The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

April 2020 | £2.15

Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 57 No.8

Poems by post



words that transcend time

The Romantic Poets

stamp issue 7 April

LONDON EXPOS REVIEW • MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY • STAMP POLL RESULTS

Celebrating Britain's rich philatelic history



The London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition Stamp Book

A key theme of the London 2020 show will be the 180th anniversary of the Penny Black which Royal Mail will be marking with a number of special products. The Stamp Book has already been issued in advance of the event. The book houses six First Class stamps comprising two Penny Black, two Twopenny Blue and two Penny Red stamps which were first issued in 2015/16. It also bears the London 2020 show logo as well as details of the venue and dates on which the exhibition takes place. The book has been printed in gravure by International Security Printers and the stamps are self-adhesive. Royal Mail's London 2020 products will be available to purchase at the show, and can also be bought online at **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or by calling **03457 641 641** (+44 3457 641 641 from overseas).

Royal Mail



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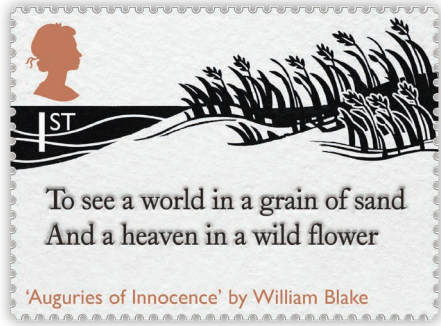
Uniform prices for soldiers Cheaper postage rates for NCOs serving from 1795 **252**

Editor Tim Lees, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.15 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £20.95 UK and Europe; £26.95 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.68 and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £10.16, are also available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 2633 2310 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

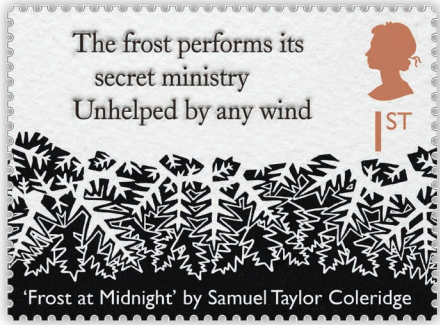
The Romantic



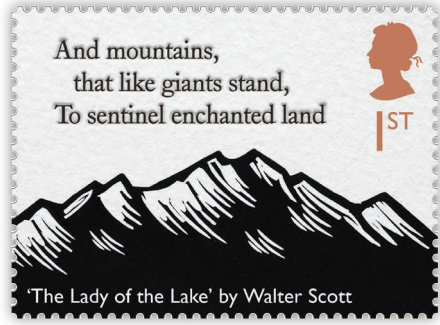
The Progress of Rhyme by John Clare



Auguries of Innocence by William Blake



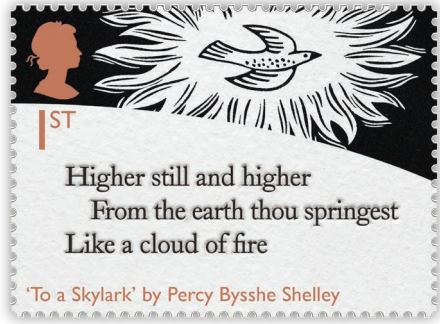
Frost at Midnight by Samuel Taylor Coleridge



The Lady of the Lake by Walter Scott

The Romantic Poets – Stamp Specifications

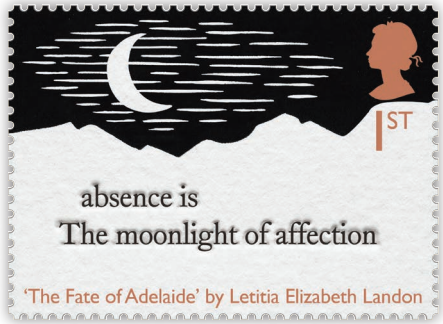
Date of issue	7 April
Number of stamps	10 x 1st Class (two horizontal se-tenant strips of five)
Design	The Chase
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	25/50
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



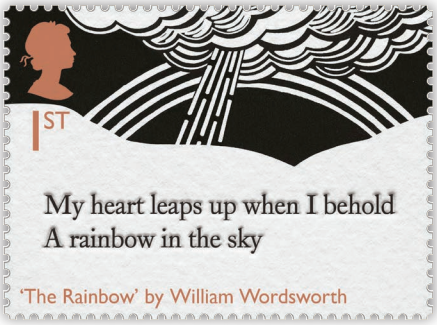
To a Skylark by Percy Bysshe Shelley

POETS

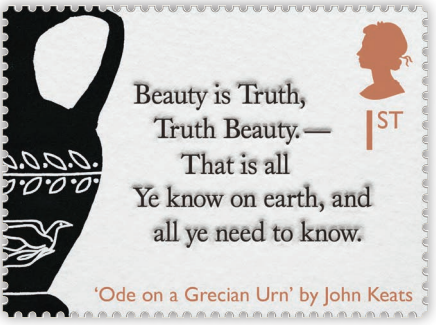
The Romantic Poets stamp issue gives you chapter and verse on one of the greatest literary movements in history. Ten First Class stamps feature famous lines by the masters of Romantic poetry, including Wordsworth, Byron, Shelley, Coleridge and Keats. The set, out on 7 April, is accompanied by a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards and two prestigious Coin Covers.



