The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

March 2019 | £2.15

Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 56 No.7

Shedding light
on the mind of a genius



The Queen's collection of Leonardo's works are illuminated on Royal Mail's new issue

A PHILATELIC VOYAGE • WWII POSTAL HISTORY • STAMP USAGE – SOLO FRANKINGS

Looking for a special gift?

If you're struggling for ideas for a special gift for someone important in your life, our Annual Collections could provide the answer. They comprise a wide range of collectibles, along with pictures, facts and insightful information that you won't find anywhere else. Our 2018 Yearpack, for example, brings together every Special Stamp from 2018 in mint condition. It's presented in a superb decorative folder that will help to keep all the stamps in perfect condition. The Yearpack provides a summary of the story behind each of the stamp themes. Each page features a range of wonderful images to accompany each of the stamp sets. The various postmarks are also featured with all the relevant technical information for each of the 2018 issues. It's just one of several wonderful Annual Products that are on sale now. To find out more simply visit: **www.royalmail.com/annualproducts** or call **03457 641 641**.



Royal Mail Yearpack 2018

Royal Mail

Contents

Leonardo da Vinci's 500 year legacy lives on

Royal Mail's Special Stamp issue celebrates the genius whose works merged art, science and nature **580**

Posted at sea An amazing cover story, and the evolution of the 1967 Gipsy Moth IV stamp that celebrated Chichester's global solo voyage **588**









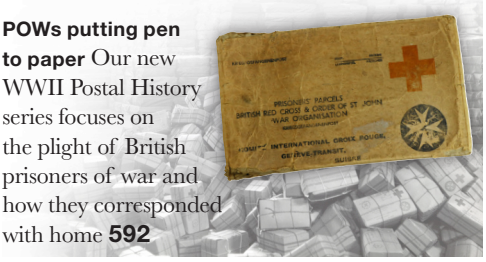
Stamp Scene Dane Garrod keeps us in the picture as to all the events and stamp fairs happening up and down the country this month **594**



Solo frankings Maurice Buxton considers a facet of usage collecting that puts the purpose of stamp issues under the microscope **600**



POWs putting pen to paper Our new WWII Postal History series focuses on the plight of British prisoners of war and how they corresponded with home **592**



Philatelic Update For your diary – dates confirming Royal Mail's upcoming Special Stamps issues for the year **599**



Win the maestro's works This is your chance to win one of five Presentation Packs with all 12 Special Stamps featuring The Queen's collection of Leonardo's drawings **607**



Editor Tim Noble, 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) £9.95, 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** 0953 8119 ● 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.

Leonardo da Vinci, The Queen's Collection

Royal Mail honours the original Renaissance man

One of the greatest geniuses in history is honoured in the glorious new Leonardo da Vinci Special Stamp issue out now. Marking the 500th anniversary of the polymath's death, the 12-stamp set illustrates the one skill that linked all his many other talents together – drawing. Leonardo drew preliminary sketches for his paintings and sculptures and architecture, drew diagrams for his study of science, and drew to develop his ingenious ideas and designs.



The Skull Sectioned



A Sprig of Guelder-rose



Studies of Cats



The Head of a Bearded Man



The Skeleton



The Head of St Philip

Leonardo da Vinci – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	13 February
Number of stamps	Twelve x 1st Class
Design	Kate Stephens
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

The stamps include finely detailed anatomical illustrations, delicate still life, exquisite classical figures and highly accurate zoological pictures. These works will all be shown this year in a major exhibition of 144 of Leonardo's drawings from the Royal Collection; Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing will be staged in 12 museums and galleries across the UK, then at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. In the Stamp by Stamp section below, the exhibition location of each work is indicated. Accompanying the Special Stamp issue, released on 13 February, are a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Prestige Stamp Book and Postcards.



A Star-of-Bethlehem and Other Plants



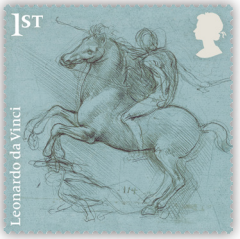
The Anatomy of the Shoulder and Foot



The Head of Leda



A Woman in a Landscape



A Design for an Equestrian Monument



The Fall of Light on a Face

Stamp by stamp The 12 Leonardo da Vinci Special Stamps, all First Class, are square format and printed by lithography.

The Skull Sectioned, *1489* As part of his study of anatomy, the artist obtained this skull, which he cut into a variety of sections in order to explore its structure. Leonardo was aiming to determine the proportions of the skull and the paths of the sensory nerves, in the belief that they converged at the site of the soul. *Ulster Museum, Belfast*

A Sprig of Guelder-rose, *c.1506-12* This exquisitely rendered guelder-rose has been drawn in red chalk on paper that has itself been rubbed all over with powdered red chalk. The leaves are shown curling and sagging, as Leonardo was interested not merely in their shape, but also in their living form when subject to the natural forces of growth and gravity. *Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens* ►

The Information Card that is housed in the First Day Cover Envelopes



LEONARDO DA VINCI

A branch of blackberry, c.1506–12

Studies for an equestrian monument, c.1490

Leonardo, probably by Francesco Melzi, c.1515–18

To mark the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo, 144 of his finest drawings from the Royal Collection are being displayed in 2019 at 12 museums and galleries across the UK, and then all together at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519) is famous as the original 'Renaissance man'. He was a supremely talented painter, sculptor and architect, a respected civil engineer and far-sighted inventor of machines of both peace and war, and a scientist who investigated subjects as diverse as human anatomy, the properties of light, the movement of water and the growth of plants.

Leonardo's drawings lay at the heart of all his activities. He drew tirelessly to develop his artistic compositions, to record his observations and to test his theories. He often annotated these drawings with his 'mirror writing', done with the left hand in perfect mirror image from right to left.

Little of Leonardo's finished work survives – just 20 paintings – and none of his scientific research was published in his own day. But because he hoarded his drawings and notebooks, many of which survive, we know a great deal about the life and work of this remarkable individual.

The most important collection of Leonardo's drawings is held in the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle – more than 550 sheets that have been together since Leonardo's death, acquired in a single album by King Charles II around 1670. These drawings are among the nation's greatest artistic treasures, and the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death presents an opportunity to share them with the widest audience ever.

