paddock, Huddersfield must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £3.71 UK or £3.16 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark) or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Paddock postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0501' or 'FD0502'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Paddock postmark. For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

SMILERS SHEET A new generic Smilers sheet containing 20 Farm Animal stamps will be available from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets, price £6.15. They will be printed by Walsall in litho.

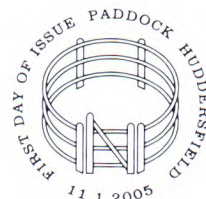
celebrates a unique part of Britain's heritage



The Farm Animals stamps are the work of Rose Design, using bold colourful illustrations by Chris Wormell, who designed the 26p Farmers' Tale stamp in the Millennium series of 1999. The illustrations on pages 82-83, also by Mr Wormell, are from the book *English Country Traditions*, by Ian Niall.

Top row pigs (British Saddleback), ducks (Khaki Campbell), horses (Suffolk), cattle (Dairy Shorthorn), dog (Border Collie).

Bottom chicks (Light Sussex), sheep (Suffolk), goat (Bagot), turkeys (Norfolk Black), and geese (Embsen).



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

A well-illustrated presentation pack (below) containing the 10 stamps (£3.30) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from Talents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack gives information about the animals featured on the stamps, with photographs by Peter Cade and illustrations by Chris Wormell.



Light Sussex

Suffolk

OINK

QUA

CHEEP

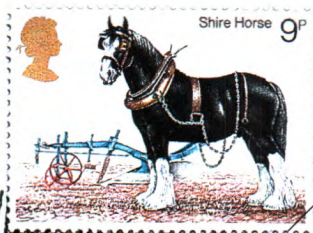
BA





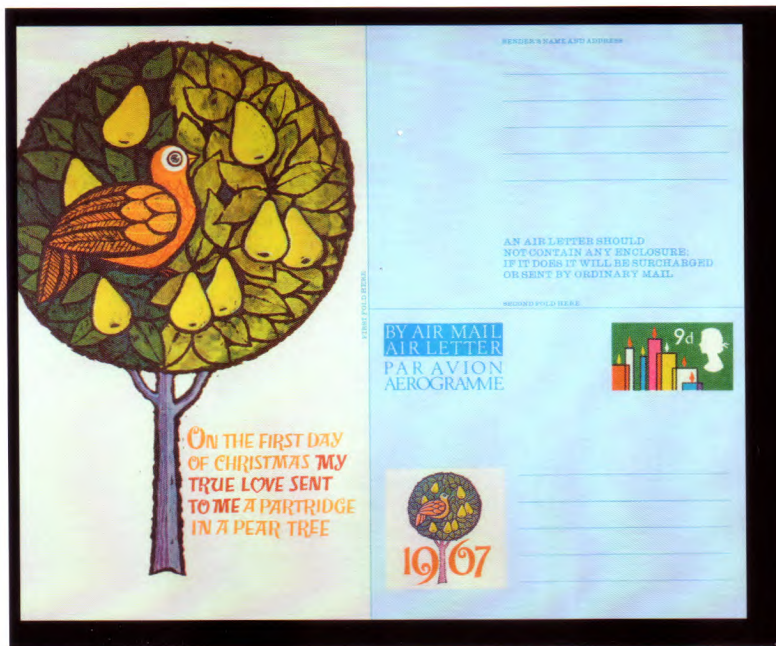
THIS IS THE FIRST SET of Royal Mail stamps dedicated to the topic of farm animals, although they have featured on a few stamps over the years, including: a Shire horse (opposite left, 1978), an Old English sheepdog (1979), horses and geese (31p British Fairs, opposite middle, 1983), Cattle (opposite right, 1984), a duckling (1990), Welsh Mountain sheep (1992), a cow (Patients' Tale 20p 2000) and plough horse (Farmers' Tale 26p 2000). Two stamps in the 1989 Food & Farming Year set featured meat and dairy produce. The Bagot goat, Gloucester Old Spot pig, Toulouse goose, and Orkney sheep featured on the covers of 50p stamp books in a Rare Farm Animals series of 1983 •





Christmas aerogrammes James Mackay

Clive Abbott's design for the secular aerogramme of 1967, based on a popular carol.



It is almost 40 years since Britain released its first Christmas aerogrammes (or air letters as they were then officially styled). They made their debut on 1 November 1965 and remained on sale until Christmas Eve. They bore a printed stamp with a face value of 6d but sold for 10d each.