The Fate of Adelaide by Letitia Elizabeth Landon



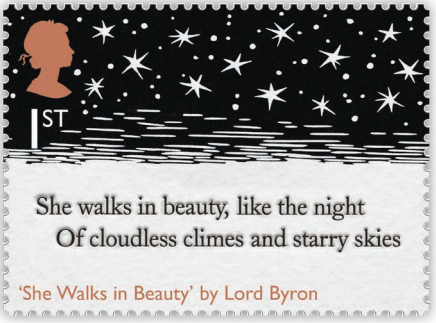
The Rainbow by William Wordsworth



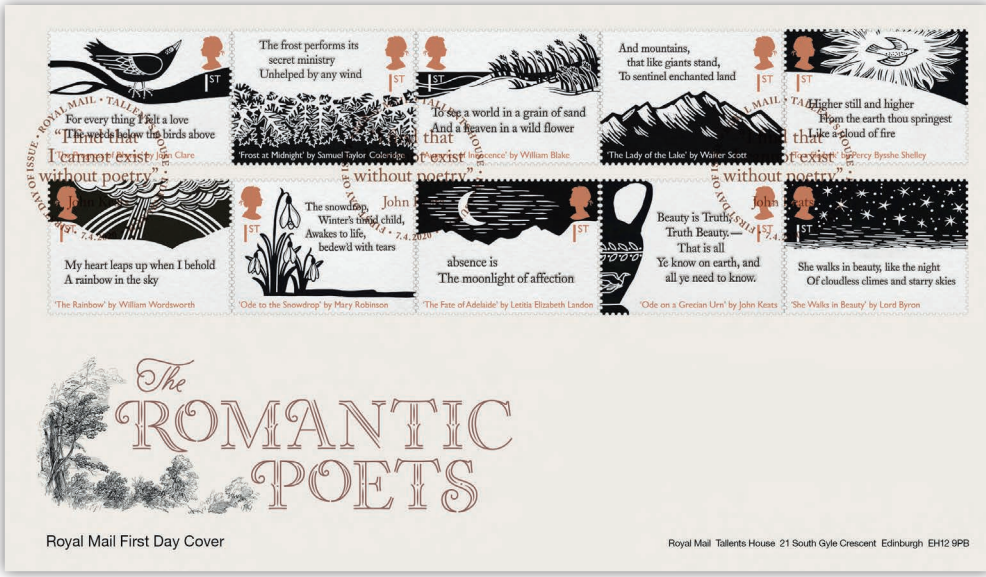
Ode on a Grecian Urn by John Keats



Ode to the Snowdrop by Mary Robinson

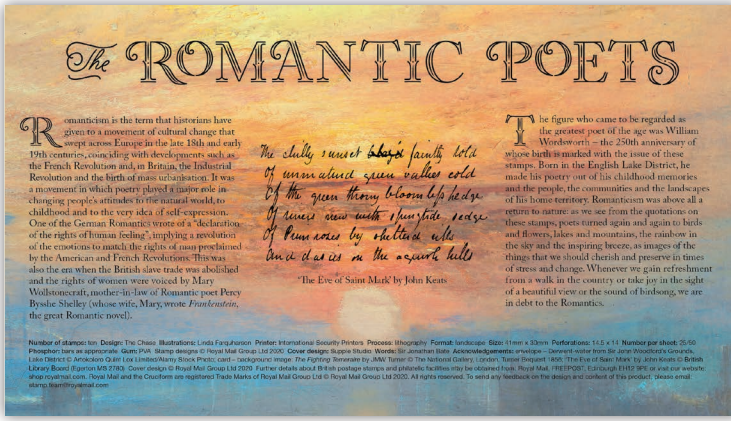


She Walks in Beauty by Lord Byron

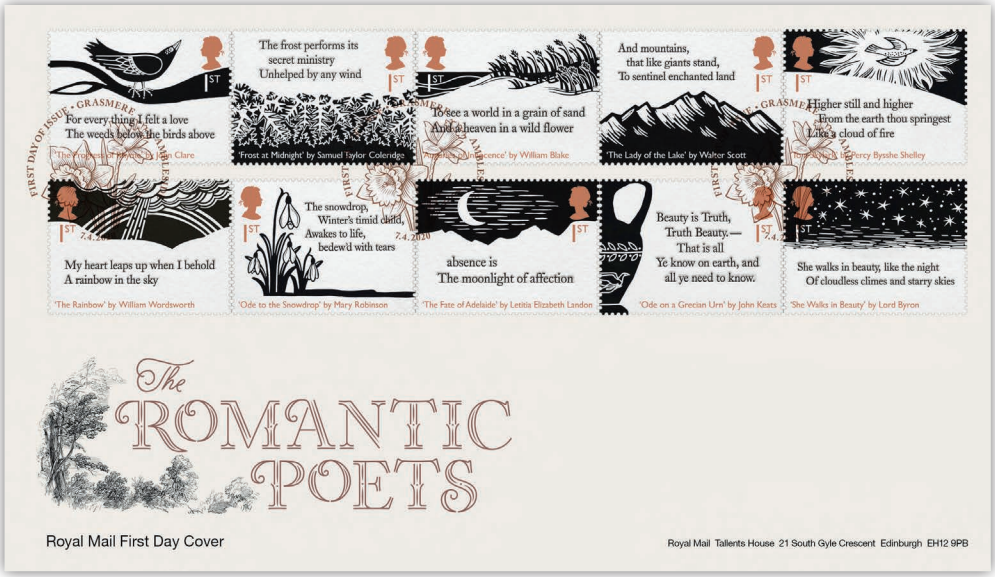


First Day Cover with stamps cancelled with the Tallents House handstamp, which has a quote by Keats; 'I find that I cannot exist without poetry'. Opposite: First Day Cover with alternative postmark with the Grasmere, Ambleside location – a place that William Wordsworth fell in love with and chose to have as his first family home. The illustration takes inspiration from Wordsworth's poem, *I wandered lonely as a cloud* and the line 'A host, of golden daffodils'

The birth of a rainbow, a bird in soaring flight, the first snowdrops, an elegant vase from classical Greece, one man's memory of an exquisite woman. On these beautifully composed stamps, finely crafted lines from the Romantic poets' best works reveal their favourite meditations: nature, art and beauty. Yet some aspired to grittier issues in their lines and in their lives – and their lives were often as dramatic and dizzying as their poetry. This is unsurprising as their era, the late 18th and early 19th centuries, was one of political upheaval and social change. On one of the stamps here, the opening words to William Blake's *Auguries of Innocence*, seemingly a homage to the power of nature, roll on to demand rights and freedom, justice and peace. On another, Lord Byron writes of love, of a woman who 'walks in beauty'; yet he was a radical in his way, a political peer defending the rights of poor



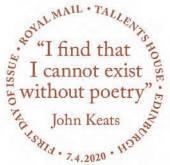
The Filler Card gives a brief overview of Romanticism, a period of cultural change in the late 18th century and, arguably, the movement's most renowned poet, William Wordsworth



weavers in his constituency, and joining the armed struggle of the Greeks to free themselves from the imperial grip of the Ottomans. One of the featured poets, Mary Robinson, was a passionate feminist. Even the peaceful, happily domestic William Wordsworth had in younger, wilder times visited revolutionary France and befriended rebel leaders.

Wordsworth – the new issue celebrates the 250th anniversary of his birth – was, however, perhaps the most settled of the Romantics, writing of nature and humanity's place in it, at Dove Cottage on the edge of Grasmere in his beloved Lake District. Here he lived with his devoted sister Dorothy, here he produced *The Rainbow*, featured in the set. The poem is only nine lines long, but getting it just right caused him much anxiety. He wrote it rapidly in a single sitting, one March night in 1802, in the time it took for his sister to prepare for bed. Two months later, he worked into the small hours making revisions, 'haunted with altering the Rainbow', recalled Dorothy in her journal. This moment of angst aside, Wordsworth was inspired by the natural world around him – even when he wasn't composing on the Lakeland fells or in his study. Dove Cottage had an uninterrupted view to the waters of Grasmere and the meadows in between. Wordsworth would keep his curtains open at night, so he could watch the moonlight reflected on the lake. And it was during an outing on a stormy spring day – less than three weeks after writing *The Rainbow* – that he happened to spot a stand of daffodils at Gowbarrow, by the lake at Ullswater. It was the chance encounter that inspired one of the world's most famous poems.

In 1813 Wordsworth was appointed Distributor of Stamps for Westmoreland, the generous salary giving him the financial stability to pursue his poetry without interruption. And he lived long, until 80, giving him time to create a huge body of work, including *The Prelude*, *Lyrical Ballads* and *The Excursion*. ▶



FD2010-TH



FD2010-PL



FD2010-NP



Presentation Pack Outer (above) and Presentation Pack Inner (right)

The pack is written by Romanticism specialist and academic, Sir Jonathan Bate. He gives insight into the poets celebrated on the stamps, in particular their influence on and importance during the Romantic period. The impact of Romanticism as a movement is also considered. The pack's design is influenced by renowned artists from the Romantic period; the front background image is *Dawn after the Wreck* by Joseph Mallord William Turner and the rear background image is *Cloud Study* by John Constable



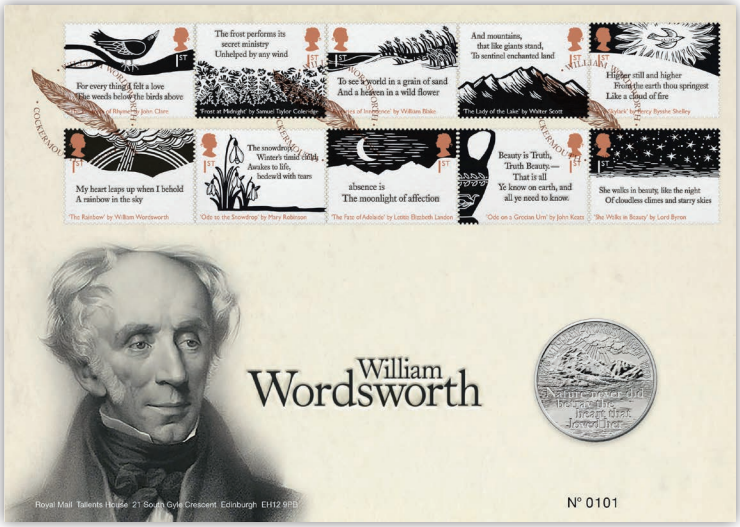
The Presentation Pack which houses all ten Special Stamps from The Romantic Poets issue

Many other Romantic poets were not so lucky. The beauty of their verse was often accompanied by the ugly tragedy of their lives. Though perhaps that makes their work more precious. Take poor John Keats. In his most famous work, 1819's *Ode on a Grecian Urn*, he proposed that culture can elevate the human condition, articulated in those deathless final lines on one of the new stamps: 'Beauty is Truth, Truth Beauty'. The truth of his own fate was less pretty. Keats died of tuberculosis in Rome aged 25. Even on his death bed, however, he was creative. Commenting on the consumptive blood he was coughing up, Keats turned it into a metaphor: 'That drop of blood is my death warrant. I must die.'