Number of stamps: twelve **Date of issue:** 13 February 2019 **Design:** Kate Stephens **Acknowledgements:** all images by Leonardo da Vinci: Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2019 **Printer:** International Security Printers **Process:** lithography **Format:** square **Size:** 35mm x 35mm **Perforations:** 14.5 x 14.5 **Number per sheet:** 30/60 **Phosphor:** bars as appropriate **Gum:** PVA Stamp designs © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2019 **Cover design:** Supple Studio Ltd **Words:** Martin Clayton **Acknowledgements:** all images by Leonardo da Vinci: Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2019 Cover design © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2019 Further details about British postage stamps and philatelic facilities may be obtained from: Royal Mail, FREEPOST, Edinburgh EH12 9PE or visit our website: www.royalmail.com/stamps. Royal Mail and the Cruciform are registered Trade Marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2019. All rights reserved. To send any feedback on the design and content of this product, please email: stamp.team@royalmail.com

Studies of Cats, *c.1517-18* Leonardo's studies of sleeping cats are among the artist's most sensitively observed drawings and are likely to have been done directly from life. They are also likely to have been part of his scientific examination of the movement of mammals. *Bristol Museum and Art Gallery*

A Star-of-Bethlehem and Other Plants, *c.1506-12* Leonardo drew plants and flowers as preparation for the decorative details in his paintings. It is also likely he drew them as part of a treatise on the growth of plants and trees. His finest drawings were for his lost painting, *Leda and the Swan*. The swirling leaves of the Star-of-Bethlehem plant can be seen in several studies for the picture. *Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow*

The Anatomy of the Shoulder and Foot, *c.1510-11* Leonardo was fascinated by the shoulder, and how







FD1902-TH



FD1902-PL



FD1902-NP

Top: First Day Cover with alternative handstamp
Left: the Prestige Stamp Book First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp

its bones and muscles allowed it to perform such a wide variety of movements. In this drawing, the artist shows the shoulder and arm in a progressive sequence of dissection. He gradually lifts different muscles away, such as the deltoid and biceps, to reveal the structures underneath. He also demonstrates the articulation of the ankle with the tibia and fibula lifted away from the foot. *Southampton City Art Gallery*

The Head of Leda, *c.1505-08* Over the last 15 years of his life, Leonardo worked on a painting of the myth of the Spartan queen Leda, who was seduced by Jupiter in the guise of a swan. The picture ended up in the French royal collection, but seems to have been destroyed in 1700. In this sketch, Leonardo focuses most of his artistic endeavours on rendering Leda's hair in great detail; the artist always had a love of personal adornment, in both hair and clothes. *Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool*

The Head of a Bearded Man, *c.1517-18* Fascinated by the male profile, from the divinely beautiful to the grotesquely ugly, Leonardo featured such heads throughout much of his work. Their features, such as the thick mat of curly hair pictured in the sketch on the stamp, were inspired by ancient ▶

medals and coins of Roman emperors. *Derby Museum and Art Gallery*

The Skeleton, *c.1510-11* The artist's most brilliant anatomical studies were conducted during the winter of 1510 to 1511 when he was apparently working in the medical school at the University of Pavia near Milan. He may have dissected up to 20 bodies in his study of the bones and muscles. The picture on the stamp is his most complete representation of a skeleton. *National Museum Wales, Cardiff*

The Head of St Philip, *c.1495* The study for St Philip here is part of Leonardo's preparatory work for his greatest completed painting, *The Last Supper* – a mural in the refectory of the monastic church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan. The picture shows the reaction of the disciples as Jesus announces his imminent betrayal. This would have been just one of hundreds of sketches created for the eventual painting. *Millennium Gallery, Sheffield*

A Woman in a Landscape, *c.1517-18* Two of Leonardo's favourite artistic devices, a mysterious smile and a pointing hand, are deployed in this drawing of a woman in a rocky landscape gesturing into the distance. It could possibly be the maiden Matelda gathering flowers, as she appeared to Dante by a stream in *Purgatory*, the second book of his *Divine Comedy*. *Manchester Art Gallery*

A Design for an Equestrian Monument, *c.1485-88* On this stamp is a preparatory sketch for a bronze statue commissioned by the ruler of Milan, Ludovico Sforza, of his father Francesco on horseback conquering the enemy. The artist spent five years building a life-size clay model of the horse and making a mould for the casting; in the event, however, Ludovico requisitioned the 75 tonnes of bronze earmarked for the cast, in order to make cannons. *Leeds Art Gallery*



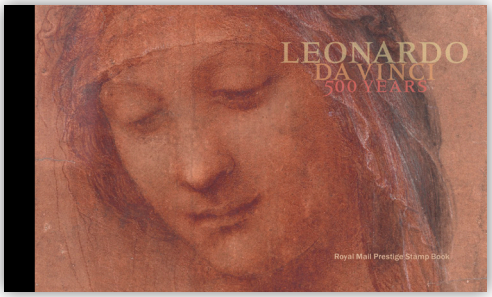
Leonardo da Vinci – Prices	
Set of 12 Special Stamps	£8.04
Special Stamps First Day Cover	£10.20
Prestige Stamp Book First Day Cover	£4.85
First Day Envelope	30p
Stamp Souvenir	£10.20
Presentation Pack	£8.75
Prestige Stamp Book	£13.10
Postcards (12 in set)	£5.40



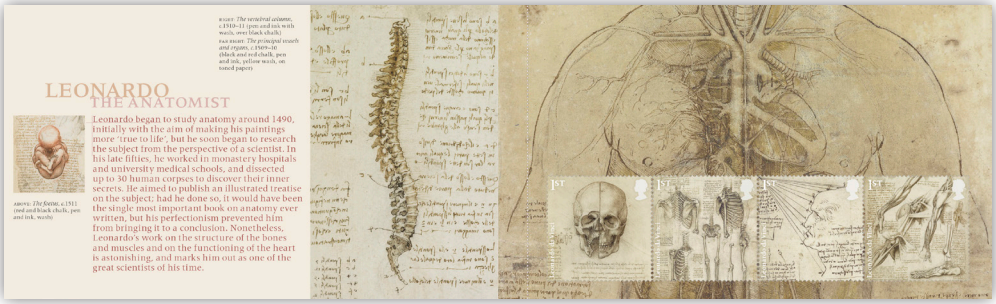
Opposite page: the Presentation Pack Outer
Left: the Presentation Pack
Below: the Presentation Pack Inner

The Fall of Light on a Face, *c.1488* In the drawing on this stamp, Leonardo sets out the geometrical principles of light and shade, as part of his treatise on the theory of painting. In his hallmark mirror writing, the notes explain, for example, that where light falls at right angles on the face, the face will be most strongly illuminated. *Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery*

The set's Presentation Pack was created by leading philatelic designer Kate Stephens. Written by Martin Clayton, Head of Prints and Drawings at the Royal Collection Trust, the Pack offers a whistle-stop – yet fascinating – tour of Leonardo's life and genius. It reveals that he was born the illegitimate son of a peasant woman and a lawyer, near the town of Vinci in central Italy, yet rose from a humble craftsman to the court artist of King Francis I in the Loire Valley in central France. During his life he became immersed in an extraordinary range of artistic and scientific disciplines, as a painter, sculptor, architect, engineer, and map-maker, with an interest in anatomy, ►



zoology and botany, which is reflected in the Pack imagery. There are drawings of chariot designs; a human figure, a horse and trees; his map of Arno near Florence; notes on mathematics; and a medical diagram of hand muscles and bones. The Pack also gives us intriguing insights into Leonardo's methods: his use of many materials for drawing – pen and ink with dilute washes for shading, red and black chalk, a metal stylus for etching on paper prepared with a coloured ground; we also



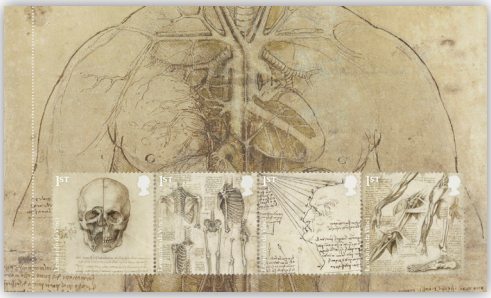


'Art is never finished, only abandoned.'