There were two different air letters. Michael Goaman designed one with a stamp featuring a snowflake and Star of Bethlehem; a stylised angel appeared in the lower left-hand side of the address panel while a Nativity scene graced the back of the sheet. Richard Negus and Philip Sharland designed the air letter whose stamp showed a geometric representation of a snow crystal; the front panel bore a stylised tree and snowflake while the back panel had a snowflake motif. The reason for issuing two aerogrammes was to accommodate the wishes of people who wanted a sacred or secular subject. The aerogrammes were lithographed by Charles Skipper and East, a firm better known for printing cheques.

The inaugural series incorporated the Wilding portrait of The Queen, but in subsequent years the silhouette profile based on Mary Gillick's coinage effigy was substituted.

In 1966 there was only one aerogramme, now bearing a 9d stamp showing a Christmas rose, designed by Michael and Sylvia Goaman. Clive Abbott designed the pictorial panel showing a whimsical view of Santa Claus weaving in and out of the trees. Interestingly, although the postage had risen by 50 per cent, the actual selling price of the aerogramme remained fixed at 10d.

describes a tradition now nearly 40 years old



The religious version of the 1967 aerogramme, designed by Eric Fraser. Both versions bore the same 9d stamp, by Michael and Sylvia Goaman.

Secular and sacred In 1967 the Post Office reverted to its original dual policy of secular and sacred subjects. The first of these was designed by Clive Abbott and illustrated the partridge in a pear tree from the traditional carol 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. The sacred version, designed by Eric Fraser, showed the Magi bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus. Both aerogrammes had the same 9d impressed stamp, designed by the Goamans and showing stylised candles.

Two aerogrammes appeared in 1968, the secular version, by Geoffrey Treneman showing Santa Claus in a dirigible (back panel) and Santa firing off greetings in a cannon (address side). He also designed the stamp showing three Christmas lights. The religious aerogramme was the work of Peter Gauld and showed an angel blowing a trumpet and a chorister on the back and front respectively, with a Star of Bethlehem in the stamp.

The 1969 Christmas stamps were designed by Fritz Wegner in the style of medieval illuminated manuscripts, and this theme was continued in the sole aerogramme whose 9d stamp illustrated the flight into Egypt. Similar motifs appeared on the left side of the address panel and also the back which, for the first time, provided space for the sender's name and address.

In 1970, the Post Office reverted to separate designers for the stamps and air letter. The former featured miniatures from the De Lisle Psalter by Sally Stiff, and the aerogramme was designed by Peter Gauld who derived the stamp and panel images from stained glass windows in Great Malvern Priory Church and the Church of St Peter and St Paul, East Harling.

Opposite, from top left: the 1969 issue, by Fritz Wegner, 1979 by Peter Gauld, and 2003 by Andy Goldsworthy.

With the advent of decimalisation in February 1971, the aerogramme that Christmas was priced at 5p (a shilling in old money), representing the first price increase since 1966. Julian Gibb designed the aerogramme showing stylised representations of peace doves and globes, with doves and copperplate script in a spiral pattern on the left side. Laurence Scarfe designed the 1972 aerogramme with the theme of Christmas tree decorations on both stamp and side panels.

Gift wrapping paper was the theme of the motif for stamp and side panels designed by the Hulme Chadwick partnership for the 1973 aerogramme. The stamp, now priced at 6p, repeated the motif. Peter Gauld designed the Christmas carols sheet for 1974 which revived the Partridge in a Pear Tree for the front panel, with the Three Kings (stamp) and the herald angel and shepherds (back panel).

Revised format The layout of the 1975 sheet was altered in order to provide a continuous vertical decorative panel extending from the front and the whole left side of the back. Marjorie Saynor illustrated the Nativity, the Shepherds and the Wise Men after the manner of a medieval illuminated manuscript. The stamp, now 10½p, showed the Annunciation.

This set the pattern for later aerogrammes, with stamp to match. Nina Klein's theme for 1976 was carol-singers and party games. In 1977 Peter Gauld produced a robin stamp and a tree stacked high with gifts in the side panels, while Graham Percy reverted to the theme of festive scenes in the 1978 issue. The snowflake 12p stamp by Peter Gauld was matched by stylised trees and bells in 1979. In 1980 the stamp rose to 14½p but the area of the aerogramme was greatly increased. Carol Walklin designed the housetop stamp with panels showing the Magi presenting their gifts and angelic musicians. By 1981 the price of the stamp had jumped to 20p and Carol Walklin's stamp and panels illustrated dancing under the mistletoe and other seasonal jollity. In 1982 the stamp rose to 24p, when Angels were the theme. A year later, with the stamp now at 26p, Harry Titcombe's Christmas fauna and flora was a remarkable tour de force.

