

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

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Bulletin

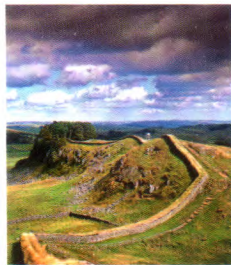
Royal Wedding • Poll results
• Trooping the Colour issue



Hadrian's Wall: one of eight remarkable sites featured in a new joint issue from Royal Mail and Australia Post.



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover A section of Hadrian's Wall seen from Cuddies Crag, in Northumberland. The Wall is one of eight World Heritage Sites featured on the stamps to be issued this month. The stamps were previewed in the February *Bulletin*. Photograph by Dennis Hardley.

Issues Some items available only from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office Limited philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate, Leicester, London (Trafalgar Square & Eastcheap), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Truro, Windsor & York.

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30-17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Handling charges: UK £1.30, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some stamps/products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps

30 March	Withdrawal 4p, 8p, 34p and 37p definitives • self-adhesive stamp books 6 × E, 6 × 42p, 6 × 68p.
31 March	Withdrawal 2004 Christmas cards (showing Christmas stamp designs).
1 April	Withdrawal £1.50, £2, £3 & £5 definitives printed in recess (intaglio); presentation pack containing these four stamps.
5 April	Issue Definitives 9p (2 bands), 35p (1 band, printed Enschedé), 46p • 42p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland (printed Walsall); Country stamps presentation pack (4 × 42p).
5 April	Withdrawal Entente Cordiale stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
8 April	Issue Royal Wedding miniature sheet.
12 April	Withdrawal Ocean Liners stamps and miniature sheet, presentation pack, self-adhesive stamp book, philatelic medal cover and presentation case (miniature sheet and silver medals).
14 April	Issue World Heritage Sites stamp cards.
21 April	Issue World Heritage Sites stamps, presentation pack, joint cover, pack and coin cover (UK and Australian stamps) • Smilers sheet containing 'Hello' Occasions stamps for Pacific Explorer exhibition.
26 April	Issue 35p definitive printed by De La Rue.
5 May	Withdrawal Entente Cordiale coin cover.
10 May	Issue Definitives: 10p & 20p with one phosphor band • 42p country stamps printed by De La Rue.
17 May	Issue Ingot Pack: George V 1924 1d British Empire Exhibition stamp.

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

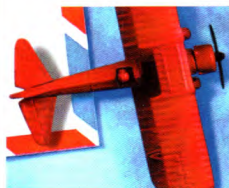
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This month The Editor previews this issue

INCLUDED in this month's *Bulletin* are the Rowland Hill Awards for 2004. The awards, set up in 1996, honour those who have given good service in the philatelic world – in the fields of initiative, enterprise, and innovation. The Award ceremony is probably the nearest the philatelic world gets to the Oscars or BAFTA and is enjoyed by all who attend. For the recipients of awards, it is a special event indeed and one to remember for a long time. We also publish the results of our Favourite Special Stamps and Favourite Bulletin Authors polls for 2004. The favourite stamps poll is an important barometer within Royal Mail of how our stamps are viewed by collectors. Once again I was pleased to read the comments some of you add when voting for your favourite *Bulletin* author – clearly you enjoy the articles and I am delighted we have such a good team of regular contributors as well as occasional writers.

I am pleased to publish in this issue an article by Dave Warriner on World Heritage Sites and Nigel Fordham continues his survey of the events leading up to the Battle of Trafalgar. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Stamp scene Exhibitions • Societies news • Trafalgar sheet • Publications • Auctions

Pacific Explorer See website www.sydney.com.au for more information.

International exhibitions The Pacific Explorer 2005 World Stamp Expo will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia, 21-24 April. The Centre was a major venue of the Sydney Olympics in 2000. It will comprise up to 1900 competitive frames and over 100 dealers and postal administrations.

The Court of Honour will include selected material from the Tapling Collection in the British Library which will be shown in Australia for the first time, together with key collections from the National Philatelic Collection, and private collectors will feature important items of Pacific related philately. Australia Post will release four stamp issues on the first day of the exhibition: World Heritage Sites (jointly with Royal Mail), 'Creatures of the Slime', Centenary of Rotary, and 150th anniversary of the first Australian coin. Other attractions will include a children's area, personalised stamps, and an opportunity to meet Australia Post's Design Studio. Royal Mail will be at the exhibition, on stand 48, next to Australia Post's main stand. Rachel Lonsdale will be stand manager, having organised the Royal Mail stand at Stampex for some years. The Pacific Explorer Smilers sheet will be available and there will be a cachet for the exhibition passport. The exhibition opening hours will be 21 April (International Day) 11.00-19.00; 22-24 April (Family, Pacific, and Heritage Days) 10.00-18.00 •

The next international exhibition will be in Brno, Czech Republic (10-15 May), followed by Hanover, Germany (2-5 June), and Taipei, Taiwan (19-24 August) •

Philatelic society meetings This month's displays at the Royal Philatelic Society London are: James Cummings Collection (7 April) and Telegraph Stamps and Stationery of the World (14th). Enquiries to the address opposite, or see website www.rpsl.org.uk •

April meetings of the National Philatelic Society are: President's Afternoon – display by Richard Pratt (9th), and British Internal Airways by Peter Lister (28th). Next month: Morocco Agencies by Barrie Cook (14th) and German Occupation of the Channel Islands by Alan Moorcroft (26th) •

The GB Philatelic Society will meet at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1 on 16 April (11.00). The displays will be 'Penny Pinks' by the Society's President, Michael Lockton, and 'The Penny Lilac Story' by Peter Young. On 21 May (11.00) the displays will be GB Maritime Mail (Malcolm Ray-Smith) and Members' Displays, also AGM •

Congresses The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies Congress for 2005 will be at the Dewar's Centre, Perth on 15-16 April. On 16 April (10.00-17.00) attractions will include over 50 stamp, postal history and postcard dealers, national and junior competitions, invited displays and a junior workshop. Visitors will be given a souvenir sheet of designs from the first 'Design a Stamp Competition' run by Girlguiding East Lothian with their 'Stamp It' initiative. The winners will receive their prizes at Congress on 16 April •

The Philatelic Congress of GB will be held at the Midland Hotel, Derby, 7-10 July. Arrangements are being made for the Signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and the presentation of the Congress Medal to be at the Royal Crown Derby Centre. The 2006 Congress will be held in Renfrew (6-9 July) and future events in Leeds (2007), Manchester (2009), London (2010), Norwich (2011) and Perth (2012) •