– Leonardo da Vinci









learn that Leonardo, who was left-handed, often annotated his drawings by writing in perfect mirror image, from right to left.

The Prestige Stamp Book, comprising four panes (three of Special Stamps and one of Definitives), focuses on two contrasting talents of Leonardo, that of artist and of anatomist. It also features his painting, *The Last Supper*, and a self-portrait in the middle of the Machin Definitive's pane. It explains that while he first studied anatomy in order to make his paintings more realistic, he soon began to study it from the perspective of a scientist. Such was Leonardo's skill that his work on bones, musculature and heart function make him one of the greatest scientists of his age. The Prestige Stamp Book was also penned by the Royal Collection Trust's Martin Clayton. The Leonardo da Vinci First Day Cover was released with a Tallents House handstamp, showing a detail of a human eye drawn by the artist. Two alternative postmarks have the location Windsor, as Leonardo's Royal Collection drawings are housed in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle. The pictorial version bears an anatomical drawing of a hand by the artist. You can purchase the impressive Leonardo da Vinci Special Stamp issue at royalmail.com/stamps ●

Opposite page: the Prestige Stamp Book front cover, the anatomist spread and the painter spread
Left: the Prestige Stamp Book pane one, pane two, pane three and pane four

All images by Leonardo da Vinci: Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2019

Stamp Stories

1967 1s 9d Francis Chichester World Voyage



Francis Chichester (1901-72) already had a notable list of achievements when he set sail from Plymouth on 27 August 1966 in his specially designed ketch Gipsy Moth IV, with the aim of sailing around the world single-handed. As an aviator, he had made multiple pioneer flights in the 1930s. He took up sailing at the age of 52 for a new challenge, winning the first single-handed Transatlantic race from Plymouth to New York in 1960. Later he became inspired by the 19th century wool clippers; these ships sailed to Australia and back via the two-capes route – outwards around the Cape of Good Hope, returning via Cape Horn – meaning that each voyage was a circumnavigation of the globe. Chichester set himself the aim of making the passage solo.

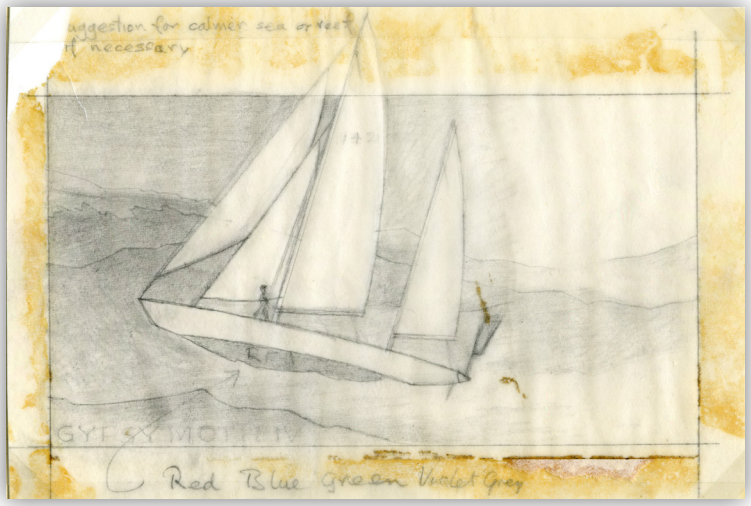


Fig. 1: Michael Goaman's preliminary sketch of the accepted design, No. 2 of five submitted on 22 May 1967 to Short, who requested finished artwork for this design and No. 5. Both had the name of the boat incorrectly spelt ('Gypsy' instead of 'Gipsy')

This caught the imagination of the great British public, and it was probably their reaction when he reached Sydney after completing the first half of the journey that persuaded Edward Short, the Postmaster General, to authorise the issue of a 1s 9d stamp (the current airmail rate to Australia) for issue after Chichester's return to England. Michael Goaman was commissioned to produce a design, which Short wanted to be dramatic in 'the grand Sir Francis Drake manner' (whatever that meant). The accepted design, submitted a few days before Chichester's return, showed Gipsy Moth IV as seen from the port side in high seas (Fig. 1), eventually chosen over a vertical format design (Fig. 2).

Michael Goaman's preliminary sketch (Fig. 1) and Michael and Sylvia Goaman's design (Fig. 2) are reproduced with the kind permission of The Postal Museum

A potentially contentious feature was that Goaman's design also included a tiny figure to represent Chichester himself – a breach of the policy that no identifiable living persons other than members of the royal family should be depicted on British stamps, a rule that held until fairly recently. However, as generic figures were allowed (such as footballers on the World Cup stamps), I suppose it could be argued that the silhouette merely represented some arbitrary person… who just happened to be sailing Chichester's yacht… which had been custom-designed for this one voyage. (I didn't say the argument would be convincing.) Goaman also designed the official Post Office First Day Cover envelope, for which there was no problem in showing a clearly identifiable Chichester on the Gipsy Moth IV by moonlight (Fig. 3). Chichester finally sailed back into Plymouth Sound on 28 May 1967, and was knighted by the Queen on 7 July on the steps in front of Greenwich Naval College, using a sword presented by Elizabeth I to earlier circumnavigator Francis Drake. The stamp commemorating his feat was issued on 24 July, printed in four colours in the usual '20 rows of 6' sheet layout of the time for landscape format commemoratives. Only one set of cylinders was used – 2A (black), 1B (light emerald), 1C (blue) and 1D (brown-red) – and no missing colours are known, which is quite good going for an issue of this era. The only variety given a numbered listing in the *Gibbons Specialised Catalogue* is the 'broken ribbon' on the Queen's head on row 19, stamp 3 (Fig 4 overleaf), although several 'minor constant flaws' are noted (a couple of typical examples are shown in Fig 5 overleaf).