Undenominated stamp The price of the stamp was pegged at 26p for several years, during which we had Victorian coaching scenes (1984), pantomimes (1985), evergreens (1986) and winter sleigh scenes (1987). In 1988 the price went up to 27p for the sheet illustrating 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', but since then an undenominated stamp of a standard design with the Machin portrait of The Queen alongside has been used.

In more recent years the aerogrammes have featured Ely Cathedral (1989), children's Nativity plays (1990), angels (1991), Father Christmas (1992), Christmas cards marking their 150th anniversary (1993), the Three Kings again (1994), Christmas robins (1995), angels (1996) and Christmas crackers by John Gorham, following the theme of the stamps that year (1997). The most recent development has been the introduction of a Welsh version in 2001. Today, the cost of the aerogramme has risen to 52p – a far cry from the 10d (4p) of 1965 •

This year's airletter, on sale from 2 November, was shown here in September, page 18.



SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD
NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE,
IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

SECOND FOLD HERE

Designed by Peter Gaudin MSA
Printed by MRCorrespondence and Co. Ltd

AIR LETTER
BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION AÉROGRAMME



Sender's name and address
(please show post code)

An air letter should not contain any
enclosure: if it does, it may be surcharged
or sent by ordinary mail.

Designed by Peter Gaudin FSIAD
Printed by MRCorrespondence Printers Limited
for the British Post Office

SECOND FOLD HERE

By Air Mail Air Letter
Par Avion Aérogramme



BY AIR MAIL
par avion

Royal Mail

Airletter

Great
Britain
Postage
Paid



SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS (please show postcode)

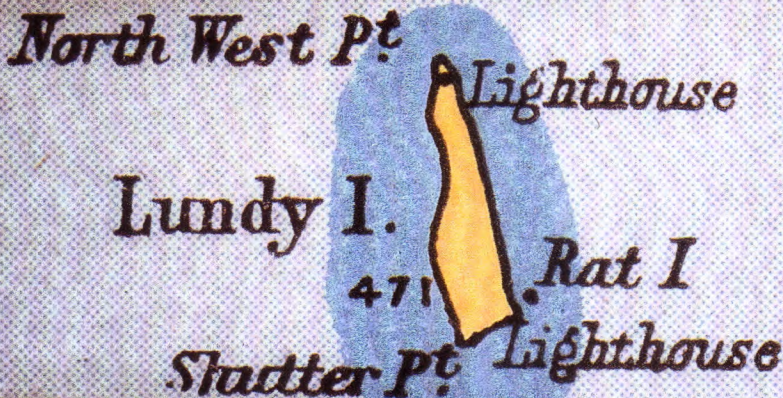
Postoffice

An airletter should not contain
any enclosure; if it does, it may be
surcharged or sent by ordinary mail.

Sculptures Photography
by Andy Goldsworthy
Designed by Black Design
Printed by Mail Solutions Limited
Design © Royal Mail Group plc 2003



The 75th anniversary of Lundy stamps



OVER THE YEARS more than 30 small offshore British islands have issued local stamps (sometimes known as local carriage labels). Some are issued in connection with a regular, bona fide local postal service, others are basically tourist souvenir labels, or simply bogus issues. This month marks the 75th anniversary of the first of the island issues – Lundy.

Lundy lies 12 miles north west of Hartland Point in Devon. A GPO sub post office operated on the island from 1886 to 1927 and examples of the datestamps used are now quite scarce. When this office closed, the then owner Martin Coles Harman organised his own local postal service to take the mail to the mainland. Lundy stamps were issued on 1 November 1929, since when over 300 stamps have been issued. The island remained in the hands of the Harman family until 1969; it is now owned by the National Trust and leased to the Landmark Trust. Visitors to the island travel on the Lundy mail and supply boat the *Oldenburg*.

The first two Lundy stamps quickly became known to philatelists and were treated to a considerable amount of press comments – not always favourable. The stamps depicted the puffin, one of the most commonly found birds on the island and in effect Lundy's 'national emblem'. Mr Harman had a sense of humour and his stamps were valued in the Lundy currency, the puffin (what else!) – ½ puffin and 1 puffin (½d and 1d). He even issued his own puffin coins but these were later suppressed after a lengthy legal battle. However the stamps have remained.