Auctions The 727 lots of GB material in Cavendish's 21 January sale included much fine postal history as well as stamps. £4140 was paid for a second day 1d black cover (used as a seal), and £1610 for a June 1840 1d black cover with 50 sets of initials as the PO attempted to find the addressee! A 6 May 1840 pre-paid cover (no stamps yet available) from Edinburgh to Stirling made £920 and a 'God save the Queen' caricature envelope to Australia went to £1840. Triple Maltese Cross cancels on an 1840 1d Mulready made £1725 and an uprated 2d Mulready to Ireland with a red crayon '4' made £2300. Modern errors and varieties continue to command premium prices: a 1969 Cathedrals 1s6d with black (value) missing made a spectacular £1725 and a collection of around 14000 FDCs from 1999 made a whopping £2900! Most GB booklets sold over estimate: topping the bill was the 1931 5s green, ed 1 – this rare book, even with trimmed perfs, went for £2530, over SG catalogue price. Realisations include buyer's premium •

Forthcoming Spink auctions are: British Empire (20 October), Stamps & Covers of the World (5 May, 7 July & 8 December), and GB (11-12 May). The subject of 22 September auction is to be announced. Fine Stamps & Covers of South East Asia will be auctioned in Singapore on 2-3 July •

Royal Philatelic Society
London 41 Devonshire Place,
London W1G 6JY

National Philatelic Society
107 Charterhouse St, London
EC1M 6PT or see website
www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

GBPS enquiries Greylands,
Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE
or see www.gbgs.org.uk



One of the four 'stamps' from the ASPS Congress souvenir sheet. Congress enquiries to: Alan Watson, 44 Rennie Street, Falkirk FK1 5AL or see the Association's website: www.scottishphilately.co.uk

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions
Telephone 01332 250970 or
see www.cavendish-auctions.com

Spink Telephone 020 7563
4000 or website www.spink.com



Trafalgar business customer sheet Business customer sheets, similar to Royal Mail generic Smilers sheets, have been produced by A G Bradbury for a number of their customers. A recent sheet bears the Union Flag stamp with a new painting of Lord Nelson surrounded by images of the Battle of Trafalgar shown on the adjoining labels. The surrounding border features elements from the painting together with Nelson's signal to the British fleet at Cape Trafalgar – 'England expects every man will do his duty'. The painting of Nelson is by the military artist Malcolm Greensmith. Limited edition of 1805 numbered sheets. Price £20 postpaid from: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Leicester LE2 3RA. Order online at www.bfdc.co.uk by typing in code 18102 ●

North East Philatelic Weekend The 29th of these Weekends will be held at the Swallow Hotel in Gateshead, 20-22 May. The speakers will be Tony

Walker (British Naval Mail associated with the Grand Fleet of Scapa Flow), Des Quale (Irish Postal History), Erica Banks (Sea Shells), Nick Wraith (Unique Collection of Stamps Made by a POW) and Alan Wishart (Imperial Russia). There will be a dinner and raffle on the Saturday. The cost of the weekend is £141. Enquiries/bookings: Val Beeken, 0191 386 1931 ●

Studiefroep Britannia P R de Rooij, Verlengde Horstlaan 4, 3971 MP Driebergen-Rijsenburg, Netherlands, or website www.sgbrbritannia.nl

PSS Enquiries to Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veney, Warminster BA12 7AY.

ABPS Membership Secretary Tony Bosworth, 18 Raymer Road, Penenden Heath, Maidstone ME14 2JQ, or website www.ukphilately.org.uk

GBDSBC Tony Wilkins, 3 Buttermere Close, Brierley Hill DY5 3SD or see website www.gbdsbc.co.uk

Publications The February issue of *Britannia News* includes features on Machin constant varieties; perfins and security overprints; posted unpaid, contrary to regulations and posted out of course handstamps; field service post cards; and details of new issues. Also included is a catalogue for the next Studiefroep Britannia auction ●

The February *Journal* of the Postal Stationery Society includes articles and notes on the V-Mail Service, 1942-45; Reply Paid Lettercards (Portugal & Possessions); Aerogrammes and Folded Letter Sheets from the Holy Land; reports of new printings of GB airletters; and a look at Land Disaster Covers in the Bath Postal Museum and stamped envelopes and cards used by stamp dealers and other philatelic organisations ●

The February issue of the *ABPS news* reports on the Basildon exhibition (November 2004) and new Royal Mail, Isle of Man and Crown Agents issues as well as including a plethora of information on society meetings and other events in the philatelic world. The Diary section, listing forthcoming events, is particularly useful ●

The February issue of the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle's *The Bookmark Journal* includes a round-up of 2004 issues, explanations of Study Circle nomenclature, and articles on the Machin heads on booklet stamps printed by Questa and Harrison/De La Rue, labels on packages of stamp books, and ATM Stamp Dispensing by Glenn Morgan ●

Aland's Bomarsund issue Last month we mentioned the prestige book from Aland to mark the 150th anniversary of the Bomarsund fortress. The book contains four stamps featuring the fortress which were voted the most beautiful Aland stamp issue of 2004 •

Enquiries Aland Post, PB 100, AX-22101 Mariehamn, Aland, Finland or see www.posten.aland.fi

People news John (Abdy Lyons) Fosbery who died in January, aged 95, was a noted collector of Spanish Main material and Cats thematics. He became a stamp dealer in London in the early 1950s, later trading from home in Devon. He will be remembered as founder of the Thematica exhibitions, and Editor of the *Spanish Main* journal. Mr Fosbery signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1986. A profile of him, by Richard West, was published here in June 2001. Marjorie Humble, who died in February aged 85, was a loyal attendee of Congress and from 1957 took part in the day to day running, assisting the late Ernest Hugen. She was for many years a joint British Commissioner at international philatelic exhibitions, and was awarded the Congress Medal in 1974. She is probably best remembered for her fine collection of stamp boxes •

Stamp shop on the silver screen What is believed to be a 'first' is the appearance of an actual stamp shop in a feature film. *Dear Frankie*, filmed in and around Glasgow, was well received at Cannes last year and went on general release in January. It is the story of single mum Lizzie Morrison (played by Emily Mortimer), doing her best to protect her deaf nine-year-old son Frankie (Jack McElhone) from his violently abusive father. Constantly on the run to escape him, she tells Frankie that his father is in the Merchant Navy, sailing the seven seas. To bolster this tall tale, Lizzie writes letters to Frankie from all over the world, purporting to come from his father, aboard the ss *Accra* (a name seen on a Ghana stamp). She enlists the help of a stamp dealer to supply appropriate stamps for the covers – though it is not made clear how these were to be postmarked.