Likewise, Percy Bysshe Shelley's life was a cocktail of sublime poetry and poignant tragedy. His featured poem, *To a Skylark*, was inspired by the haunting song of a skylark he heard in Italy in the summer of 1820, on an evening walk with his wife Mary Wollstonecraft (author of *Frankenstein*) along a lane lined with myrtle hedges and lit by fireflies. It was a happy moment, yet the poem is not without a sad sense of unfulfilled longing, the idea that happiness, like a bird in flight, is elusive. Ultimately happiness escaped Shelley's grasp. Two years later, the Shelleys, with Mary pregnant, were back in Italy staying on the Ligurian coast, their marriage in near-ruins. Mary miscarried, tended by her distraught husband. The poet had a breakdown, and was terrorised by visions. He took out his boat in a storm in the Gulf of Spezia, drowning, aged just 29, when the vessel sank. A book of Keats's poems was found on his body. Shattered, his widow paid tribute to a poet's life with a poetic gesture of her own: after his cremation, she kept the remains of his heart for the rest of her days.

The literary superstar of his time, Byron was perhaps the most flamboyant of the Romantics. And he was certainly romantic way beyond the poetic meaning. He had a prolific interest in women; no wonder one of his many lovers, the aristocratic novelist Lady Caroline Lamb, called him 'mad, bad and dangerous to know'. A total character, Byron kept a pet ►

William Wordsworth BU Coin Cover: the full set of ten stamps from The Romantic Poets issue are cancelled with the handstamp that has the location Cockermouth, in reference to Wordsworth's birthplace. The illustration of a quill is also appropriate – given that Wordsworth would have used them for his work in the late 17th century

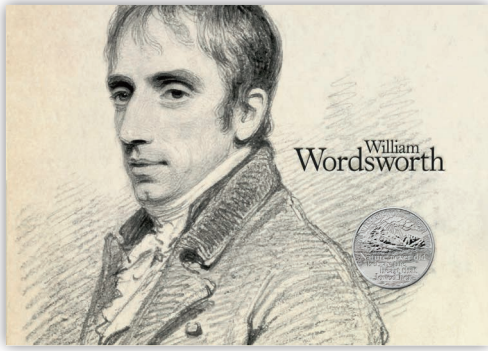






William Wordsworth BU Coin Cover Insert Inner

The Romantic Poets – Prices	
Set of 10 Special Stamps	£7.60
Presentation Pack	£8.50
First Day Cover Stamps	£9.80
Stamp Souvenir	£9.80
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (10 in set)	£4.50
BU Coin Cover (limited edition of 10,000)	£19.95
Silver Proof Coin Cover (limited edition of 750)	£82.50



William Wordsworth BU Coin Cover Insert Front

bear as a Cambridge undergraduate, and was fond of wearing Albanian dress; he swam the Hellespont during a tour of Turkey; he mercilessly mocked John Keats, pretending he couldn't remember his name, calling him 'Jack Keats or Ketch or whatever his names are'. The author of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (which made him instantly famous) and Don Juan largely spent his energies on pursuing the opposite sex and writing brilliant poetry. And sometimes both at the same time, as proven by his poem *She Walks in Beauty*, featured in the new issue. It was inspired by his first sight of Ann Wilmot, a cousin by marriage, at a party in London. He had finished the poem the following morning. Ann had worn a black dress covered with spangles – perhaps that is the origin of Byron's ardent simile, that Ann walked 'like the night of starry skies'. It certainly shows that, like many of the greatest poets, he lived his craft in every breathing moment of his existence ●

Poets Quiz

1 Which poet was also appointed Distributor of Stamps?
a) Keats
b) Wordsworth
c) Shelley

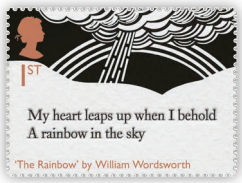
2 In what year was *Ode on a Grecian Urn* written?
a) 1818
b) 1819
c) 1820

3 Which of these poems was not written by Wordsworth?
a) *Don Juan*
b) *The Prelude*
c) *Lyrical Ballads*

4 What is the missing word: 'The snowdrop, Winter's ..... child'
a) quiet
b) small
c) timid



5 How many lines long is *The Rainbow*?
a) five
b) seven
c) nine



How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Poets Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.lees2@royalmail.com.
Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win The Romantic Poets Presentation Pack.
Closing Date 15 May 2020.
January solutions Video Games Quiz 1)a 2)b 3)b 4)c 5)a.
Winners Robin Reid, Somerset; Peter C Offord, Fleetwood; Mrs J Wilkes, Stourport on Severn; Mr G J Mills, Chelmsford; Paul Moulton, Eastbourne.

Terms and conditions Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or 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. 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 stated. For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. Royal Mail's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. Prizes are subject to 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. The winners' names are available 28 days after closing date. To receive this please send an SAE to The Editor.

Memories are made of this

As philatelists home and abroad look forward to London 2020, Richard West MBE FRPSL rolls back the years and reflects fondly on the capital's international stamp shows



London hosted its first international stamp exhibition in May 1890 to mark the 50th anniversary of the world's first adhesive postage stamps, the famous Penny Black and Twopenny Blue. A further five international exhibitions were held up to 1934, but one planned for 1940, the centenary of the first stamps, had to be cancelled as a result of the war. Ten years later, in 1950, a pattern began of having an 'international' in London every ten years.

For 1960, the first in the current reign, the approach was more ambitious than before, the venue being the Royal Festival Hall on London's South Bank. Much of the available space was taken up by the standholders and

1960

July 9-16



Souvenir sheet in honour of Henry Bishop



Second souvenir sheet depicting rare stamps

competitive exhibits, together with some special displays. However, to cram in as much as possible, every nook and cranny was used, making locating some of the exhibits quite difficult. The exhibition ran from 9 to 16 July. Two days before the opening, the Post Office issued its first commemorative set for two years: two stamps, 3d and 1/3, to mark the 300th anniversary of the General Letter Office, released on 7 July. The appointment in 1660 of Henry Bishop as Postmaster General was marked by an exhibition souvenir sheet depicting postal markings inspired by Bishop.