The voyage itself produced a notable philatelic item (which originally came to my attention in a 1985 column by Ken Lake in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, to which I owe the story). It was the ▶

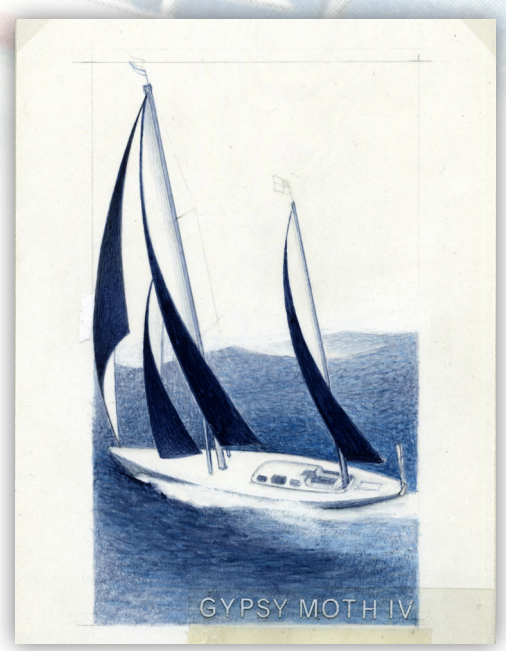


Fig. 2: finished, submitted No. 5 design in colour by Michael and Sylvia Goaman, 25 May 1967. Initially chosen by the Queen but the No. 2 design was preferred by the Post Office



Fig. 3: official First Day Cover with Philatelic Bureau cancellation, in this case actually sent to Australia at the Zone C airmail rate for which the stamp was issued

Fig. 4



Normal Queen's head



'Broken ribbon'

Fig. 5



Vertical white line at bottom left of main sail (row 20, stamp 3)



Blue flaw at top of main sail (row 20, stamp 4)

Fig. 6

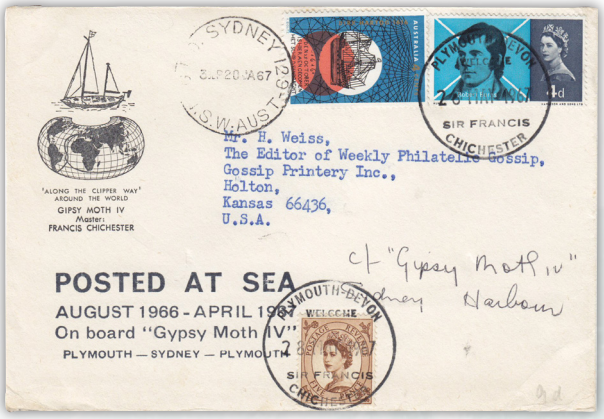
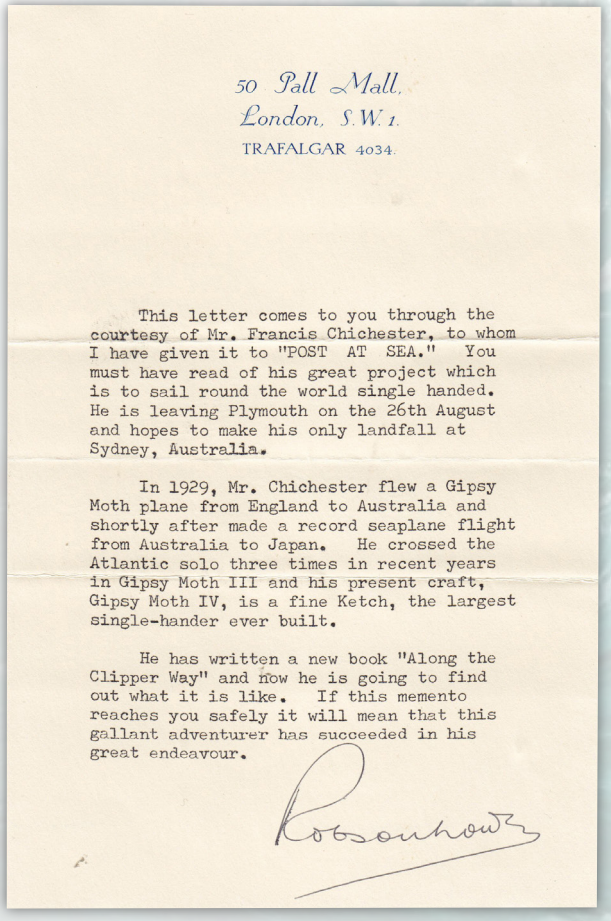


Fig. 7



50 Pall Mall,
London, S.W.1.
TRAFALGAR 4034.

This letter comes to you through the courtesy of Mr. Francis Chichester, to whom I have given it to "POST AT SEA." You must have read of his great project which is to sail round the world single handed. He is leaving Plymouth on the 26th August and hopes to make his only landfall at Sydney, Australia.

In 1929, Mr. Chichester flew a Gipsy Moth plane from England to Australia and shortly after made a record seaplane flight from Australia to Japan. He crossed the Atlantic solo three times in recent years in Gipsy Moth III and his present craft, Gipsy Moth IV, is a fine Ketch, the largest single-hander ever built.

He has written a new book "Along the Clipper Way" and now he is going to find out what it is like. If this memento reaches you safely it will mean that this gallant adventurer has succeeded in his great endeavour.

Robsonhowe

brainchild of leading stamp dealer Robson Lowe, always a man with an eye for a good publicity opportunity. He supplied Chichester with 50 specially designed stamped envelopes addressed to various philatelic editors worldwide, all bearing a cachet saying 'POSTED AT SEA' (Fig. 6), with an explanatory letter inside (Fig. 7). The idea seems to have been that they would be stamped under the Paquebot regulations when Gipsy Moth IV arrived in Sydney, and brought back to England by Chichester. However, on arrival at Sydney, the post office there pointed out a slight flaw in the plan, which was that Chichester's ketch didn't actually qualify under the Paquebot regulations. Consequently he bought some Australian stamps, stuck them on, and tried again – only for the PO to insist that the envelopes could not be handed back to him, as they were addressed to different people worldwide and so had to go off through the postal system. Chichester, being a resourceful sort, got a pen and added the words 'c/o "Gypsy Moth IV" Sydney Harbour' to each address. Success! Off he (and the covers) went around the other half of the world, eventually arriving back home to the Hoe. At some point he took the covers to be despatched – except that the Plymouth post office refused to accept them despite the still uncancelled British stamps, as they had already been postmarked in Sydney and so had clearly been through the mail before… As Ken Lake put it, 'this finally caused the never very docile Chichester to blow his stack'. The Postmaster-General received a late night phone call, during which the problem was explained to him (probably in the grand Sir Francis Drake manner); he quickly issued instructions to have the covers postmarked with the commemorative handstamp that had been used at Plymouth on the day Chichester landed, and then specially delivered to the addressees worldwide. Phew!