In turn Frankie writes regularly to his dad care of the shipping line at a post box number in Glasgow (from which Lizzie retrieves his letters). There is a brief scene in which Lizzie consults the dealer, played by an actor, although philatelists in the Glasgow area will immediately recognise the interior of Buchanan Street Stamps – which also gets a mention in the credits. The only other film I can recall which featured the inside of a stamp shop was *Charade* with Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant. Although it had fine location shots of the outdoor stamp bourse in Paris, the actual interior was completely fictional, on a set created for the scene.

Gordon Carroll of Buchanan Street Stamps was the philatelic adviser during the making of the film, though he protests that he had nothing to do with the scene where Frankie sticks the latest stamp into his scrapbook with a generous dollop of glue!



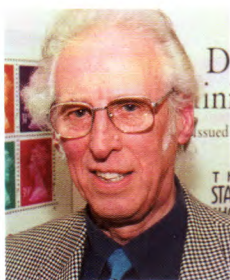
What makes Gordon Carroll's shop special is the large floor area, where collectors can sit browsing his extensive stock at leisure, the walls covered in framed stamps and covers. Above, *Dear Frankie* producer Shona Auerbach and assistant Jennifer Kerneke in the shop.

Buchanan Street Stamps

Gordon Carroll, 205 Buchanan Street, Glasgow, G1 2JZ.
Telephone 0141 333 9724.

I can't imagine a better locale for a stamp shop interior – Heaven knows, there are precious few of these emporia still around. A major extension to the premises was completed in December, providing for Gordon's diversification into autographs. The walls of the Autograph Gallery are adorned by framed portraits, ephemera and letters of the famous. Prices range from £35 for an unmounted programme from the King's Theatre, Glasgow, signed by Cilla Black, to £12,500 for a stunning memento of Marilyn Monroe, but most items are in the price range £100-£2500. *James Mackay* ●

Rowland Hill Awards 2004



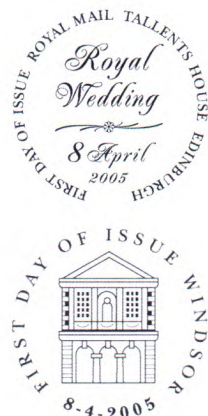
Jeffery Matthews

The awards for philatelic achievement during 2004 were presented at a lunch held at the Blueprint Café, a renowned Conran restaurant over London's Design Museum, on 17 March. The awards were presented by Julietta Edgar of Royal Mail, Francis Kiddle of the British Philatelic Trust, and Nigel Haworth of the Philatelic Traders' Society, the three sponsoring organisations. Each winner received a certificate bearing a 1995 Rowland Hill stamp tied by a special cachet and an attractive Perspex award featuring Rowland Hill's signature.

The Awards were initiated in 1996 to recognize individuals and organisations who have made a major contribution to philately during the year. The awards ceremony is a major event in the philatelic calendar ●

BPT INITIATIVE AWARDS	PTS ENTERPRISE AWARDS	OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
Young Collector Jacob Whittle, whose entry for the Stamp Active competition Grand Prix 'The Ultimate Race' was clearly the result of much original thought, and deservedly achieved a gold award. Runners-up: Simon Moorcroft and Lukshana Jeyaruban Authorship and Research Kenneth Clark for 'The History and Postal History of Japan's Wars' which opens up a relatively new field of philately in the English language. Runners-up: Ken Lewis (Rural Postmarks of Cyprus 1886 to 2000) and Nicholas Courtney (The Queen's Stamps). Society Work Southampton and District Philatelic Society for their hard work and effort in promoting the hobby locally, in preparing an interesting and varied programme which includes afternoon meetings. Runners-up: Hampshire Philatelic Federation and GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle.	Personal Contribution Martin Townsend for an exceptional level of business and personal integrity over many years. ROYAL MAIL INNOVATION AWARDS Journalistic Excellence: Print & Broadcast Media <i>The Mirror</i> (Matt Roper) 'The Secret World of Stamp, 11 August 2004. Runner-up: <i>The Times</i> (Jeremy Page) 'Crimean Heroes', 12 October 2004). Journalistic Excellence: Philatelic Writing Joint winners: Glenn Morgan for 'The Court Post Office 1990-2004' (<i>British Philatelic Bulletin</i>, April-August 2004); Richard Lockyer for 'King George VI Varieties' parts 72-74 (<i>Gibbons Stamp Monthly</i>, May, August, November 2004). Runner-up: Martin Robinson for 'The Mobile Post Offices' and 'Event Offices', <i>Bulletin</i>, June and October 2004). Post Office Excellence Newton Road Post Office branch, Carlisle. Runners-up: Downlands Post Office branch, Worthing and West Byfleet Post Office branch.	This prestigious award went to Jeffery Matthews MBE FCSF FRSA, one of the country's leading graphic designers and stamp designers. His first commission from Royal Mail dates from 1959 and his first adopted design was issued in 1965 commemorating the 20th anniversary of the United Nations. Together with his late wife, who worked under the pseudonym Charity Boxall, he has worked on a range of philatelic products. The Jeffery Matthews Colour Palette was started in 1984, in order to return to the original Arnold Machin concept of a light tone for the Queen's head on a solid background. Apart from his significant work on the country's range of definitives, he has made a particular contribution to the design of special stamps on Royal and heraldic themes including the 1984 Heraldry and 1998 Queen's Beasts issues. One of his most important designs was for the Penny Black definitives of 1990. In 2004 Jeffery was awarded an MBE for his services to design. His most recent work for Royal Mail is the forthcoming End of War miniature sheet (to be issued 5 July).

Royal Mail news Royal Wedding stamps • Rate changes • New issues and products



Above: first day postmarks. Sponsored handstamps for 8 April will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* and collectors will be given time to prepare and submit covers.

Left: the miniature sheet, at 82% actual size.

Royal Wedding stamps Royal Mail will issue a miniature sheet on 8 April to commemorate the marriage of HRH The Prince of Wales to Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles. The miniature sheet will contain two 30p and two 68p stamps, price £1.96. A presentation pack will be available, price £2.50, but there will be no stamp cards for this issue.

A Royal Mail FDC will be available and serviced covers can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, price £2.72 for UK customers, £2.32 overseas. Please state if Tallents House or Windsor postmark required. Covers must be ordered by 5 May.