The range of issues was extended by 6p, 9p, and 12p values in 1930, and 2p, 3p, and 4p denominations in 1939. The latter showed a single standing puffin, and the three higher values showed the same number of puffins as the face values of the stamps. These served as the definitive issue until 1957. On several occasions they were overprinted – for example in 1940 for the Red Cross; some of the overprints were issued in very small numbers and are now eagerly sought after by collectors, especially in the USA.

The 1957 definitives used the same single puffin design as the 1939 issue. A new set was issued in March 1971 – in decimal currency – featuring island scenes and a puffin in an oval frame. They remained in use until 1974 when a new set of seven values (2p-20p) was issued, each showing a puffin's head. The same design was used in 1982, for 11 values (10p-23p). The current definitive design, showing two puffins and the Old Light(house), was introduced in 1991 – initially 14 values (5p-100p), replaced in 2002 by 11 stamps, eight denominated (6p-43p) plus 1st and 2nd class NV1 stamps for basic UK rates and an 'E' stamp for European mail. These were printed by Questa.

Amongst the most interesting of Lundy's commemorative stamps have been the issues for the 25th, 40th and 50th anniversaries of the Lundy postal service, issued in 1954, 1969, and 1979. A 75th anniversary set is due this month. Many Lundy stamps were designed by local artist John Dyke, who sadly died last year, and printed by major stamp printers including Bradbury Wilkinson, De La Rue, Harrisons, Walsall, and Questa.

Letters from Lundy can bear both a Lundy and British stamp or a Lundy stamp at the inclusive postal rate, in which case a meter mark is applied to indicate the Royal Mail postage. Several different designs of Lundy meter have been used since 1974 •



Lundy will feature on one of Royal Mail's British Journey: South West England stamps to be issued next February.

For details of Lundy stamps currently available write to: Lundy (Stamps), Bideford, Devon EX39 2LY. For island details see www.lundyisland.co.uk

Eminent early collectors Sir John Wilson, by Ron Negus

SIR JOHN WILSON, Bt KCVO was described in an obituary as 'the world's leading authority on classic stamps for well over half a century'. He had earned this accolade from his role as Keeper of the King's Philatelic Collection, and from his untiring efforts on behalf of organized philately. As chairman of the jury at more than 20 International Philatelic Exhibitions, his name became known to collectors overseas, as well as those in the United Kingdom.



John Mitchell Harvey Wilson was the second son of Sir David Wilson, and was born in Killelearn, Stirlingshire, about six miles from Loch Lomond, on 10 October 1898. He went to school at Harrow, where he was Head Boy. He finished his education at New College, Oxford, and then served as a Second Lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards. His service career ended when invalided out in 1919, following which he studied law. After qualifying as a barrister, he married Mary Elizabeth Richards in 1927 and lived in both the Scottish estate and his London home in Chelsea.

His father was a collector who liked to study his general collection with his sons, and John became interested in the hobby. In 1920, Sir David was ennobled and became the first Baronet. Upon his father's death, in March 1930, the title passed to John, as his elder brother had pre-deceased him. Sir John was required to spend part of his time looking after the family seat, and this involved much travelling to and from Scotland.

His time in London gave him the opportunity to follow up his hobby, and in 1921 he joined the Royal Philatelic Society. He soon got involved with its administration, and was appointed to the Council at the age of 25. It was a position he was to occupy for more than 50 years!

Russian specialist In his earlier collecting days, Sir John had been particularly attracted to classic foreign issues, and built up notable collections of Finland and Roumania. He made a speciality of Imperial Russian material, and possessed one

of the better collections of Zemstvo rural posts. His fine holding of the British Colonial issues was derived largely from his father's collection, but he disposed of this in the 1920s, when pressure of work left limited time for his hobbies.

Although he had relatively little material of his own, Sir John was regarded as a very knowledgeable philatelist, able to contribute meaningful comments to discussions about the issues of most countries. This wide-ranging knowledge stemmed from two sources. Firstly, his stewardship of the Royal Collection gave him access to the finer details of all British Commonwealth issues. Then, his work with the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society provided sight of rarities from around the world on a regular basis.

He had joined the Expert Committee in 1926, when he replaced (Sir) Edward Denny Bacon, a founder member of that body. At the time, it was not foreseen that Sir John would serve the Committee for so long – he was to be involved for the next 48 years. For the last 37 years he acted as Chairman, a record unlikely to be equalled.