Finally, it's worth noting that a clear portrait of Chichester did eventually appear on a British stamp in 2003, on a 47p value in the 'Extreme Endeavours' set that honoured half a dozen notable explorers and pioneers. It shows a picture of him overlaid onto a background of the yacht in heavy seas (below) ●



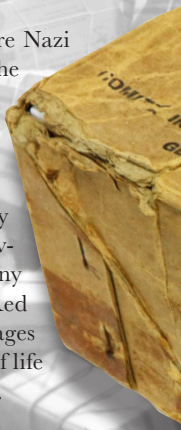


Interned but in touch

Royal Mail's stamp issue on 6 June marks the 75th anniversary of D-Day, the day set in history that proved to be a major step towards freeing the world of the Nazi regime and mankind's plunge into darkness. Nobody of course looked forward to the end of conflict more than those that were incarcerated in prisoner of war camps and of course those detained in the notorious concentration camps awaiting Hitler's 'final solution'.

However for the British POWs in Germany and territories under German occupation, life for the most part was tolerable – due to camp governance generally being compliant with the Geneva Convention. Nevertheless as the Gestapo gained increasing oversight into the running of camps, conditions became more challenging and the 37 articles of the convention pertaining to treatment of POWs were at the very least compromised. In fact after the mass invasion of allied troops on D-Day, the directive from the home front to British POWs was to desist from escape attempts as Hitler's soldiers were under instructions to shoot to kill any attempting to do so. The wisdom of that advice was compounded by the fact that allied forces were on the front foot, and liberation for the interned was coming into sight.

It was nonetheless almost a year later on 8 May 1945 before Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender. As the war dragged on the plight of POWs became more challenging with food supplies running scarce. The German populace itself was going hungry as a result of the destruction of much of their farmland, livestock and machinery, so it was inevitable that enemy captives would suffer extreme food shortages. In post-war years, many POWs have expressed gratitude to the Red Cross who endeavoured to supply fortnightly food parcels for each internee – many feel those efforts were synonymous with their survival. The Red Cross also assisted families with delivery of additional packages housing books and even sports equipment that added quality of life and helped the fight against depression for loved ones detained.



Main image of Red Cross parcel is courtesy of National Army Museum Te Mata Toa, Waiouru NZ.
Image of stack of Red Cross parcels is courtesy of The Postal Museum

At the beginning of the war in September 1939 the British Red Cross amalgamated resources with The Order of St John and formed The Joint War Organisation which was primarily established to aid the sick and wounded. It was also the International Red Cross that facilitated much of the postal services that kept prisoners in touch with home. General Montgomery and his staff considered that a regular mail service was 'the greatest morale factor in an army' – perhaps even more so for internees. Having been captured, prisoners were given the opportunity to touch base with home by sending a 'Capture Card' to The Central Prisoners of War Agency of the International Red Cross. The agency would then in turn forward details to next of kin to convey the location of captives, their state of health and establish further lines of communication to make possible interchanges of mail that kindled mutual emotional warmth and hope of better times.

Some prisoners, reflecting on camp life, have expressed a kindly side of komendants and those directly supervising captives. The latter enjoyed interchanges with prisoners about sports, food and life, whilst proudly sharing family photographs which bridged any language barriers. It's these cameos that engender pensive consideration of the heartache of war epitomised by the global conflicts of the 20th century – because in the final analysis the fundamental needs and similarities of people of different nations, cultures and religion far outweigh the differences ●

Preceding the D-Day Special Stamp issue the Bulletin will be running a series of articles gleaning facts from World War II postal history that trace the locations, dates and mindsets of British POWs incarcerated behind enemy lines.



Below: a prisoner's food parcel produced from the joint endeavours of the British Red Cross & Order of St John who together formed The Joint War Organisation. The stack of British Red Cross parcels is c1944



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

The Machin Collectors' Club annual meeting takes place on Sunday 17 March, from 9am to 3pm at the usual venue of the Sportsfield & Village Hall in Rugby Road, Dunchurch CV22 6PN. There are at least 4 specialist dealers in Machin stamps present, and refreshments are available. The organiser, Melvyn Philpott, says all are welcome. If you have enquiries, then contact Melvyn on 01406 350896, or melvynphilpott@gmail.com.

The National Philatelic Society has a Country Meeting at WESTBEX on Saturday 23 March, when from 1.30pm the society will have a display, details of which are not yet finalised. There are full refreshment facilities available, the venue address being The Kennet School, Stoney Lane, Thatcham RG19 4LL. The following meeting is at the usual venue, the Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA, where on Saturday 13 April, Jeremy Gaskell will display from 2.45pm on 'British & Foreign Treaty Ports in China'. Visitors and prospective new members are most welcome with tea, coffee and food being available.

The Great Britain Philatelic Society's March meeting will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY from 11am. The morning session will consist of a display from Ben Palmer FRPSL entitled 'GB Mail to Foreign Destinations in the Pre-UPU Period'. The afternoon session commencing at 2.15pm will be a two-handed presentation from Phil Waud and Dave Willmer, entitled 'The Story of the QV Jubilees'. Visitors are welcome to attend.

The custom of holding a national philatelic exhibition outside of London continues in 2019 with the Ninetieth Scottish Congress event on 12 and 13 April in the Dewar's Centre in Perth. There will be approximately 130 competitive frames on view with all normal classes of exhibits represented, as well as much else to attract and interest every philatelist and stamp collector.

There are a number of meetings and presentations at The Royal Philatelic Society London in March and April, beginning with 'Eastern Rumelia and South Bulgaria 1876-1886' at 5pm by William Tatham on Thursday 14 March. William will be travelling from California to inform and entertain. The Royal Belgian Academy will give a display by members from 1pm on Thursday 4 April, and a week later, on Thurday 11 April, under the banner of the 150th Anniversay Celebrations of the society, there will be a display from Her Majesty The Queen's and Past Presidents' Collections. Non-members of the society are welcome as guests, but are required to contact Administration Manager, Jason Webber, on 0207 486 1044 during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day.

2 March Wigginton Stamp Fair, Recreation Hall, Wigginton, York YO32 2LL, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.

• Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.





• Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Trinity Centre, Church Hill, off Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield B72 1TF, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.
• Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.
• Ruislip Stamp & Postcard Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, Ruislip HA4 7BZ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.
• Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com.



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

3 March Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, Novotel, Saxon Street, Leybourne Court, Heelands, Milton Keynes MK13 7RA, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.
• Taplow Stamp & Postcard Fair, Taplow & Hitcham W.I. Hall, Institute Road, Taplow SL6 0NS, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.
• Worthing Stamp Fair with Postcards, Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, Worthing BN11 4PL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.



9 March Inverurie - Grampian Stamp & Postcard Fair, Garioch Heritage Centre, Loco Works Road, Inverurie AB51 4FY, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Chad Neighbor, 01674 832823, chad@cneighbor.plus.com.
• Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.
• 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.
• Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3AU, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry above).
• Weston-super-Mare - Michael Hale Collectors' Fair, Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1XU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.



• Margate Collectors' Fair, Union Church, Union Crescent, Margate CT9 1NR, 10am to 3pm, 20 tables, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.
• Launceston Stamp Club Fair, Central Methodist Hall, Castle Street, Launceston PL15 8BA, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: 01288 381489, eccott@gotadsl.co.uk.