Collectors can submit their own covers for the First Day of Issue postmarks not later than 5 May 2005. For the Tallents House postmark covers should be sent to Tallents House (address above) marking the outer cover FD0534. Covers for the Windsor postmarks can be sent to any of Royal Mail's five Special Handstamp Centres – London, Birmingham, South Shields, Cardiff or Glasgow. Please send to your nearest Centre, marking the outer cover FD0535 for the pictorial handstamp or FD0535 NP for the non-pictorial version •

Technical details

Designer Rose Design

Photographers Christopher Furlong (30p), Carolyn Robb (68p)

Printer Enschedé

Process Lithography

Miniature sheet size 85 x 115mm



Definitive and country stamp changes Readers are reminded that certain postal rates will be increased from 7 April, and that three new national definitives and four new country stamps go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House from 5 April. The new definitives will comprise: 9p orange (make-up value between UK 2nd and 1st class), and 46p old gold (1st class, second weight stage). At the same time the 35p definitive (currently dark brown) will be reissued in lime green with one phosphor band. The 9p and 46p stamps, both with 2 bands, were printed by De La Rue, the 35p by Enschedé. There will be new 42p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in the same designs as the current 40p and former E stamps. All were printed by Walsall, the Northern Ireland stamp in litho, the others in gravure. Details of first day facilities were given in last month's *Bulletin*. A presentation pack of the four new 42p country stamps costs £2.20.

The 7p, 35p (dark brown), 39p and 43p definitives and 40p country stamps will be withdrawn from general sale at post offices on 6 April, but remain on philatelic sale until next April. The 40p Machin definitive, withdrawn from general sale last October, will be reintroduced from 5 April.

Owing to the move of De La Rue's printing works to Dunstable, they were unable to print the initial supplies of the new 35p lime green and 42p country stamps. Subsequent printings have been made by DLR and will go on philatelic sale from 26 April (35p) and 10 May (country stamps). The Northern Ireland stamp is printed litho, the other country stamps gravure.

The 7 April rate increase will result in all existing 1st class stamps (definitives, country and special) being sold at 30p and E stamps at 42p. The Universal stamps (Europe and Worldwide) and postcard stamp available as singles from Tallents House will cost £1.72 and 47p respectively. The increase also applies to miniature sheets containing 1st and/or E stamps, and to Smilers sheets and prestige books and where relevant to all standard stamp books and rolls •

Phosphor on low value definitives Please note that the change to one phosphor band on low value definitives, announced in last month's *Bulletin*, has now been cancelled. We regret any confusion caused •

Forthcoming issues This month's issue of special stamps is a joint issue with Australia Post featuring World Heritage Sites in the two countries. The set, previewed here in February, will go on sale on 21 April, opening day of the Pacific Explorer international stamp exhibition in Sydney, also the 79th birthday of HM The Queen. Please note that the issue contains a pair of 47p stamps – these were shown as 43p values (at proof stage) in the February *Bulletin*. See opposite for joint products with Australia Post.

Previewed this month is the Trooping the Colour set, to be issued 7 June. The miniature sheet marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, to be issued on 5 July, will be previewed here next month. The Transport theme issues of recent years are continued with a set fea-

turing motorcycles on 19 July. It will comprise 1st, 40p, 42p, 47p, 60p and 68p stamps printed by Walsall (litho). Gastronomy is the theme of this year's Europa stamps which go on sale on 23 August – 2nd, 1st, 42p, 47p, 60p and 68p stamps printed by Enschedé in gravure. A set marking the 50th anniversary of Independent Television will be issued on 15 September (2nd, 1st, 42p, 47p, 60p, 68p, De La Rue litho). A key set of the year will be the issue commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar on 18 October (2 × 1st, 2 × 42p, 2 × 68p, Walsall litho). The annual Christmas issue will go on sale on 1 November (2nd, 1st, 42p, 60p, 68p, £1.12, DLR gravure) ●

World Heritage Sites stamps A number of joint Royal Mail/Australia Post products will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House. A pair of Joint Covers bears all 16 stamps (eight GB, eight Australia). The UK stamps are cancelled by the Blenheim Palace First Day of Issue handstamp; Australian stamps by a Sydney handstamp. The handstamp designs are co-ordinated as graphical representations of the Earth. The two covers are sold only as a pair, price £8.50. A joint pack comprises a fully illustrated brochure containing mint sets of UK and Australian stamps (16 stamps in all) held in carriers in the brochure. Price £7.50.

The Joint Coin Cover bears selected UK and Australian stamps, each cancelled with appropriate UK or Australian handstamp, plus two coins – a UK 50p and provisionally an Australian 50c coin. The stamps featured are: UK 2 × 2nd and 2 × 1st (Hadrian's Wall/Uluru and Stonehenge/Wet Tropics pairs), and Australia 2 × 50c and 2 × \$1 (Blenheim/Greater Blue Mountains and Orkney/Purnululu). Price £15.95.

Collectors will be able to submit covers for joint handstamping. Royal Mail will be applying an Australian pictorial first day postmark by authority of Australia Post but in accordance with British handstamping practice. The postmark was created for use on joint products being produced on behalf of both Royal Mail and Australia Post. Royal Mail will also apply the Australian handstamp to cancel privately produced covers. The postmark will only be used to cancel Australian World Heritage Sites stamps and only on covers that also bear at least one UK World Heritage Sites stamp in order to facilitate the creation of dual FDCs. No other stamps will be cancelled on such a cover. Covers should be sent to any of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres to arrive by 18 May ●

Miniature sheet album and stock book A new Royal Mail album to house miniature sheets is now available from Tallents House. The wine-coloured binder has a curved spine embossed with gold on three raised bands. It contains 10 black cards with single clear melonex film which hold the sheets securely. Additional inserts are available in packs of 10.

Our new stock book introduced last Autumn is proving very popular. With 16 pages, each with 10 acetate clear strips, it is ideal for keeping your stamps in prime condition prior to mounting in an album. The stock book has a racing green cover with 'Royal Mail Stock Book' inscribed in gold ●



Sydney first day postmark:
request postmark number
FD0533.

Miniature sheet album Price
£15.50; additional inserts are
£3.45 for 10.

Royal Mail stock book Price
£7.95 (order code PA690).

Both available from Royal Mail
Tallents House, 21 South Gyle
Crescent, Edinburgh EH12
9PB.



Customised Smilers sheets

For details of how to order, phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas) or pick up a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch.

Smilers A generic Smilers sheet of 20 'Hello' Occasions stamps will be available from 21 April to coincide with the Pacific Explorer exhibition in Sydney. Further Smilers sheets will follow on 21 June (20 White Ensigns stamps from 2001 Flags issue); 15 September (20 × 1st class ITV stamps); and 1 November (Christmas 10 × 2nd & 10 × 1st class Winter Robins stamps).