Membership of the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society, which had begun in 1923, also kept him busy. Amongst his first duties, in 1925, was to advise on legal matters for the acquisition of 41 Devonshire Place, as the permanent home for the Society. Then in 1934, after a period as Vice-President, he was appointed as President.

Twice President Sir John's time as President was notable in that he held the post for six years – the maximum term allowed by the Articles of Association of the Society. It was surpassed in 1949, when he was appointed as President again, and served for another two years. In his first period as President, he was the chief organizer of an exhibition held in the Society's rooms in honour of King George V, and to commemorate the 25th anniversary of his reign. In the second period, he was the chairman of the organizing commit-

tee for the 1950 London International Exhibition. In recognition of the many services he had given to the Society, he was made an Honorary Life Fellow in 1950.

By a twist of fate, Sir John followed Sir Edward Denny Bacon in another position, as well as on the Expert Committee. This time it was upon his appointment as Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection in 1938, following Bacon's death two years earlier. Sir John held this position until 1969 serving under King Edward VIII, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II. Upon his retirement, he retained an association with the Royal Household by being appointed an Extra Gentleman Usher to The Queen, a position he held until his death. For his role with the Royal Collection, he was awarded the KCVO – like Bacon before him – an honour in the personal gift of the Sovereign.

One of the traditions followed by the Royal Philatelic Society is that the opening meeting in each season is devoted to a display of pages from the Royal Philatelic Collection, which is open to Fellows and Members only. At this meeting, the Keeper presents a commentary on the treasures on show. Sir John kept up this tradition for all the years he was at Buckingham Palace, and his talks were widely praised for their clarity and style of presentation. It was noted particularly how he was able to give these addresses without any reference to notes. Many colleagues felt that this was because his legal training led him to prepare his talks like a brief, using all relevant previously published accounts of the countries being shown.

Magnum opus To the benefit of philatelists everywhere, Sir John wrote his master work, *The Royal Philatelic Collection*, which described its holdings of all issues from 1840 to 1935. Published in 1952, this volume is now a highly prized item of philatelic literature, and commands a high price on the few occasions when a copy is offered at auction. It is profusely illustrated with many colour plates of pages from the actual collection itself. His efforts in producing this magnificent book were acknowledged by the Royal Philatelic Society when they awarded him the Crawford Medal in 1953. This added to other prestigious Society

awards. In 1950, he received the Tapling Medal for a paper written in the *London Philatelist* describing the British Guiana lithographed issues of 1853-60, and in 1969 he was the first recipient of the London Medal for services to the Society.

He was awarded many other philatelic honours during his lifetime. These included the Lichtenstein Medal of the Collectors Club of New York, and the Waller Award, the premier accolade in Dutch philately. He was a member of the French Académie de Philatélie, the Spanish Philatelic Academy and the American Philatelic Society's Hall of Fame. In addition he was a Life Member of many philatelic societies, in both the UK and America.

Stamp centenary Sir John was also a member of the Postmaster General's Advisory Committee for Stamp Design from its inception. In an earlier decade, he had been very active with the GPO in planning an exhibition scheduled for 1940, in London, to commemorate the Centenary of the Penny Black. He strongly advocated production of these centenary stamps in the form of a souvenir sheet with a suitable marginal inscription, and this idea was under active consideration by the GPO. However, the outbreak of the Second World War caused the exhibition to be cancelled and the six centenary stamps only appeared as singles.

Towards the end of his life, Sir John had indifferent health and spent time abroad in Mediterranean countries to avoid the English winter. He died peacefully at his Scottish home on 6 February 1975 at the age of 76. He was cremated four days later, following a funeral service at Killearn Parish Church attended by the President and the Hon Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society, as well as other officers. Lady Wilson, her three sons and their wives and his brother led family mourners, and John Marriott, who had succeeded Sir John as the Keeper of the Royal Collection, was in the congregation, representing Her Majesty. In his account of the service, John Griffiths, Hon Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society, wrote 'He was one of the finest philatelists there has ever been, a true giant amongst giants.' ●

Unending research Richard West interviews Harry Dagnall

IN OCTOBER, Harry Dagnall celebrated his 90th birthday. Although he dabbled with stamps as a schoolboy, Harry has become widely known for his desire to pursue the unknown, researching areas on which little has hitherto been published. It all really started in the late 1940s: a work colleague had a good collection of King George V Great Britain, prompting Harry to form a collection of one of each stamp issued by Great Britain, irrespective of condition. As he read and researched further he discovered that the adhesive postage stamp was not all that denoted that postage had been paid. He started looking at newspaper stamps, circular delivery stamps and College stamps, and so began an entire field of interest. Harry found that there was little information available on tax stamps in general: a wonderful opportunity to discover more had presented itself. One thing he has learned is not to spread one's interest too far, but to concentrate on a particular area.