A second souvenir sheet showed famous stamp errors. The logo of the exhibition was the Tudor Rose, this featuring in the slogan postmark applied to mail posted at the exhibition on each day except 14 July. A handstamp, again depicting the Tudor Rose, was used for packet and registered mail. ►



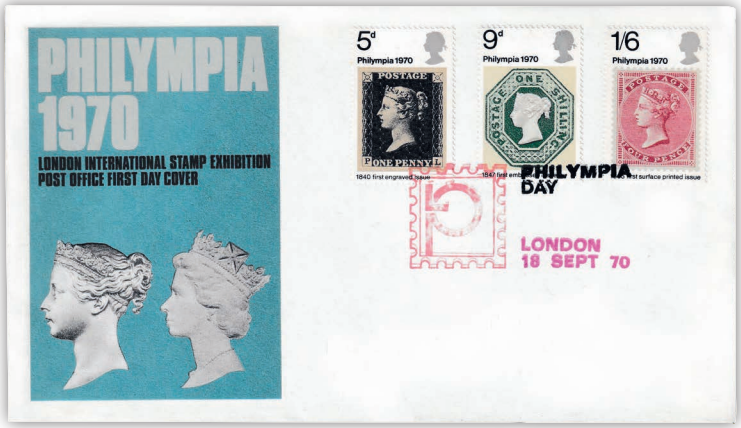
Slogan postmark used during the exhibition

Items had to be posted at the Post Office stand. In those days the stamps on sale were primarily the definitive series. The current ranges were made available in four special packs. These comprised: the Wilding definitives from ½d to 1/6; the Castle high values of 2/6, 5/-, 10/- and £1; the phosphor-graphite series from ½d to 4½d (these were described as 'experimental', the pack containing two sets to show both the front of the stamps, and the gummed side with the black graphite lines); the 'Regional' stamps from Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. These packs were priced in Sterling, but would later be sold in North America priced in dollars (the high value pack additionally exists showing no price).

At this juncture there was no postal museum in Great Britain. As a result there was great interest in the Post Office Exhibit that took pride of place at the exhibition. It was divided into two sections. The first traced the history of the postal service, from a letter of 1419, and included the Post Office Act of 1660, the work of Henry Bishop, William Dockwra, Ralph Allen, John Palmer and, of course, Rowland Hill. Also featured were items that told the story of Travelling Post Offices and Aerial Post. The second section featured notable British stamps, from the Penny Black to the 1d of 1953, and including the 'VR' Penny Black, Penny Red from plate 77, 'I.R. Official' 10/- and King Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum. This second section also included material from British Columbia and Vancouver Island, British Post Offices in China, Nauru, Jamaica, Mauritius, Tangier, Egyptian Expeditionary Force and Western Australia. Among the competitive exhibits was one from Reginald M. Phillips of Brighton studying Great Britain from 1840 to 1891. It was awarded the Grand Prix. Later this collection would be presented to the nation by Phillips to form the basis of the National Postal Museum, officially opened by Her Majesty The Queen in 1969.



Current definitives were sold in special packs, including the Castle high values



First day cover of the three stamps issued to mark Philympia, showing the three-colour handstamp

1970

Sept 18-26

The 1960s witnessed a 'wind of change' for British stamps, with more issues, colourful and pictorial, plus a relaxing of the criteria. Stamps were now big news, so expectations were high for the exhibition held in 1970. The venue was the Empire Hall of Olympia, the exhibition occupying four floors and given the name Philympia, open from 18 to 26 September. Heading up the project was Ronald A. G. Lee who was full of ideas. The exhibition saw two firsts. It was publicised by a 5/- stamp booklet issued on 3 March 1970 (containing advertising from stamp dealers). Ron Lee suggested that, instead of the usual black, red thread be used for the binding. More significantly, three stamps were issued on the opening day to mark the event. Designed by David Gentleman, depicted were three significant Queen Victoria stamps: the first line engraved, Penny Black (5d value); the first embossed stamp, 1/- green (9d); the first surface-printed stamp, 4d carmine (1/6).

The exhibition was publicised by a slogan postmark, used for two periods in the London area: from 2 to 14 June and from 18 August to 24 September, on both occasions in London EC, SW1 and WC. For each day of the exhibition a handstamp was in use, differing in design each day. Another idea from Ron Lee, these each appeared in three colours, a combination of black, blue, red and magenta. Apart from the standholders and competitive exhibits, there were many special features, not least the Court of Honour that, in addition to selections from the Royal Philatelic Collection and the collection of S.A.S. Prince Rainier of Monaco, was able to include items from the newly-opened National Postal Museum. In another section were rarities from the philatelic collections then held by the British Museum. ►

A 5/- booklet publicised Philympia



The famous block of 48 of the Twopenny Blue (bottom four rows from the sheet), the largest known, found in a leather writing case in the desk in the library that had been used by the Duke of Buccleuch, that sold for 6,000 guineas when first sold at auction, was also on display. Still very much in the mind at the time was the first landing on the Moon, so the display from the USA Department of Posts, showing the cover that was carried to the Moon and a piece of Moon rock, proved popular. Exhibits from the major stamp printers and from the archives of several overseas Post Offices were also included. There was a large British Post Office stand, offering most post office services, which also included a 100-seat cinema. Centrepiece of the exhibition was a model of the Post Office Tower, 66 feet high and covered in modern British stamps. The Tower had been opened in 1965. On most days visits were available not only to the Post Office Tower, but also to the National Postal Museum, the Post Office Records, and the Western District Office. Indeed, every day there were full- and half-day excursions provided for those who wanted a break from stamps for a while.

Poster publicity had been extensive, both in post offices and in Underground stations, but a newspaper strike did seem to have an impact on the numbers attending, which amounted to 65,000, about 10,000 fewer than had been hoped. The organisers were also disappointed at the sale of souvenir covers, far fewer than anticipated. Nevertheless, the exhibition had provided the encouragement to all concerned, not least the Post Office, to look forward to 1980.

Posters advertising the Philympia stamp exhibition of September 1970





1980

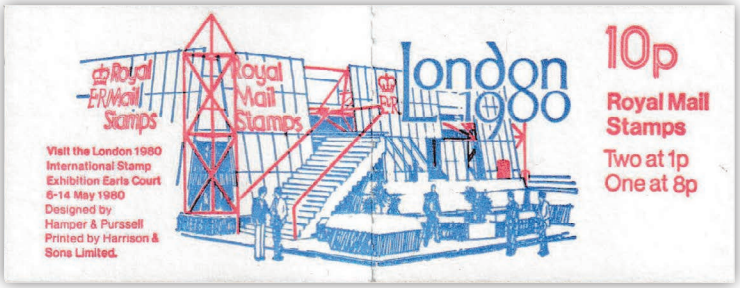
May 6-14

While both the 1960 and 1970 exhibitions had each made a modest profit, costs, especially of suitable venues, were ever rising. Come the time to start planning for 1980, the Post Office agreed to help the funding by producing miniature sheets sold at a premium, this going to the exhibition. The venue chosen was the best known in London, Earls Court, sadly no more. The dates, 6 to 14 May, included the all-important 6 May, recalling the first official day of use of the Penny Black. Three sheets were produced, the first appearing on 1 March 1978 incorporating the four Historic Buildings stamps issued the same day. The second sheet, combining the four stamps to mark the Centenary of the Death of Sir Rowland Hill, was issued on 24 October 1979, although the stamps themselves had been released on 22 August. A late change in postal rates meant the stamps and miniature sheets had to be re-printed, and supplies of both could not be made available on the same day. The final sheet was issued on 7 May featuring the 50p stamp released on 8 April to mark the exhibition.