For details of how to order customised versions of the sheets, with your own image printed on the labels, call the number opposite. At the Smilers website (www.royalmail.com/smilers), orders can be placed using digital photos. Customised sheets will also be available through Snap Digital photobooths at selected Post Office branches and Safeway stores ●

New Stamp Ingot The fifth in the series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V will be available from 17 May. It features the 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition stamp. The sixth and final one in the series – 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress commemoratives – will be available from 9 August. Nos 1-4 featuring the Edward VII 1d and £1 stamps, George V 1d Mackennal head and 10s 'Seahorses' are all still available from Tallents House. The six ingots cost £26.95 each from Tallents House. The full set can be ordered for £161.70 which includes a free Collection storage box. The storage box is available separately, price £15.95 (order code AG008).

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

British Postal Museum & Archive To mark National Stamp Day on 6 May there will be a showing of the classic documentaries *The King's Stamp* and *Nightmail* at the Phoenix Centre, next to the Museum & Archive at 13.00. Admission is free although advance booking is necessary – phone number below. The King's Stamp film was produced for George v's silver jubilee.

An exhibition of 19th century British stamps, from the Penny Black to the 1887 'Jubilee' issue, on show until summer, includes unique registration sheets and items from the Phillips Collection. The Museum & Archive will be open on Saturday on 9 April, 11 June, 13 August, 17 September, 8 October and 10 December. Sessions introducing the Museum & Archive plus a behind-the-scenes tour will take place on 21 April (16.30) and 19 May and 16 June (13.00). Call 020 7239 2570 to book a place or for a ticket for a free lunchtime talk on 'Family History in the Royal Mail Archive' at 13.00 on 15 April. Large items such as vehicles are at the Postal Heritage Museum Store at Loughton, Essex which will be open to the public on 7 May, 11 June, 16 July and 17 September. Please book ahead if you wish to visit ●

Museum & Archive Freeing House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Open Monday to Friday 10.00–17.00 (Thursday until 19.00). Telephone 020 7239 2570. E-mail heritage@royalmail.com

The Museum & Archive, run by the Postal Heritage Trust, holds the collections of the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum.

Storing the Bulletin Binders and box files are available for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The sturdy box files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin* are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £9.95 each. Order codes PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the Philatelic and about 50 of the Postmark Bulletins. The traditional binders for the Philatelic and Postmark Bulletins cost £8.50 each (BB001 and PB322) ●



Coming off sale The Entente Cordiale and Ocean Liners issues will be withdrawn at Tallents House on 5 and 12 April respectively. The Entente Cordiale coin cover comes off sale on 5 May. Royal Horticultural Society stamps, miniature sheet, Smilers sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, and PSB will be withdrawn on 24 May, and the medal cover on 24 June. The British Journey Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland issues remain on philatelic sale until further notice. The self-adhesive books are now sold out. Remaining British Journey E, 43p and 57p values will be withdrawn from sale at Post Office branches on 6 April ●

Special draw Win a collection of Jane Eyre

FOR THIS MONTH'S DRAW we have sheets of 25, miniature sheet and prestige book of the Jane Eyre issue (24 February) for the sender of the first card drawn on 29 April. Five runners up will be sent Jane Eyre presentation packs. To enter the draw simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Jane Eyre Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ ●

Winners of Christmas FDCs signed by Raymond Briggs in the January prize draw were: Dr P Brierley, Kent; R Wallace, Bristol; K Mutlow, New York; J Beard, Gloucestershire and W Candlish, France.

Results of 2004 *Bulletin* readers poll by Glenn Morgan

IN DECEMBER you were invited to vote for your favourite set of special stamps of 2004, and your favourite individual stamp and *Bulletin* author. This was the 19th annual poll and, as in previous years, a good response was received, from almost 1200 readers all around the world. Some respondents added their comments and opinions, and we will feature a selection of these next month.

It would be interesting to see how different the results would have been if a similar number of non-collectors were approached for their views on the year's stamp design. Do philatelists have a different eye for minuscule art to the rest of the population or is good – and bad – design seen by all in the same way?

Favourite set As always, points were allocated for each vote for the set: three points for first choice, two points for second, and one point for third. This gives a clear picture of the relative popularity of each issue. The results are shown opposite.

For interest, past winners were: 1987 Flowers, 1988 Linnean Society, 1989 Birds, 1990 Queen Mother, 1991 Maps, 1992 Wintertime, 1993 Autumn, 1994 Age of Steam, 1995 Christmas, 1996 Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, 1997 The Great Tudor, 1998 Lighthouses, 1999 Scientists' Tale, 2000 Tree and Leaf, 2001 Weather, 2002 London Bridges, and 2003 Extreme Endeavours.

Favourite stamps The Woodland Animals stamp showing a Red Squirrel was your favourite individual stamp, with the Pine Martin design just a few votes behind in second place. The Ocean Liners RMS *Queen Mary 2* design narrowly beat the Classic Locomotives GWR Manor Class design into third place. Almost 100 readers chose not to vote for their favourite individual stamp.

Some 50 of the 75 individual stamp designs attracted 10 or fewer votes each (including six with zero points) and 65 out of the 75 under 20 votes each. When the single stamps are put back into their sets, four of the 12 stamp issues attracted under 20 votes for the set. These were: Northern Ireland (10 votes); Entente Cordiale (14); Lord of

the Rings (17) and Occasions (19). The runaway winner, however, was Woodland Animals with 495 votes, almost three times the number of votes compared to its nearest rivals – Ocean Liners (167 votes) and Classic Locomotives (152).

For the record, previous favourite individual stamps were: 1996 Wildfowl and Wetlands 19p; 1997 The Great Tudor (Henry VIII) 26p; 1998 Endangered Species 20p; 1999 Scientists' Tale 64p; 2000 Above and Beyond 19p; 2001 Flags – Union Jack; 2002 London Bridges 1st class; and 2003 Coronation 1st (Cecil Beaton's Coronation portrait of the Queen).

Favourite *Bulletin* author This was the ninth year that this poll was conducted. Douglas Myall was again your favourite author, beating his nearest rival by 121 votes. Some kind words were said about Douglas, including: 'As a Machin enthusiast, his articles are always interesting' and 'Mr Myall is always interesting and topical – he encourages me, too!'. Dorothy Martin, James Mackay and Ron Negus came second, third and fourth.

Two readers chose our Editor as being most worthy of the title 'favourite author'. It is easy to forget the amount of work that John puts in to get each issue of the *Bulletin* to print, so, despite being ineligible for the competition, I would like to give him an honourable mention. 152 readers failed to complete this section of the form, several considering all the authors their favourite, others declaring that they had no particular favourite. One respondent summed up his opinion by stating, 'All articles are so interesting and well written that it is too difficult to choose!'.
.....