However revenues have not been his sole interest. While living in Leicester he joined the Leicester Philatelic Society (and was its President and Secretary), subscribing to the Society's exchange packet. One of these packets included an entire book of early Thailand, which Harry quickly discovered were still moderately priced, including the SG1, and again offered an opportunity for research 'which suited me no end', not least the 'Att(s)' surcharges. He continued this collection for some years, entering Stampex, and joining the Thailand Philatelic Society and helping with the production of its journal, *Thailand Times*. In the end, only expensive gaps were left: there was no way forward with this collection.

When they were introduced, he made a study of postcodes and associated machinery, forming a collection and writing a book on the subject. He has also been involved with the Great Britain Philatelic Society, proofreading its journal.

There has even been a dabble with thematics, Harry's theme being 'Man Measures His Environment' on the subject of precise measurement. In 1968 he was the winner of the first Link House Trophy, awarded to the best thematic exhibit at Stampex.

At that time, most displays were either hand written, which was often indecipherable, or written up in exquisite calligraphy, in which case the writing-up often seemed more important than the material. Harry decided that his writing would emulate a medium with which most were familiar – newspapers. His writing-up was produced on a typewriter, in Times Roman, and fully justified, just like a newspaper. Unfortunately he rather defeated his own objective, for many were seemingly more attracted by his style of write-up.

Awards he has received include gold medals and the R A G Lee Trophy at Stampex, plus awards for his books, although he has never felt inclined to exhibit internationally. He pays tribute to the Williams brothers, Maurice and Nor-

Revenues are now his main collecting area, but not adhesives, preferring to concentrate on the 'stamped' items such as newspaper, hat, wallpaper, almanac and textiles stamps. So began years of research, resulting in the various books he has written. It has been very satisfying, such as examining the original Acts of Parliament, including unrolling original scrolls on which were written the original acts: 'It is a very rewarding method of research. You have in your hand the original parchment scrolls which were presented to Parliament and the Queen [Anne] for approval.' He feels he has become sentimentally involved with many who originally wrote the letters and documents he has had the privilege of holding at such places as the British Library, British Museum and Public Records Office (National Archive).

Harry was a founder member of The Revenue Society of Great Britain, writing for its journal and giving displays, until failing eyesight limited these activities. He is now an Honorary Member of the Society.

man, learning much from the weekly course on philately which they held in Middlesex.

Harry's material has come from many sources, although dealers have proved the least fruitful. Much has come from sales held by the Ephemera Society, as often those selling do not appreciate the importance of items. Many public libraries have transferred old newspapers to microfilm, giving Harry the opportunity to obtain original bound volumes. Second-hand booksellers have proved another useful source, and occasionally auctions.

Nothing has been mounted on album pages: Harry uses sheets of card cut to size. Most items are mounted using photo corners: he has a rule to mount everything as soon as acquired, even if that means re-mounting at a later stage. Everything is typewritten.

So has a man like Harry Dagnall anything left to achieve? His answer is a most certain 'yes'. 'I have a lot more to find out about even my own well-researched area. I still have some Government Papers to consult, now far from easy with my eyesight. You can never say you have finished researching.' ●

HARRY DAGNALL FACT FILE

Home Harry went to school in Willesden, where he also met his wife. He later moved to Amersham, and recalls watching the trains which had departed from Marylebone Station. After living in Leicester for a while, he returned to Middlesex.

Career Harry worked in Ilford's research laboratories, before moving on to optical instruments. He then went to the British Tabulating Machine Co, on to EMI, and then to the Rank Organisation. Then he moved to Leicester, to a photographic lens manufacturer applying electronics to zoom lenses for television, later moving on to high-precision measuring instruments.

Retirement Harry has done most of his philatelic research in retirement. He also spent a most rewarding time working at the National Postal Museum, being able to handle original artwork. He and his wife Margaret used to enjoy France and Switzerland for holidays; they were married in 1943, but sadly Margaret died 15 years ago. They have one son, who for a time collected Australia, but not seriously.

Favourite book Stephen Dowell's *The History of Taxes and Taxation in England*, and Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedias*.