10 March Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.▶



13 March Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com.

15 March Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 0208 946 4489.

16 March Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, 12 dealers, hot and cold food will be available. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• Upminster Stamp Fair, St. Lawrence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2AJ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

• Orpington Stamp & Postcard Fair, Christ Lutheran Church, 227 Poverest Road, Petts Wood, Orpington BR5 1RD, 10am to 4pm, 20 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Keith Jupp, 01689 827086, kjstampspts@btconnect.com.

• Brighton Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.



• Plymstock - Phoenix Fairs South West Stamp & Postcard Fair, Plymstock Community Centre, The Broadway, Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 7AW, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Rex Eccott, 01288 381489, eccott@gotadsl.co.uk.

17 March Knowle Stamp Fair, Knowle Village Hall, St. Johns Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 3pm, 10 dealers, tea, coffee and light refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

• Amersham Stamp and Postcard Fair, Jubilee Scout Hall, Rectory Hill, Amersham HP7 0BT, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

23 March Broughty Ferry Stamp & Postcard Fair, St. Aidan's Centre, 408 Brook Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EY, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chad Neighbor, 01674 832823, chad@cneighbor.plus.com.

• Liverpool Stamp Fair, St. Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0NR, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• WESTBEX 2019 Stamp Fair, The Kennet School, Stoney Lane, Thatcham RG19 4LL, 10am to 4pm, 22 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Graeme Stewart, 01635 866942.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 595)

• Bexhill Stamp Fair, St. Martha's Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4SL, 10am to 4pm, 4 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.



• Falmouth Stamp Club Fair, St. Francis School, Longfield, Falmouth TR11 4SU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Rex Eccott, 01288 381489, eccott@gotadsl.co.uk.

24 March Bracknell Stamp Fair, Red Cross Centre, 21 Martins Lane, Bracknell RG12 9EN, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

30 March Great Barr Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm, 14 dealers, full refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

• Northampton Stamp Fair, The Abbey Centre, East Hunsbury NN4 0RZ,

10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.



• Wanstead Stamp Fair, Our Lady of Lourdes, 51 Cambridge Park, Wanstead E11 2PR, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.
• Ealing Stamp Fair, Ealing Parish Church, St. Mary's Road, Ealing W5 5EU, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.
• Twickenham Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, Whitton, Twickenham TW2 6JL, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.
• Eastbourne Stamp Fair with Postcards, St. Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, Eastbourne BN22 9PP, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.
• Redruth - Cornwall Postcard & Stamp Fair, Redruth Methodist Church, Wesley Street, Redruth TR15 2EG, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Doug Luxford, 01736 786284.

31 March Peterborough Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough PE3 6SG, 10am to 3pm, 10 dealers. Enquiries: Richard Lewis, 01945 700594, richard@lewis8571.plus.com.

• Stevenage Stamp Fair, Novotel, Knebworth Park, Stevenage SG1 2AX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

1 April Bedford Stamp Fair, St. Mark's Church Hall, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY, 10am to 4pm, 11 dealers. Enquiries: Paul Harris, 01623 621143.

6 April Durham - NEPA Stamp Fair, Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5AT, 10am to 4pm, refreshments available. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.

• Liverpool Postcard & Stamp Fair, Lark Lane Community Centre, A igburth, Liverpool L17 8UU, 10am to 4pm, 36 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Helen Prescott, 07712 722116, h.prescott@yahoo.co.uk.
• Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John and 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, 01162 350441.
• Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 595)



• Cardiff Stamp, Postcard & Collectors' 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, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

7 April Alfreton Philatelic Club Stamp Fair, The Genesis Centre, King Street, Alfreton DE55 7DQ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Hales, 01773 417004, halesj@sky.com.

• Hopton Stamp Fair, Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton NR31 9BE, 9.30am to 2pm. Enquiries: Terry Allaker, 01502 563759.
• 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.▸



• Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com.

• Maidstone Stamp Fair, Royal British Legion Hall, Hall Road, Aylesford ME20 7NL, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

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

12 April Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 0208 946 4489.

13 April Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.

• Middlewich Stamp Fair, Middlewich Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich CW10 9BX, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

• Telford Stamp and Card Fair, Belmont Community Hall, Tan Bank, Wellington, Telford TF1 1LT, 10am to 3pm, 15 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Bob Pilkington, 01299 211737, sbpilkington02@outlook.com.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 595)

• Ruislip Stamp & Postcard Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, Ruislip HA4 7BZ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

• Canterbury Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, 60 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.

• Bridgwater - Michael Hale Stamp Fair, Westfield United Reformed Church Hall, West Street, Bridgwater TA6 7EU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

14 April Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

• Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.

• Uckfield Stamp Fair, Ridgewood Village Hall, New Road, Ridgewood, Uckfield TN22 5TE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875 ●



SPECIAL STAMPS CALENDAR 2019

4 April	Birds of Prey
2 May	British Engineering
24 May	Queen Victoria Bicentenary
6 June	D-Day
9 July	Curious Customs
13 Aug	Forests
3 Sept	Music Giants
19 Sept	Royal Navy Ships
Oct	TBC
5 Nov	Christmas
Nov	TBC



Tyrian Plum – a letter to De La Rue



In the January edition of the *Bulletin*, the Tyrian Plum article explained that the stamp was not issued due to it being deemed 'inappropriate'. However, Douglas Muir (Senior Curator of Philately at The Postal Museum) has clarified the reason for the non-issue by directing our attention to a letter from the Inland Revenue to De La Rue dated 18 May 1910, which says:

'I have to inform you that the Postmaster General has decided that, in view of the decease of His late Majesty, King Edward VII, the proposed new 1½d and 2d single colour Postage Stamps, bearing the portrait of King Edward, shall not be issued, and that the introduction of the new Stamps is to be deferred until the new series of stamps bearing the portrait of King George, can be got ready. The 2d Stamps, which have already been printed, will therefore be destroyed, and no further stamps should be taken in the preparation of the die and plate of the new 1½d Stamps.'

– Many thanks to Douglas Muir for that insight and clarification ●

Usage collecting



As described in the introductory article of this series, 'solo frankings' – ie covers with a single stamp that pays the full rate – are a natural and very popular way of collecting stamp usages. Indeed, you could argue that they are the most fundamental way to approach the topic, as they illustrate the stamp being employed for precisely the purpose it was issued for. If you found your brow creasing slightly at that statement… well yes, all right, 'precisely' is putting it a bit strong, because there's a degree of fuzziness involved in the concept of 'purpose'. There's a continuum, from stamps issued to pay a particular rate to those issued simply for general purposes without any primary usage in mind, and the vast majority of stamps had a range of uses. This article will take a look at some of the possibilities.