Draw winners All voting forms were entered in two draws. The four winners of £50 each in the Favourite Stamps draw were: Mrs C Whitaker (Yarm, Cleveland), J W Miller (Rainham, Essex), H Duplay Lucien (St Etienne, France) and D A H King (Swaythling, Southampton). The winners of £50 each in the Favourite *Bulletin* Author draw were D Pardin (Turin, Italy) and G Durrant (Eye, Suffolk) ●



Sir Rowland Hill

was awarded the first RSA Albert Medal in 1864 for his postal reforms and the

Favourite stamps and sets The number following each value is as shown in the December *Bulletin*.

Woodland Animals squirrel 59	186	RHS 42p 39	6	Lord of the Rings 1st 20	1
Woodland Animals pine marten 54	179	RHS 68p 41	6	Northern Ireland E 24	1
Ocean Liners 1st 30	68	Woodland Animals roe deer 55	6	Entente Cordiale 28p 28	1
Locomotives 42p 4	66	Locomotives 47p 5	5	Wales 40p 44	1
Woodland Animals wild cat 58	43	Occasions 1st 9	5	Wales 43p 45	1
Ocean Liners 42p 32	38	RHS 2nd 36	5	RSA 57p 52	1
Locomotives E 3	33	Occasions 1st 7	4	Crimean War 40p 66	1
Ocean Liners 47p 33	31	Lord of the Rings 1st 12	4	Christmas 40p 72	1
Woodland Animals fox 63	28	Lord of the Rings 1st 15	4	Christmas 57p 73	1
Locomotives 68p 6	21	Northern Ireland 1st 23	4	Lord of the Rings 1st 14	0
Christmas 1st 71	20	Ocean Liners 57p 34	4	Lord of the Rings 1st 17	0
RHS 47p 40	19	RSA 40p 49	4	Lord of the Rings 1st 19	0
Ocean Liners E 31	18	Woodland Animals mouse 57	4	Northern Ireland 42p 25	0
Wales 2nd 42	18	Woodland Animals bat 61	4	Northern Ireland 68p 27	0
Woodland Animals badger 56	18	Crimean War 2nd 64	4	Crimean War £1.12 69	0
RSA 1st 48	17	Lord of the Rings 1st 13	3		
Crimean War 1st 65	17	Northern Ireland 2nd 22	3		
Locomotives 28p 2	16	Wales 1st 43	3		
RHS 1st 37	15	RSA 43p 50	3		
Woodland Animals stoat 60	15	RSA 68p 53	3		
Entente Cordiale 57p 29	13	Crimean War 57p 67	3		
Christmas 2nd 70	13	Occasions 1st 8	2		
Woodland Animals mole 62	12	Occasions 1st 11	2		
Wales 68p 47	11	Lord of the Rings 1st 16	2		
Locomotives 20p 1	10	Lord of the Rings 1st 21	2		
Ocean Liners 68p 35	8	Northern Ireland 47p 26	2		
Crimean War 68p 68	8	Wales 47p 46	2		
RHS E 38	7	RSA 47p 51	2		
Christmas £1.12 (75)	7	Christmas 68p 74	2		
Occasions 1st (10)	6	Lord of the Rings 1st 18	1		

FAVOURITE SETS		% of vote	votes
Woodland Animals	28	1896	
Classic Locomotives	21	1436	
Ocean Liners	20	1338	
RHS	9	625	
Crimean War	7	488	
Christmas	6	391	
Lord of the Rings	3	216	
Wales	2	145	
RSA	1.5	104	
Occasions	1	78	
Northern Ireland	1	70	
Entente Cordiale	0.5	36	

Trooping the Colour A spectacular parade captured in six stamps and a miniature sheet



Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Print

Process Lithography

Stamp size 35mm square

Sheet size 25 and 50

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Miniature sheet size 115 x 105mm

Plates and colours

All values W1 silver ● W1 yellow ● W1 magenta ● W1 cyan (blue) ● W1 black ● W1 phosphor

A SET OF SIX STAMPS and a miniature sheet featuring the colourful spectacle of 'Trooping the Colour' goes on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and at Royal Mail Tallents House on 7 June. This year the ceremony, to mark HM The Queen's official birthday, takes place on 11 June when the Colours to be trooped are those of the Irish Guards.

The stamps are: 2nd class, Ensign of the Scots Guards, 2002; 1st class, The Queen taking the salute as Colonel-in-Chief of the Grenadier Guards, 1983; 42p, trumpeter of the Household Cavalry, 2004; 60p, Welsh Guardsman, 1990s; 68p, The Queen on horseback, 1972; and £1.12, The Queen with Duke of Edinburgh in open carriage, 2004. The stamps were designed by Andy Altmann of design group Why Not Associates using images by Tim Graham (2nd, 60p and 68p), John Shelley (1st), Anwar Hussein (42p), and Bruno Vincent (£1.12). The Queen's silhouette, in silver, is positioned at top right on the 2nd, 42p, and 60p values; the silhouette was not required on the other stamps as The Queen features prominently in the image. The value/service indicator is positioned top left and all stamps are captioned TROOPING THE COLOUR at bottom left.

Why Not Associates designed the Happy & Glorious stamps marking 40 years of The Queen's accession (1992), The Future (children's faces) Millennium stamps (2001), and the Rugby Winners miniature sheet (2003).

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25. However, sheets of 50 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House. The miniature sheet, containing one of each stamp in a se-tenant block, costs £3.33.

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ROYAL MAIL TALLENTS HOUSE EDINBURGH
6 FIELD GUNS
256 MUSICIANS
978 SOLDIERS
254 HORSES
7.6.2005

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 7 June, price 25p. The cover shows the Irish Guards emblem. Orders for FDCs with the stamps/miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or London SW1 must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £4.33 UK or £3.69 overseas. Please state clearly if stamps or miniature sheet required.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of the Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres (London postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0513' (Tallents House), or 'FD0514' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the London postmark. A non-pictorial London postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FD0514 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 7 June will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

The pack (above), written by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, gives details of the origins of Trooping the Colour and leads us through the complicated manoeuvres of the ceremony. The pack, designed by Why Not Associates, features photographs of the ceremony and uniforms of the soldiers taking part.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £3.85) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House. There will be seven cards, one for each stamp plus one showing the miniature sheet.