This stamp, featuring London Landmarks, was designed by Jeffery Matthews (who also designed the exhibition logo), who still regrets that the basis for the engraving for the stamp was a drawing he produced which he had not intended to be the final version. Also on 7 May appeared five stamps designed by Sir Hugh Casson, again depicting London Landmarks. The premium added to the first two sheets was 10p, and 25p to the third. The total raised was nearly £3million, more than enough to ensure an outstanding event. And so it proved to be. Further publicity came from a 10p stamp booklet issued on 17 October 1979, and slogan postmarks in use from 2 July 1979. ►

50p stamp released for London 1980, also issued as the third miniature sheet





10p stamp booklet publicising London 1980

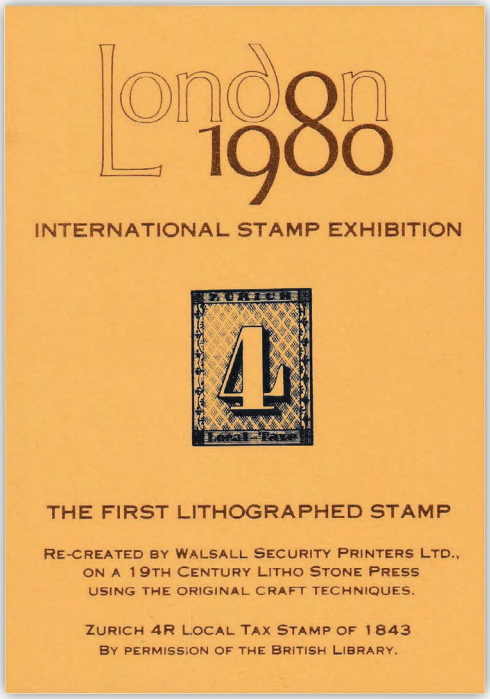


More publicity from slogan postmarks

Souvenir sheets produced by The House of Questa, Harrison & Sons, and Walsall Security Printers, completed by the printers at the exhibition







Publicity labels showing scenes of London and British stamps were produced, printed by The House of Questa. The British Post Office stand was on two tiers, selling not only the current issues, but also providing a handstamping service, the handstamps – different for each day – continued the theme of London landmarks. For the first time the Post Office was prepared to hand back covers after handstamping.

Each of the three main printers of British stamps, Harrison & Sons, The House of Questa, and Walsall Security Printers, had feature areas. Each was demonstrating aspects of the production process, and made available souvenir sheets to highlight these. Harrisons had pre-printed its sheet in recess, using a printing press and perforating machine on the stand to produce the final product. Likewise Questa used a modern lithographic press to complete its souvenir sheet, while Walsall took a glimpse at the past with a 19th century litho stone press. However, probably the most innovative part of the exhibition was the area devoted to encouraging the younger collector. Created in the form of a country railway station, Little Licking, combining demonstrations, quizzes, a 'design-a-stamp' competition, plus a cinema and display of railways on stamps, it was the brainchild of Sydney Leverton of the Stamp Collecting Promotion Council. Many of the world's most famous stamps were on show, with selected items from the Royal Philatelic Collection, National Postal Museum, British Library Philatelic Collections and the archives of the Crown Agents, plus extracts from many of the world's outstanding collections, and a display of stamp boxes and letter balances. The many trade stands, large representation from overseas postal administrations and competitive exhibits added to the attractions. The attendance was just short of 100,000, with one very special visitor. Her Majesty The Queen graciously visited the exhibitions, enthusiastically admiring the many displays and features. It was – and probably will always remain – the finest stamp exhibition ever staged in London ●



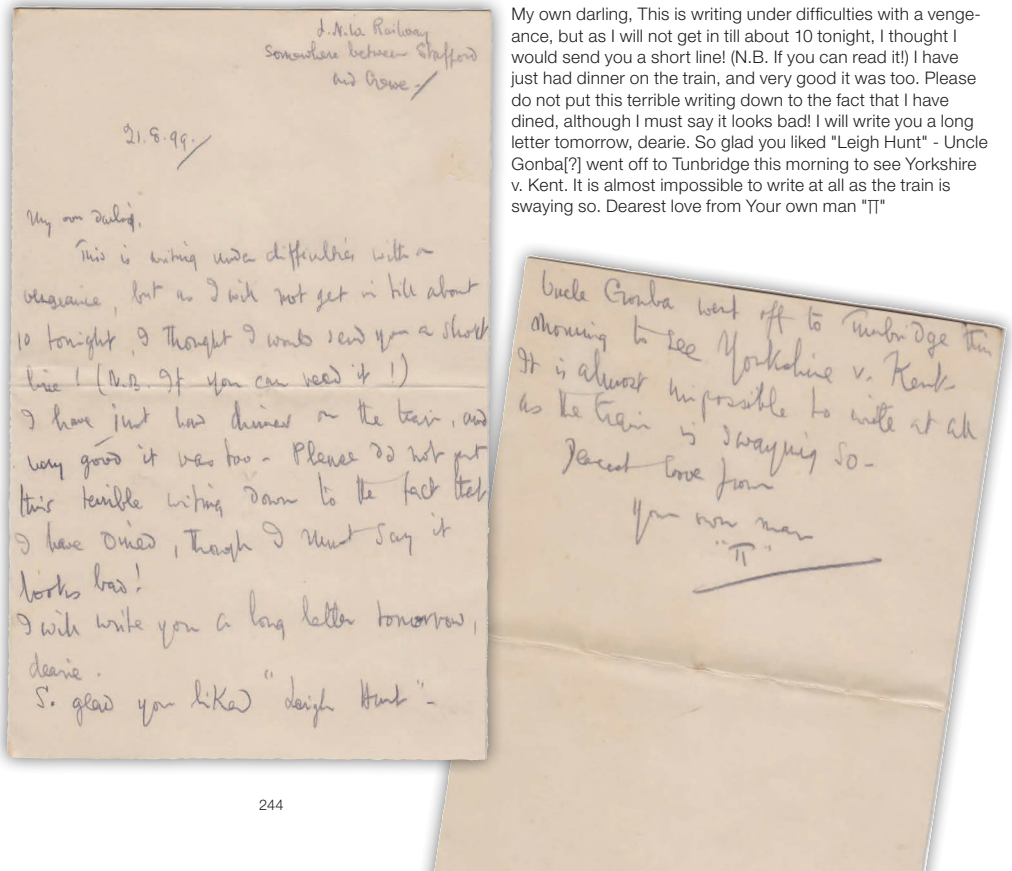
The Queen being shown the exhibits by Dr Alan Huggins

A Railway Trifecta

Letters that have been posted directly onto a train at a Travelling Post Office are well known, but a letter that has actually been written on board a train is more rarely encountered – especially from the days when rail journeys were rather less smooth than they later became.

The letter shown here was written on a London and North Western Railway train en route to Crewe in 1899, addressed to a Miss Gregson who appears to have been holidaying in Bridlington Quay. Although the sender complains about 'writing under difficulties with a vengeance' it's actually quite clear and easy to read. The signature appears to be a capital Greek letter pi, presumably a pet name? I'm not sure if the letter was to the writer's sweetheart or a relative! But that's only the first railway connection of this letter. The second is that the sender evidently posted it at the station when the train arrived at Crewe (which may have been his destination, or perhaps he simply stepped off the carriage for a minute). That meant that the 1d lilac received the cancellation of the post office on Crewe Station. The third and final connection actually is a Travelling Post Office one – a backstamp of the Hull Sorting Tender with 'BQ' index code above the date. This was used between 1892 and 1916 by a Bridlington Quay postman who joined the sorting tender en route to Normanton, and sorted the Bridlington mail on the return journey.

So here we have a letter with both railway station and TPO postmarks, and which was actually written on a train. A nice railway trifecta ●



My own darling, This is writing under difficulties with a vengeance, but as I will not get in till about 10 tonight, I thought I would send you a short line! (N.B. If you can read it!) I have just had dinner on the train, and very good it was too. Please do not put this terrible writing down to the fact that I have dined, although I must say it looks bad! I will write you a long letter tomorrow, dearie. So glad you liked "Leigh Hunt" - Uncle Gonba[?] went off to Tunbridge this morning to see Yorkshire v. Kent. It is almost impossible to write at all as the train is swaying so. Dearest love from Your own man "Π"



Cover with 1d lilac with the cancellation that was struck at the post office at Crewe Station



Reverse of cover with the BQ index code backstamp applied by a Bridlington Quay postman in transit

Article by Maurice Buxton

This month on 7 April Royal Mail issues The Romantic Poets stamp set. It's not of course the first time that poets have been the focus of British stamps. Shakespeare, Lear and Burns have all featured. In addition, the centenary of Alfred Tennyson's death was commemorated with stamps issued on 10 March 1992 which merged photographs of him at various stages of his life with heroines from his poems.