1848 letter to Philadelphia franked with the 1s embossed, carried by the paddle steamer Cambria, launched in 1844 and part of the fleet of the British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Glasgow

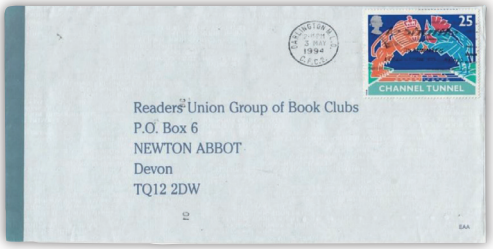
Image courtesy of Andrew G Lajer Ltd



The same stamp paying a subsequently introduced 1s rate – the one to British North America from 1849-54, when sent by a British packet ship on the route via Halifax in Nova Scotia (rather than via the USA)

Image courtesy of Ben Palmer

In the first few decades of GB postage stamps, new values actually were generally issued with a specific purpose in mind as and when the need was felt, typically to pay the basic rate to an important destination. For example, the first new value issued after 1840 – the embossed 1s of 1847 – was intended primarily to cover the rate to the USA, but found numerous other applications. This practice was not solely confined to the 19th century. In fact, since the values of commemoratives are almost always chosen to cover a particular common rate, the great majority of GB stamps ever issued are of this type. Sometimes a value issued for a very specific rate later found another entirely separate use, but on the other hand, a few stamps issued for obscure rates have become difficult to find used for the intended purpose! ►



One of the 25p stamps that was issued in 1994 for the opening of the Channel Tunnel – an appropriate value as it covered both inland letters and airmail to France. (From 1986-98, the lowest weight step rate to European Union countries was the same as inland first class, as a special concession.)

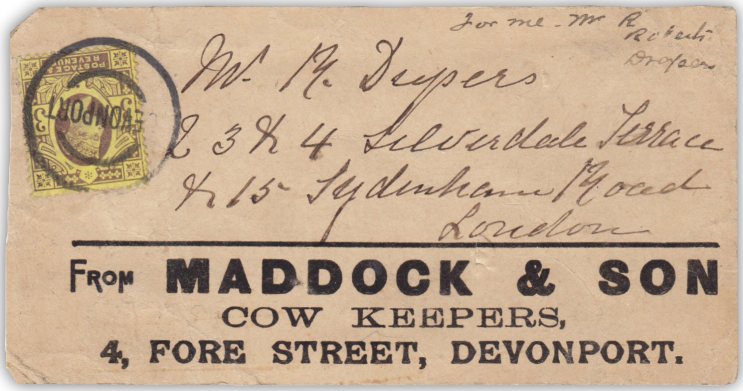


A 4½d stamp was belatedly added to the Victorian 'Jubilee' set in 1892 to cover the second step inland parcel rate (originally set in 1886). However, it also happened to be convenient for overseas registered letters (2½d postage + 2d registration), and this was the main use for the stamp after the parcel rates were reduced again in 1897 and halfpenny steps eliminated



Another 4½d second step rate – this time for inland letters from 1957-65. A Wilding definitive of that value was issued and is uncommon on cover, but the only commemorative set that included a stamp for this non-primary rate was the National Nature Week set of 1963 – a decidedly tricky stamp to find as a solo usage

Queen Victoria 3d 'Jubilee' of 1887, used for the 3d basic parcel rate for up to 1lb from 1883-1915. If any rate can be said to be the primary intended use for the stamp, it is this, although 3d values had been continuously available for various purposes since 1862



Another very common use for this stamp on its own – the 3d minimum rate for inland registered letters (1d postage + 2d registration fee) that applied from 1878-1918



Below: The George VI 1s brown was first issued in 1939, but its commonest solo usage by far is to pay the 1947-52 basic ½oz airmail letter rate to Zone B (covering much of the world outside Europe)

Below right: The 7d Wilding used for the basic ½oz second class airmail rate to Zone B 1966-71. (This rate covered printed papers, samples etc.) Probably the most often seen solo usage for this stamp, but still not one that is especially common







Definitive issues are another matter, as from the 1880s onwards, the concept of the 'definitive set' developed. Stamps for normal use (generally with related designs) were issued in a range of values to allow any needed rate to be made up, with specific stamps for the most common rates. For much of the next century, there were definitive stamps for most whole penny values up to a shilling and a few intermediate halfpenny values, and as postal rates in this era were fairly low on average this covered most eventualities. For values in the 3d to 1s range especially, it's often hard to point to any one usage and say with certainty 'this one is what the stamp was intended for'. Generally, there will be one or two usages that are most commonly seen, although not necessarily ones that were applicable when the stamp was originally issued, and they may not be the sort of thing that you would necessarily expect a stamp to be issued specifically for! And values occasionally remained on issue through official inertia well after the point at which they ceased to be useful, which can result in some very rare items.

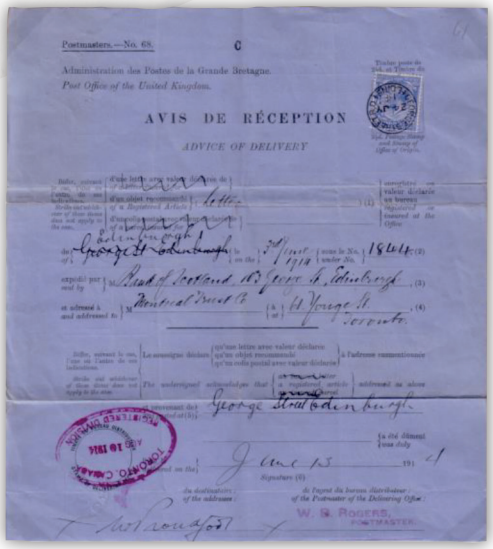
Of course collectors, being collectors, get a lot of fun from finding items that are out of the ordinary, and some of those illustrated previously were selected as being standard usages with unusual features. Rare destinations are always popular – such as the Victorian 1s which is the only recorded example of that rate to Prince Edward Island, and its George VI counterpart addressed to the tiny French possession of St Pierre et Miquelon (off Newfoundland), a place that ▶



Image courtesy of Frank Walton

Solo usages of the 11d Wilding are however even harder to find. The value was first issued in 1947 for the new second step parcel rate introduced on the same day, but by 1953 it had no more 'simple' use cases. It could be pressed into service for higher weight packages, such as this example of inland printed matter for which the rate for 16-18oz was 11d in 1957-61 – but these naturally tended to be the kind of bulky items not often retained by collectors

received very little mail from Britain! Stamps commercially used on the first day of issue are a nice thing to find, and the Channel Tunnel stamp used to a book club is one such, cancelled by an appropriate "Le Shuttle" machine slogan. And even everyday uses can have additional points of appeal, such as the rather quaint-seeming parcel label from a cattle dealer with premises on what is now a main road in Plymouth. (Incidentally, the phrase 'commercially used' is a term of art here and might benefit from a bit more explanation. It refers to covers posted in the normal course of business (or private) correspondence using the stamps that came to hand, as opposed to 'philatelic' usages with a franking selected to create a collectable item. Paradoxically, the somewhat contrived nature of the latter tends to make them less interesting from a usage collecting point of view – as a lot of the appeal comes from illustrating the way the stamps were used 'in the wild'.) Most of the above have been examples of 'standard' rates, but even further out of the ordinary are items that represent the more obscure rates. These fall into three main areas – higher weight items (such as the 11d Wilding use above), seldom used services, and combination rates that occur when fees for extra services are added on.