Trooping the Colour stamps

Left to right, top to bottom

Lord Mayor's Show 1989 The 2nd & 5th stamps: Escort of Blues and Royals, and Drum Horse of Blues and Royals

Special postmark 1981
British Forces Post Office

Omnibus Golden Wedding 1997 Scenes of The Queen, Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales featured on stamps from Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Kiribati, and St Kitts

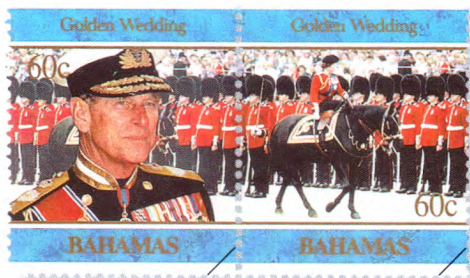
Queen's 60th birthday 1986
The first portrait on second 17p and 34p is The Queen at the 1958 ceremony

Accession 40th anniversary 1992 Fourth stamp in the set-tenant strip

The Queen's Horses 1997
63p River Star, which used to be ridden by the Duke of Edinburgh at the ceremony.

Trooping the Colour stamps and postmarks This is the first set of stamps devoted to Trooping the Colour although portraits of The Queen at the ceremony have featured on earlier stamps. As well as those shown here, the 28p stamp of the 1983 British Army issue featured the Irish Guards.

The Queen has been shown in military uniform for Trooping the Colour on a number of Commonwealth stamps. She stood in for George VI in 1951 and was thus shown on New Zealand's high value stamps of 1954-57. The 2s6d stamp in this series was voted the favourite stamp of The Queen's reign by visitors to the Thematica exhibition in 2003 (see *Bulletin*, August 2003, p381). The excellent book *The Royal Image: Stamp Portraits of Britain's Monarchs* by the late Lois E Young lists stamps (issued up to 1986) showing The Queen in Trooping the Colour uniform from the following countries: Anguilla, Antigua, Bermuda, Fiji, Grenada, Guernsey, Nauru, St Vincent Grenadines, Kiribati, St Kitts, Tonga, and Tristan da Cunha.



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



Sixtieth Birthday 17p





Trooping the Colour The parade is based on an old military practice of displaying the regimental colours at a special parade so all ranks would be able to identify their own colours as a rallying point during battle. The first reference to the Sovereign's birthday being 'kept' with such a ceremony is in *The First Guards (Grenadier) Order Book* for 30 November 1748 during the reign of George II. The parade has evolved into a major annual event, involving Guardsmen and musicians from the five regiments of Foot Guards (Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Welsh, and Irish), troopers, mounted musicians and horses from the two Household Cavalry regiments (Life Guards and Blues and Royals), and field guns, soldiers and horses of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery. A feature article on Trooping the Colour will be included in the June *Bulletin* •

Trafalgar Nigel Fordham describes the events of April 1805



'Broken Hearted as I am sir at the escape of the Toulon fleet yet it cannot prevent my thinking of all the points intrusted to my care, amongst which Gibraltar stands prominent. I wish you to consider me as particularly desirous to give every comfort to the Old Rock.'

Letter from Admiral Horatio Nelson on board HMS *Victory*, 20 April 1805 to Lieutenant General Fox in Gibraltar.



APRIL 1805 was a fretful time for Horatio Nelson and his Mediterranean fleet. How different things were just four years earlier in April 1801. In the 1790s Great Britain insisted on stopping and searching all merchant ships from neutral countries. Denmark was then a neutral country, but despised the actions of the Royal Navy to the point where if Captains of ships under Danish colours avoided or resisted searches they were decorated by their Crown Prince Frederick.

Matters came to a head on 25 July 1800 when a British squadron met a convoy of six Danish Merchant ships being escorted by a Danish Frigate, the *Freya*. Following a struggle, the Danish Frigate struck her colours and the convoy was taken to England. As a result of this action, the British sent a fleet of 19 ships to Copenhagen to reinforce the British demands, and the Danish Government removed 'protection' from their convoys in August. During this time the relationship between the British and Russia worsened, which eventually resulted in Denmark being invited to join Russia and Sweden in an Armed Neutrality

agreement against Britain. In reply to this action Britain placed an embargo on all Russian, Swedish and Danish ships in all British ports. At the same time, on 12 March 1801, a British fleet of 15 ships (later increased to 18) sailed from Yarmouth under Sir Hyde Parker, with Nelson as his second in command, to enforce the British position on the searching of convoys. They arrived five miles off Copenhagen on 30 March 1801. The Danish Navy had placed ships in a defensive position across the harbour supported by land guns. Natural protection was also provided by treacherous shoals in the mouth of the harbour.

At Nelson's request Hyde Parker gave him 12 Ships of the Line to attack the 18 Danish ships and avoid the shore batteries in a daring plan on 2 April 1801. The battle commenced at 10.30am and both sides fought hard. It wasn't until 1pm, after continuous bitter fighting, that the Royal Navy could claim a modicum of success through the defensive Danish line being punctured. From Nelson's original promise to finish the Danes in an hour or so, two and a half hours later both



"H.M.S. Victory was laid down at Chatham in 1759 to a design by Sir Thomas Slade, and launched in 1765, a first rate of 100 guns and 2,162 tons. She was Nelson's flagship from 1803 until his death aboard at Trafalgar. Victory is now laid up in H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth, where this cover was handstamped aboard her, by permission of her Captain, Lt. Cmdr. H. A. A. Twiddy, D.S.C., R.N."



TRAFALGAR



Opposite: The Battles of Copenhagen and the Nile on an Isle of Man issue, and Nelson during the action at Copenhagen.

sides were hard at it and, alarmed, Hyde Parker sent a signal to Nelson to withdraw. Nelson's reaction was typical. He first made sure that his own signal 'Close Action' was flying, then turned to his flag Captain on *The Elephant* and, raising his telescope up to his blind eye said 'You know Foley, I only have one eye – I have a right to be blind sometimes. I really do not see the signal'.

The battle continued until 2pm, when Nelson hoisted a flag of truce to offer the Danish Crown Prince a cease fire. He had received no Danish surrenders, and the cease fire initiative was seen by many as a bluff in order to get what he wanted quickly. Whatever it was, the Danes suspended their treaty with Russia and Sweden, and an Armistice was signed on 9 April 1801.

'The French', Nelson was to say, 'fought bravely but they could not have stood for one hour the fight which the Danes had supported for four.' It is interesting that during an exchange of gunfire between the British and the guns of the Danish port Elsinore, it was a British shot that recorded the only damage of the exchange, to the British Consul there!

Here four years later Admiral Horatio Nelson, C in C of the Mediteranean fleet, was faced with the impossible question 'Where were the French and Spanish Fleets?' He had heard of their break-out on 30 March but could not be sure where they would go. It was reported that the French and Spanish ships had been loaded with saddles and muskets. Nelson waited off the island of Ustica,

Above: 1972 Trafalgar anniversary cover, and a 1967 postcard from Gibraltar, with both HMS Victory and Gibraltar cachets.

north of Palermo, for further information whilst at the same time guarding the Mediterranean. His frigates had lost them. Were they heading for Egypt? Could Villeneuve have doubled back to the English Channel to support Napoleon's invasion plan, or was he on his way to the West Indies?