Tennyson

Enjoyed by Victorians including The Queen herself – Alfred Tennyson's delightful poems led to his appointment as Poet Laureate in 1850 when he succeeded William Wordsworth in the prestigious role. Indeed it was in his words that Queen Victoria found solace as she grieved the death of her beloved Albert. Tennyson's poem – *In Memoriam*, she found of particular comfort, it left her 'much soothed and pleased' – no doubt reflecting on his words 'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all'. That's just a sample of his philosophical lines, touched with sagacity, that transcended the works of his contemporaries and is oft-quoted in the modern era. Tennyson's poems exude sensitivity and melancholy – some of the latter emotions born out of the loss of his close friend Arthur Hallam in 1833 (evidently letters exchanged between

Tennyson in 1888 and *The Beguiling of Merlin – 24p*



Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones (August 1833–1898) was an English artist and advocate of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. The section of his painting *The Beguiling of Merlin* that adorns the 24p value depicts a scene from the Arthurian legend about the infatuation of Merlin with the Lady of the Lake, Nimue. Tennyson's *Merlin and Vivien* was one of twelve poems published in *Idylls of the King* which retells the legend of King Arthur and his knights

Tennyson in Late Middle Age and *April Love – 28p*



Arthur Hughes (1831–1915) was the Pre-Raphaelite artist that painted *April Love* illustrating the poem *The Miller's Daughter.* The image is of a tearful woman gazing at fallen blossoms which are perhaps symbolic of the end of spring and of early and young love. A male figure is barely visible in the original artwork – his head bent over the young woman's left hand. *April Love* which can be viewed at the Tate Britain was the first in a series of compositions in which Hughes depicted lovers in a landscape

the pair were destroyed by their respective families). His other notable works include *The Charge of the Light Brigade* that pertains to the Battle of Balaclava fought on 25 October 1854 during the Crimean War. The tragic and farcical engagement occurred after the British army commander Lord Raglan gave orders that were misinterpreted in the chain of command. Consequently, Lord Cardigan led an ill-equipped cavalry charge against a bank of Russian cannon. The blunder which resulted in heavy British losses, was recorded in the poem that Tennyson penned less than two months after the slaughter.

As Alfred Lord Tennyson rests in peace in Westminster Abbey, his voice can still be heard through his expressions – leaving us much to ponder, and a door into a fantasy world we can all enjoy ●

'Forward, the Light Brigade!'
Was there a man dismayed?
Not though the soldier knew
Someone had blundered.
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

Tennyson in 1864 and *I am Sick of the Shadows – 33p*



John William Waterhouse (1849–1917) was the artist that painted *I am Sick of the Shadows* which depicts a lady resting from her weaving – a scene from Tennyson's *Lady of Shalott*: But in her web she still delights / To weave the mirror's magic sights, / For often thro' the silent nights / A funeral, with plumes and lights / And music, came from Camelot: / Or when the moon was overhead / Came two young lovers lately wed; / 'I am half sick of shadows,' said / The Lady of Shalott

Tennyson as a Young Man and *Mariana – 39p*



Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–1882) was not only an English painter but also a poet and translator who was one of the seven founders of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in 1848. He employed his artistic skills to illuminate poems such as *Goblin Market* – which was one of his sister's works, she being the highly acclaimed poet Christina Rossetti. Tennyson's poem *Mariana* is the subject of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's painting that features on the 39p value



Stamp Scene Dane Garrod keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

4 April Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 6 dealers, refreshments available.
Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441.

Norfolk & Norwich P.S. Stamp & Postcard Fair, Middle School Hall, Hewett Academy, Gate 1, Cecil Road, Norwich NR1 2PL, 10am to 3.30pm, refreshments available.
Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318.

Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com.

Cardiff Stamp & Postcard Fair, Cardiff City Hall, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers.
Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington1@hotmail.co.uk.

Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

Canterbury Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, 3 stamp dealers & 20 postcard dealers, refreshments available.
Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.

5 April Wolverhampton Stamp & Postcard Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Road, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9.30am to 2.30pm, 8 dealers, Social Club bar available.
Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297.

Sandy Stamp Fair, Scout Headquarters, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1QY, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

Cheltenham Stamp & Cover Fair, The Regency Hotel, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham GL51 0ST, 10am to 4pm.
Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Newhaven Stamp & Postcard Fair, Denton & Mount Pleasant Social Centre, Denton Road, Newhaven BN9 0PX, 10am to 4pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Tony Trevis, 07966 151073.

8 April Plymouth Stamp Fair, St. Andrew's Church, Lower Abbey Hall, Catherine Street, Plymouth PL1 2AD, 10am to 2pm.
Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

9 April Exeter Stamp & Postal History Fair, Clyst St. George Parish Hall, Woodbury Road, Exeter EX3 0RE, 10am to 3pm.
Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

11 April Kenilworth Stamp Fair, Kenilworth School, Leyes Lane, Kenilworth CV8 2DA, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 8 dealers.
Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

Telford Stamp & Card Fair, Belmont Community Hall, Tan Bank Car Park, Wellington, Telford TF1 1HJ, 9.30am to 2pm, 15 dealers, home-made refreshments available.
Enquiries: Richard Camp, 01952 405458, mail@richardcamp.co.uk.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 248)

Maidstone Stamp Fair, Grove Green Community Centre, Grove Green Road, Maidstone ME14 5TQ, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Brian Stonestreet, 01622 675784.

Ferndown & West Moors Stamp & Postcard Fair, The Hamworthy Club, Magna Road, Canford Magna, Wimbourne BH21 3AP, 10am to 4pm.
Enquiries: Alan King, 01202 064298, alan.king2010@hotmail.co.uk.

12 April Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9.30am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available.
Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.

Bristol Stamp & Postcard Fair, Easter Compton Village Hall, Main Road, Easter Compton, Bristol BS35 5SJ, 10am to 3pm.
Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

Wokingham Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

13 April Loughborough Stamp Fair, Charnwood Bowls Club, Browns Lane, Loughborough LE11 3HE, 10am to 4pm.
Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

Aylesbury Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchill Avenue, Southcourt, Aylesbury HP21 8ER, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

17-18 April 91st Scottish Philatelic Congress, Dewars Centre, Perth PH2 0TH, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 3.30pm. National exhibition with displays, and many dealers.

18 April Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Trinity Centre, Church Hill, Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield B72 1TF, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available.
Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

Kettering Stamp Fair, Ise Lodge Community Centre, St. Vincent's Avenue, Kettering NN15 5DR, 10am to 4pm, 8 dealers, refreshments available.
Enquiries: Gordon Tregidgo, 01536 746800, sbctreg@hotmail.com.

Bromley and Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Langley Park School for Boys, Hawksbrook Lane, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham BR3 3BP, 9.30am to 4pm.
Enquiries: David Rennie, 020 8778 7001.

Sittingbourne Stamp & Postcard Fair, Carnel Hall, Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

Shoreham-by-Sea Stamp & Postcard Fair, Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WU, 10am to 3.30pm.
Enquiries: Janette McCutcheon, 07810 564299, forestfairs.janette@gmail.com.

Exeter Collectors' Fair, The America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8PX, 10am to 4pm, 12 stamp dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

19 April Knowle Stamp Fair, Knowle Village Hall, St. John's Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 ONH, 9.30am to 2.30pm, 10 dealers, tea, coffee and light refreshments available.
Enquiries: Andrew Vaughan, 01827 63367, sales@stampsgb.co.uk.

Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BU, 10am to 3pm.
Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

Dover Stamp & Collectors' Fair, Stembrook Shopping Arcade, Stembrook, Dover CT16 1PF, 9am to 2pm, 10+ dealers, hot & cold refreshments all day.
Enquiries: Jan & Keith Shepherd, 07729 967206, keithstamps61@aol.com.