A George V 2½d of the 1913-24 issue, paying the fee for an advice of delivery of an overseas registered letter 1879-1921. The stamp went on a large form with the details, which was sent to and returned by the delivery office. This was usually done when the registered letter was posted, but this one is an 'after the fact' request for a letter that had presumably not been acknowledged

Right: another solo use of the George VI 1s, but a much more esoteric one for a combination rate that totalled 1s in 1938-47 – 9d for part-way airmail to Trinidad (ie by sea to New York then forwarded by US air service) + 3d registration fee



The normal (and very common) use for the Edward VII 2½d was to pay the basic overseas letter rate. This example to Hawaii (referred to by Brits at the time as the Sandwich Islands) is however ½d basic printed matter rate for 2oz + 2d registration fee. (There was nothing in the regulations to forbid registration of printed matter, although it was seldom important enough to be worth the extra.)



Finally, there are some stamps that were basically intended as 'make-up values', and these tend to be at the ends of the scale. Most high values fall into this category – the principle being the same as with the coinage, namely to allow any amount needed to be paid using the minimum number of units. Solo frankings can occur because a higher or combination rate just happened to be that figure. Conversely, as postage rates gradually rose with inflation the main use for the very low values was to make up odd amounts – any rates they could still pay by themselves were usually fairly obscure. Solo frankings are far from the be-all and end-all of usage material (as other articles in this series show, there are plenty of possible approaches), but they do represent a particularly important type of usage. Hopefully the examples shown here will have whetted your appetite!



The 1942 2s 6d green 'Arms' high value used by itself in 1950 to pay a combination rate involving both higher weight and an additional service – 2s second step airmail to Zone B (1s per ½oz) + 6d express fee



By the time the ½d was issued in a new colour of pale orange in 1951, even printed paper rates were higher. The only type of mail which still had a ½d basic rate was 'Articles for the Blind' (Braille literature, etc) which by national/international agreement could be sent at very low rates



Bath Postal Museum

It's First Class

Discover how Bath played a vital role in establishing better communications throughout the empire

Visitors can see the fascinating story of the post from clay mail to email

Learn about the most famous Postal Pioneers, and how they shaped worldwide communications

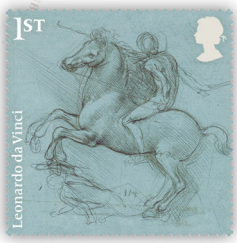
27a Northgate Street, Bath, BA1 1AJ
Tel: 01225 - 460333
www.bathpostalmuseum.org

The da Vinci Quiz

1 *The Last Supper* is a mural in which city?
a) Milan
b) Pavia
c) Florence



2 How many years did Leonardo spend building a life-size clay model of a horse?
a) 2 b) 5 c) 3



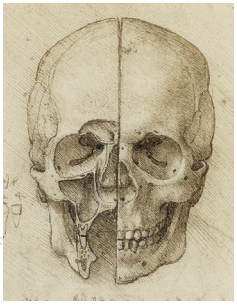
3 Which Roman god took the guise of a swan?
a) Apollo
b) Neptune
c) Jupiter



4 What is the latin name of the plant on this stamp?
a) *Osmunda claytoniana*
b) *Oxalis regnellii*
c) *Ornithogalum umbellatum*



5 At what museum is *The Skull Sectioned* sketch being exhibited?
a) Ulster
b) National
c) Derby



6 Leonardo da Vinci was the court artist of which king?
a) Louis XII
b) Francis I
c) Henry II



How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'da Vinci Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.noble@royalmail.com.
Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Leonardo da Vinci Presentation Pack.
Closing Date 15 April 2019.

December solutions – The Christmas Quiz 1a 2b 3a 4c 5c.
Winners Mr Mel Smith, Bury; Mr A Laxon, Swindon; Mr E Gilbert, Bishops Stortford; Mr James Markin, Castlederg; Mr Graham Mapp, Birmingham.

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.

New Issues and Withdrawals

14 March

Issue Marvel: Stamps (10 x 1st Class – 2 x horizontal se-tenant strips of 5). Miniature Sheet (3 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.25, 1 x £1.45). Miniature Sheet Pack. Presentation Pack (10 x 1st Class plus Miniature Sheet – includes free sticker sheet). Stamp Souvenir (affixed on Hulk envelope). Stamp Sheet Souvenir (affixed on Thor envelope). First Day Envelope (Hulk/Thor). First Day Cover Miniature Sheet (affixed on Thor envelope). First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book (using Thor envelope). Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: 4 x 1st Class Special Stamps from set, pane two: 6 x 1st Class Special Stamps from set, pane three: 1 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.45, pane four: 2 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.25, pane five: Machin definitives 2 x 1p, 3 x 20p, 2 x £1.25, 1 x £1.45). Prestige Stamp Book (stamps cancelled). Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book (with Spider-Man front cover, Spider-Man certificate and Spider-Man tin case). Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machin Definitives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Full Stamp Sheet (50 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Half Stamp Sheet (25 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Press sheet (18 per sheet, limited edition 1,000). Smilers® Generic Sheet (10 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Postcards (16 in set). Souvenir Pack (10 x 1st Class). Stamp Sheet Souvenir Pack (3 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.25, 1 x £1.45). Classic Comics Stamp Souvenir Folder (10 x 1st Class – with 10 comic book prints). Stamp Artwork Collectors Set (All Special Stamps, Miniature Sheet – plus 10 superhero prints). Framed Stamps and Miniature Sheet. Framed Collector Sheet. Framed Stamps and Miniature Sheet Special Edition signed by Alan Davis. Framed stamps signed by Neil Edwards. Framed Print (Spider-Man/Ironman/Hulk/Captain Marvel). (All Framed Stamps/Prints products UK Only.)

31 March

Withdrawal Lunar New Year: Year of the Dog Smilers® Generic Sheet (20 x 1st Class).





You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Please quote **19BUL12**, the *Bulletin* media code.

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Board from responsible sources FSC® C019570

bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com

All information about Royal Mail products is the latest available at the time of going to press. Royal Mail is not responsible for opinions and information provided by the writers in this publication. The cruciform and the colour red are registered trade marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd, © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2019, all rights reserved. All stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd. Any use of stamp images must be cleared with the Royal Mail Intellectual Property department – see www.royalmail.com/intellectual-property.

5 014721 146355 >