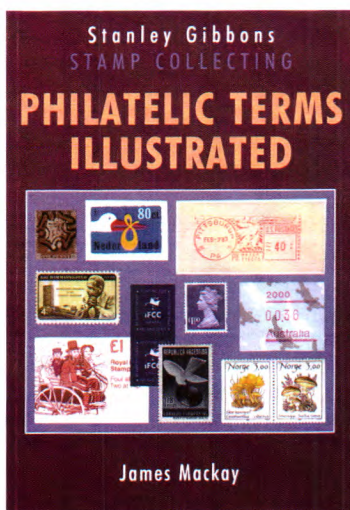
Dislikes Modern stamp design; however, he admires the work of David Gentleman, whose stamps he thinks are wonderful.

Hobbies Recording, having been a recording engineer for a time. Harry also enjoyed stereo photography, but failing eyesight has taken its toll.

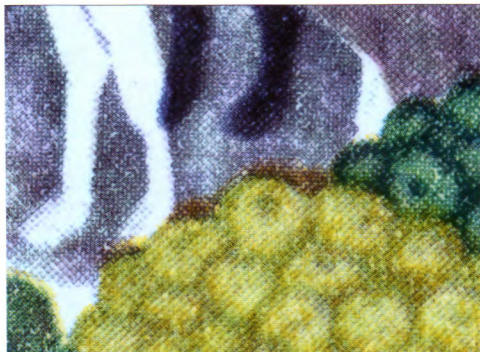
Proudest moments First, being nominated for a Rowland Hill Award, and second, being involved with the organisation of the exhibition held at Somerset House to mark 300 years of the Stamping Office (see *Bulletin* May 1994, page 269).

Prize draw Win James Mackay's *Philatelic Terms Illustrated*

FOR THIS MONTH'S DRAW we have five copies of the new *Philatelic Terms Illustrated* book to give away thanks to publishers Stanley Gibbons Ltd. To enter simply send you name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: PT1 Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ by 30 November. The book, compiled by James Mackay, is the ultimate guide to hundreds of philatelic terms, impressively illustrated in colour with material from SG's reference collection and from Dr Mackay's collections. Priced £14.95, it would make an ideal Christmas present for collectors of all ages. Available from Stanley Gibbons Strand shop or by post from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH (postage £3.50 UK, £8 Europe, or £12 rest of world). For a full review see January 2004 *Bulletin*, pages 133-34 ●



Competitions Win £200 in Royal Mail stamps and products



August identify The detail is from the Crimean War £1.12 stamp. The winner was J Boyt of Dorset.

August knowledge Answers: 1) House of Questa; 2) 1983; 3) DGA Myall. The winner was C Bird of Birmingham.

Ten runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to November *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to November *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 What were the colours of the 1967 189d Machin stamp?
- 2 Where is the 5th ABPS National Exhibition being held this month?
- 3 Who designed the 1988 Transport & Communications stamps?

Send your answer (addressed to either November *Identify* competition or November *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 15 December will each receive £100 worth of Royal Mail stamps and related products. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

28-30 October Philatex at Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, London SW1. **Enquiries** 01793 513431 / 020 8946 4489 or www.stampshows.co.uk

30 October Bolton PS Annual Stamp Fair and North West Federation of Phil Socs Annual Competitions at Canon Slade School, Tonge Moor Road, Bolton. **Enquiries** Brian Fielding, 01204 307252.

9 November 'The Machin Design' lecture by Douglas Muir at Postal Heritage Trust. See p73.

12-14 November International Congress on Philatelic Expertising, Merano-Meran, Italy. See p68.

13 November Maidstone & Mid Kent PS stamp fair at Grove Green Community Centre, Maidstone, 10.00. **Enquiries** Mrs E Gardner, 01622 762740.

14 November Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors AGM, Harlow, Essex. See p69.

20-21 November Basildon 2004, ABPS National Exhibition, at Towngate Centre, Basildon. See p68.

20 November GB Philatelic Society meeting 'German Occupation of the Channel Islands' by Alan Moorcroft at Basildon 2004 exhibition, 14.45.

27 November Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors 'pub meeting' at Ship & Shovel, Craven Passage, London WC2, 15.00. **Enquiries** R Park, 2 Chaffich Close, Horsham RH12 5HA.