London 2020 - the major stamp show in Britain this year - is from 2 to 9 May at the BDC in Islington N1 0QH. Literally hundreds of display frames, and many, many dealers. Not to be missed - you'll be sorry later, if you did. To know all about it, visit www.london2020.co

The Great Britain Philatelic Society will meet at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, from 11am on Saturday 18 April when the Society President, John Davies, will entertain with the '1890 Penny Postage Jubilee'. Later at 2pm, members' displays will focus on the 1d lilac. There will be Members' Displays at the 12 noon society meeting at London 2020 in Islington on Wednesday 6 May. You are welcome to attend these events.

The Royal Philatelic Society London meetings at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW include a Regional Display from the Society's East Region members from 1pm on Thursday 2 April; then the President's Display by Richard Stock FRPSL on 'Sudan, the Stamps and Postal History' from 1pm on Thursday 23 April. On Thursday 7 May from 1pm, international members will each entertain with one frame displays. Should you wish to attend as a non-member, then please make a telephone call during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day to the Adminstration Manager, Jason Webber, on 020 7486 1044.

The National Philatelic Society members meet at the Phoenix Centre, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL at 2.15pm on Saturday 4 April, when 'Hanover 1715 to 1850' will be covered by Frank Simpson. If you haven't attended a meeting of this Society yet, you are most welcome to do so.

25 April Grampian Stamp & Postcard Fair, Queen's Cross Parish Church Hall, Albyn Place, Aberdeen AB10 1YN, 10am to 3pm.
Enquiries: Chad Neighbor, 01674 832823, chad@cneighbor.plus.com.

Morecambe Annual Stamp Fair, The Platform, Morecambe Station Buildings, Marine Road Central, Morecambe LA4 4DB, 10am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available.
Enquiries: Lesley Vincent, 01524 842506, lesleyvincent1@sky.com.

Ealing Stamp Fair, Ealing Parish Church, St. Mary's Road, Ealing W5 5EU, 9am to 1pm.
Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry 248)

Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

Chichester Stamp & Postcard Fair, Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Chichester PO19 8QR, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

26 April Shifnal Stamp Fair, Shifnal Village Hall, Ashton Street, Shifnal TF11 8DZ, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, light refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

29 April Cheltenham Stamp & Cover Fair, St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP, 10am to 4pm.
Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

2 May Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441.

Swindon Stamp Fair, Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, Swindon SN3 1LA, 9.30am to 2.30pm, 9 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John Puttock, 01793 542767.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry 248)

2-9 May London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition, Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH. Full details, including opening times on the various days, at www.london2020.co.

3 May Wolverhampton Stamp & Postcard Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Road, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9.30am to 2.30pm, 8 dealers, Social Club bar available.
Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297.

Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, The Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes MK2 2HX, 10am to 3pm.
Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Worthing Stamp & Postcard Fair, Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, Worthing BN11 4PL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

8 May Crowborough Stamp & Postcard Fair, Crowborough Community Hall, Pine Grove, Crowborough, TN16 1FE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Ian Marshall, 01892 525780.

9 May North Wales Stamp & Postcard Fair, Ysgol Eirias, Eirias Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 7SP, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available.
Enquiries: Steve Chapman, 01745 826434, northwalesstampfairs@gmail.com.

Laindon Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Road, Langdon Hills SS16 6EX, 9.30am to 3pm, 8 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: David Church, 01268 543371.

Your favourite stamps of 2019

Congratulations to Mr M L Webb of Waltham Abbey, Essex, who is the winner of the Favourite Stamp Poll prize draw, and will receive the Royal Mail Yearpack 2019. Thank you all for voting – here are the results of the poll.

1st



Westonbirt, The National Arboretum
First Class – Issued 13 August

2nd



Sherwood Forest
£1.55 – Issued 13 August

3rd



Glen Affric
First Class – Issued 13 August

4th



HMS Victory
£1.35 – Issued 19 September

5th



Queen Victoria in her later years
First Class – Issued 24 May

STAMP SETS

1st



Forests – Issued 13 August

2nd



Birds of Prey – Issued 4 April

3rd



Royal Navy Ships – Issued 19 September

4th



Stamp Classics – Issued 15 January

5th

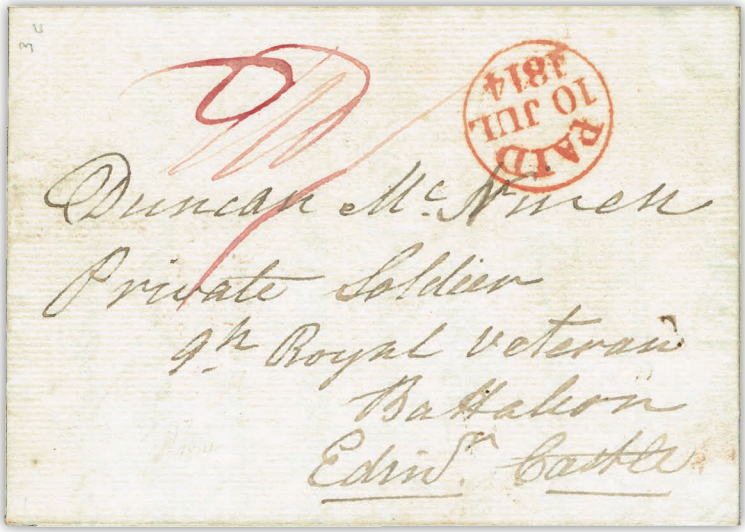


Queen Victoria Bicentenary – Issued 24 May

Holding lines, and writing lines
Military postage concessions – 1795

As the British Empire expanded and soldiers were posted from one station to another, charges for forwarding mail became increasingly expensive. This, combined with growing literacy in the forces led to an Act of Parliament (Military postage concessions –1795) to facilitate cheaper postage rates for non-commissioned officers, private soldiers and Royal Navy sailors. The new tariff allowed soldiers to send and receive letters under the weight of ¼oz for one penny (officers' mail was charged at six pence). To prevent abuse of the new rate the soldier or sailor's name was written on the outside of the letter and legitimised with the commanding officer's signature. However it seems that some officers were keen to take advantage of the new rates too. Evidently some gave personal letters to NCOs who signed the covers and presented them as if they were their own letters to their commanding officer for a signature of endorsement. To curtail these underhanded activities, further legislation was introduced in 1806 which implemented a £5 fine or even the imprisonment of offenders.

The letter featured here was legitimate – it qualified for the new rate. It was written at Falkirk on 9 July 1814, by Captain Dug Macdougall of the late Dunbartonshire Fencible Infantry to Private Duncan McNiven serving in the 9th Royal Veteran Battalion at Edinburgh. Although written by an officer, the letter was addressed to a private soldier and was therefore eligible for the penny concession rate indicated by a red manuscript Pd 1, with a PAID Edinburgh datestamp. A FALKIRK 420 mileage stamp is struck on the reverse. The letter gives confirmation of the soldier's military service. This information, endorsed by his pay records, confirm that Duncan McNiven served in the Dunbartonshire Fencible Regiment from 1795 to 1802; the Stirlingshire Militia; and the 92nd Regiment (volunteers) from April 1805 until March 1814. Although the 92nd Regiment was serving in Spain, Portugal and France between 1812 and 1814, Private McNiven was in England during that period. On 21 March 1814 he transferred to the 9th Royal Veteran Battalion at Edinburgh Castle,



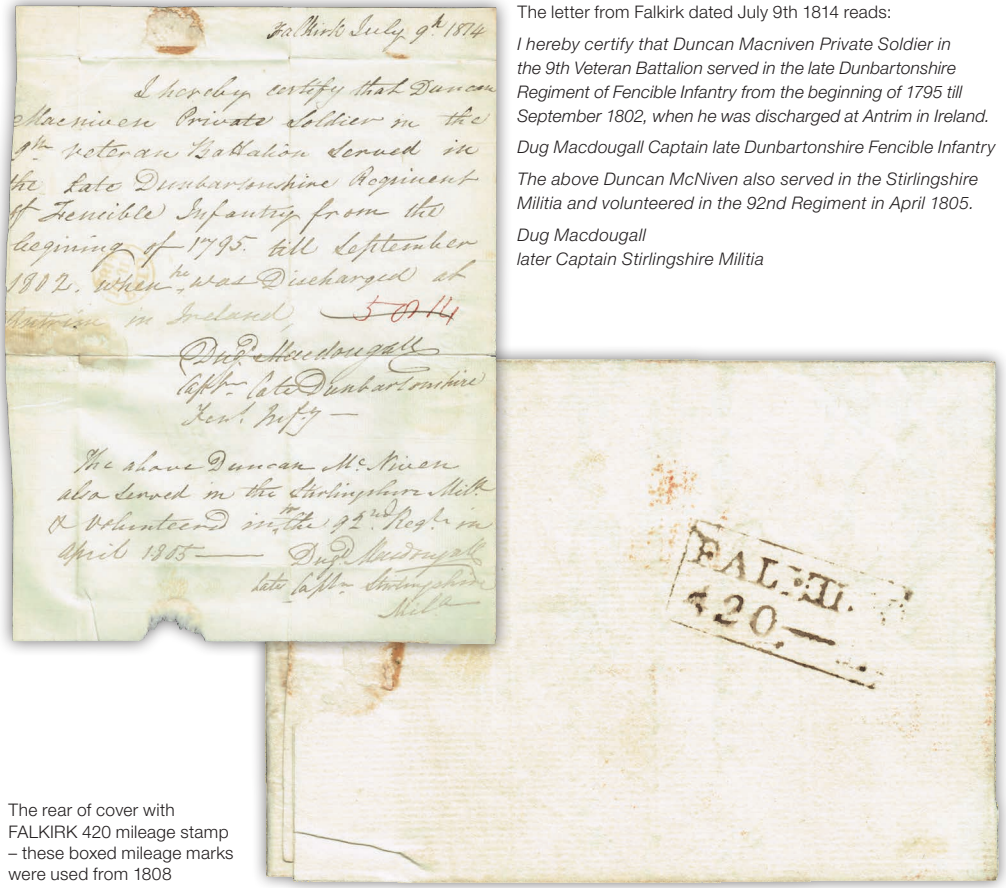
Cover showing the manuscript Pd 1 with the PAID Edinburgh datestamp 10 JUL 1814. Edinburgh paid handstamps exist in black, but were generally struck with red ink which was prone to oxidization. A variety of single circle paid handstamps were used between 1814-1821. Although written by an officer, stipulating Duncan McNiven's rank – Private Soldier, qualifies the mail for the penny concession rate

receiving daily pay of 1s 1d (a higher rate due for his seven years of service). The unit was disbanded on 15 July 1814 (six days after the letter was written).

Dunbarton Fencibles The regiment was formed on 11 October 1794. Although first stationed in Guernsey, the regiment was moved to Ireland in 1797, and the following year was engaged in the Irish Rebellion which was supported by a French army landing at County Mayo. Despite this French assistance, the Society of United Irishman's revolutionary bid to end British monarchical rule and create an independent Irish republic was quashed. The Dunbarton Fencibles was part of the British Crown forces that suppressed the uprising at the cost of an estimated 10,000 – 30,000 lives. ▶



French troops had a measure of success five days after landing at County Mayo. Combining with Irish patriots near the town of Castlebar on 27 August 1798 they sent the British military into a hasty retreat which became known as 'The Castlebar Races'



The letter from Falkirk dated July 9th 1814 reads:

I hereby certify that Duncan Macniven Private Soldier in the 9th Veteran Battalion served in the late Dunbartonshire Regiment of Fencible Infantry from the beginning of 1795 till September 1802, when he was discharged at Antrim in Ireland.

Dug Macdougall Captain late Dunbartonshire Fencible Infantry

The above Duncan McNiven also served in the Stirlingshire Militia and volunteered in the 92nd Regiment in April 1805.

Dug Macdougall
later Captain Stirlingshire Militia

The rear of cover with FALKIRK 420 mileage stamp – these boxed mileage marks were used from 1808

Stirlingshire Militia After a long period of inactivity the Scottish Militia was re-established in 1797 during the French Revolutionary Wars. In common with the Militias of England, Wales and Ireland, the forces were organised geographically. Ten regiments were formed within the counties of Aberdeen, Argyll, Ayr, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Fife, Forfar, Lanark, Perth and Ross. In 1802 the Scottish Militia was expanded to embrace five more regiments – including the Stirlingshire Militia. The regiments were employed for home defence and guarding POWs until the conclusion of the Napoleonic War when they reverted to a part time force.

92nd (Highland) Regiment of Foot The 100th (Gordon Highlanders) Regiment of Foot was raised in Aberdeenshire in 1794 amidst concerns posed by the French Revolution. The regiment was deployed to Ireland in May 1798 during the Irish Rebellion, and in October the same year the regiment was re-ranked as the 92nd (Highland) Regiment of Foot. In 1807 when McNiven was serving (1805-1814), the regiment was engaged at the Battle of Køge (the Clogs Battle) when Danish militiamen threw their wooden clogs away whilst fleeing.

9th Royal Veteran Battalion In the early part of the 19th century British Army units – Royal Veteran Battalions were formed. They were made up of men who were unfortunately no longer fit for front-line service. Previously they were known as 'invalid battalions' – which was later deemed disrespectful, so consequently their name was changed. Those serving were generally employed in military administration and support work. A succession of these battalions were disbanded and re-formed – including the 9th Royal Veteran Battalion which was formed at Edinburgh in April 1805. Veterans including Private Duncan McNiven served at Edinburgh Castle where he received the letter of 1814 ●

Another cover that qualifies the letter to be sent at the 1d rate. This example is from gunner W Hunt who was serving in the 6th Battalion, Royal Artillery at Woolwich in 1808. His details are confirmed with the endorsing signature of William Millar who was the Lieutenant-Colonel. The postmark of origin has faded but Woolwich E O can be discerned (Eastern Office) as can the 1py P. Paid. A stroke of red ink by manuscript also indicates 1d postage paid. In addition there's a single-circle evening duty datestamp struck at the London Chief Office confirming PAID, and dated APR 2 1808. The 1d tariff covered transportation within London and the final destination of delivery at Nottingham



Images courtesy of David Shaws Old Letters

Bath Postal Museum

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27a Northgate Street, Bath, BA1 1AJ
Tel: 01225 - 460333
www.bathpostalmuseum.org

New Issues and Withdrawals

7 April	**Issue** The Romantic Poets: Stamps (10 x 1st Class). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover. Postcards (10 in set). BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover.
21 April	**Withdrawal** Video Games: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.
8 May	**Issue** End of the Second World War: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.42, 2 x £1.63). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.63). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover Stamps. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book pane. Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: 2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, pane two: 4 x 5p, 2 x 50p, 2 x £1.63, pane three: 2 x £1.42, 2 x £1.63, pane four: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.63). Press Sheet. Postcards (13 in set). BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover. Framed Stamps.
9 May	**Withdrawal** Prince Charles 70th Birthday: Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. Postcards. Press Sheet. BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover.
	Withdrawal Stamp Classics: Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. Postcards.
	Withdrawal Leonardo da Vinci: Stamps. Presentation Pack. Postcards.
	Withdrawal Birds of Prey: Stamps. Presentation Pack. Postcards. Stamp Book.
	Withdrawal British Engineering: Stamps. Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. Postcards. Press Sheet. Harrier Medal Cover.



	Withdrawal Queen Victoria Bicentenary: Stamps. Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. Postcards. Prestige Stamp Book. Press Sheet. BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover.



	Withdrawal Curious Customs: Stamps. Presentation Pack. Postcards.
	Withdrawal Forests: Stamps. Presentation Pack. Postcards.
11 May	**Withdrawal** Visions of the Universe: Stamp Souvenir.



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