27 November Phil Soc Annual Fair at Pudsey Civic Hall. Includes regional meeting of the GB Philatelic Society ●

Late news

Royal Mail update The trial of the Automated Postal Service machines in London (Broadgate), Luton and Alfreton was extended from 30 September to 20 October. See *Bulletin* June (p319), August (p381) and September (p24) for details.

Readers may notice slight differences in the shade of colour of The Queen's head and value on the Crimean War stamps (all values). This was caused by different inks used, both of which are within Royal Mail's level of colour tolerance to printers. The 2nd class Christmas stamps were printed from D2 cylinders, as well as D1 as announced in September •

Bulletin success This year the *Bulletin* was again among the finalists for Best Use of Typography in the Magazine Design Awards. This is our fifth nomination in three successive years, including two for the best designed customer magazine •

Joint Christmas cover Royal Mail has joined with the Isle of Man to bring together two classic Raymond Briggs Christmas creations – Father Christmas (RM stamps) and The Snowman (IOM stamps 2003) on a commemorative cover. The six Father Christmas stamps are cancelled with a Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark and the five Snowman stamps by a Douglas, Isle of Man postmark. The envelope (size 16.3 x 23cm) features a Raymond Briggs illustration. Price £7.95, on sale for one year or until stock exhausted if sooner. Available from Royal Mail Tallents House (code: xA 034) or Isle of Man Philatelic Bureau. This is the first Royal Mail collaboration with another UK postal administration in more than 12 years •

Stampex The winner of the Silver Mail Coach Trophy was 'Mayflower' for an exhibit of GB Line Engraved. The Royal Mail Trophy went to Lady Mairi Bury, also for an exhibit of GB Line Engraved. Constantin Mattheos received the R A G Lee Trophy for Large Hermes Heads of Greece, and the National Philatelic Society Trophy went to Graham Booth for Cayman Islands Provisionals 1907-8. Jury Chairman Dr Alan Huggins said

'although there were a slightly reduced number of entries this year, the overall standard of the exhibits was very good and a number were truly outstanding'. Stampex report next month •

World Stamp Championship The gold medal (and Spink trophy) winner in the Championships, held in Singapore, was Surajit Gongvatana of Thailand with his display of Siam 19th century stamps and postal history. In second and third place were Saverio Imperato of Italy (Tuscany) and Kowchi Sato of Japan (Tasmania). In the accompanying Singapore 2004 exhibition, British entrants collected one large gold, six gold, four large vermeil, five vermeil, four large silver and a silver awards. Congratulations to Brian Trotter (large gold), and to Sheila Foster, Dr Paul Hirsch, Brian Sole, David Tett, Brian Trotter and Dr Arthur Wood (gold). The exhibition was well organised, although the hoped-for 100,000 attendance was not achieved. The 400 competitive entries filled some 2000 frames and there were also 130 literature entries. The Grand Prix d'Exposition was won by Hugo Goeggel of Columbia for 'Classic Ecuador' •

Auction news Harmer's 2 September All World auction included a fine block of four 1840 Penny Black from plate VIII with letters KJ-LK used on an envelope dated 6 January 1841 from London to Tenterden with 'T.P./Temple' marking alongside. Blocks from plate VIII are rare, and this was reflected in its price of £15291 (estimate £6000). A brilliant, unmounted mint example of the rare 1867-83 Watermark anchor £5 orange stamp also proved the strength of the GB market, achieving £5881 (est £4000). A complete sheet of 40 1918-19 Bradbury Wilkinson 2s6d chocolate-brown printed on ribbed paper went for £9410 (£3000). November auctions: Seychelles and Air Mails of the World. Enquiries: Harmers 020 8747 6100 •

Bulletin back issues C Purvis has a near complete run from October 1969 to January 2000 for anyone who can collect from him in the Stratford/Warwick area. Contact him on 01789 841605 •

2004 Yearbook and Yearpack



How will you remember 2004? It's certainly been a year of stunning stamp themes and designs, including Classic Locomotives, Ocean Liners, The Royal Horticultural Society, as well as the forthcoming Crimean War and Christmas issues. A full set of the year's Special stamps is contained in the 2004 Yearbook together with 150 high quality photographs and illustrations, a detailed narrative about each of the issues and exclusive interviews. A perfect marker of 2004 and an ideal gift, the limited edition Yearbook has an embossed hard-back cover with a hand-finished slipcase and each is individually numbered. It is available leather-bound and can be personalised.

To pre-order your 2004 Yearbook or the 2004 Yearpack which contains all of the year's Special stamps in a specially designed folder, call 08457 641 641.

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