Finally news came on the 18th that the French fleet had passed Gibraltar 10 days before, sailing in a westerly direction. Nelson decided to leave the Mediterranean, with any immediate threat gone, to chase the enemy. As ill luck would have it he faced a 'foul wind' (contrary wind) blowing against him in the Straits, with Gibraltar in sight, which led to more frustrations as he struggled to reach the Atlantic. He would not break out of the Straits until May.

Meanwhile back in London the City merchants were becoming just as anxious, as no news had been heard from Nelson. The combined fleets of France and Spain could be descending upon the West Indies unopposed, to plunder the City merchants' investments. Above all, no one really knew what was going on at the time. In Nelson's own earlier words: 'I am in a fever! God send I may find them!' ●

Sea Britain 2005 events in April For further information visit the Sea Britain 2005 website: www.seabritain.com

01-03.04	Jane Austen in Nelson's Time, Portsmouth
30.04-02.05	Horatio's Last Hurrah, Deal, Kent
30.04-02.05	The Dockyard in the Age of Nelson, Portsmouth

World Heritage Sites A tour of the sites on

ACROSS THE WORLD there are 754 locations that have been recognised as World Heritage Sites by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). These range from coral reefs, glaciers and rain forests to ancient megaliths, medieval cathedrals and bustling city centres. What makes these locations important enough to deserve inscription on the World Heritage List is that they are either sites of great historical and cultural value, or areas of outstanding natural heritage.

The idea of creating an international movement to safeguard these sites was galvanised by the building of Egypt's Aswan High Dam. This would have resulted in the loss of the ancient temples of Abu Simbel and Philae, below the waters of Lake Nasser, had UNESCO not launched an international appeal for their preservation. Some 50 countries donated around US\$40 million to the campaign that allowed the temple complexes to be dismantled and reassembled on dry ground, where they are now visited by thousands of visitors from all around the world.

Further projects to save endangered heritage sites, such as Venice and the ancient Indus valley city of Mohenjo-daro in Pakistan, initiated the preparation of a draft UNESCO convention aimed at their protection. The United States had suggested, in 1965, that a World Heritage Trust be set up to protect both natural areas and historic monuments. In 1968 the World Conservation Union put similar proposals to its members and these were presented to the UN Conference on Human Environment in 1972.

The Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972, with the aim of identifying sites of outstanding and universal value throughout the world and ensuring their conservation. The Convention has been ratified by 177 nations, each of whom may nominate sites within their territories for inscription as a World Heritage Site. By joining the Convention, member states demonstrate an international commitment to preserving the planet's heritage for future generations to enjoy.



World Heritage Sites featured in the joint stamp issue Hadrian's Wall (2nd class) was built to guard the northernmost limits of the Roman province of Britannia, on the orders of the Emperor Hadrian around 122AD. It stretches for 118 kilometres from Wallsend-on-Tyne to Bowness-on-Solway and continues down the coast to Ravenglass. Although some parts were initially constructed of turf, the completed wall was built of stone to the height of five metres. At every Roman mile there was a milecastle, garrisoned by eight soldiers and equidistant between these there were two turrets for sentries to keep watch over the frontier. At a number of points there were large forts that acted as crossing points where settlements grew up, looking after the needs of both travellers and soldiers. When the Romans left Britain the wall was abandoned and many of the stones were robbed for new buildings. It was only recently that its importance as an archaeological monument was recognised.

the new joint issue stamps, by Dave Warriner

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (2nd class) in Australia's Northern Territory, is one of the few World Heritage Sites that is listed for both its natural and cultural values. Uluru is the aboriginal name for Ayers Rock, a huge red sandstone boulder that rises 340 metres from the desert. The national park contains many sites that are of special spiritual significance to the local people and several examples of ancient Aboriginal cave art.

Stonehenge (1st class), in Wiltshire, is part of a site that also includes the stone circle at Avebury and many other prehistoric monuments such as Silbury Hill and West Kennet Long Barrow. Why Stonehenge was built has baffled historians for many years and it seems that hardly a week goes by without some new theory, ranging from the plausible to the absurd, emerging. What we do know from archaeology is that Stonehenge was built over three phases. The first stage was a circle of timbers surrounded by an earthen ditch and bank. Excavations have uncovered deer antler pickaxes that have been radio carbon dated to around 3100BC. Around 4500 years ago Stonehenge was rebuilt using bluestones from the Prescelli Mountains in Pembroke, some 380 kilometres away. These five-ton slabs of rock must have been dragged down to the coast and floated on huge rafts up the River Avon, before being hauled overland to their present location on Salisbury Plain. The final construction phase began some 200 years later and involved the rearrangement of the bluestones and the erection of the huge sandstone Sarsen stones. The Sarsen stones were hauled from the Marlborough Downs 32 kilometres away and each pair of upright Sarsens was crowned with a lintel. It is a mystery as to how these stones, some weighing up to 45 tons, were brought to the site and put into place.

The Wet Tropics of Queensland (1st class) consist of some 894,000 hectares of rainforest. It is home to 390 species of plant and 25 species of animal that are classified as rare, including the yellow-bellied glider and the southern cassowary.

Blenheim Palace (47p) near Woodstock in Oxfordshire, stands in grounds created by the famous landscape gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. It takes its name from the Battle of Blenheim, where in 1704 British and Dutch forces overcame those of Louis XIV of France. Queen Anne ordered that a palace should be built for the Duke of Marlborough, John Churchill, the leader of the victorious army, to show the nation's gratitude. The palace was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh and building began in 1705. Sir Winston Churchill, himself a descendant of the Duke of Marlborough, was born there. Blenheim Palace contains many notable works of art and, together with its splendid grounds, is a popular destination for tourists.

The Greater Blue Mountains Area (47p) in New South Wales, consists of 1.03 million hectares of deeply incised sandstone plateaux, escarpments and gorges dominated by a temperate eucalypt forest. There are 91 varieties of eucalypts in the area including 12 that occur there alone. The area is also home to the rare Wollemi Pine, a survivor from the age of the dinosaurs, as well as several species of marsupial mammals, reptiles and birds.





The Heart of Neolithic Orkney (68p) is a group of Neolithic (new stone age) monuments that provide a graphic window into the lives of the Orkney Islanders of 5000 years ago. The group consists of two ceremonial stone circles (the Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar), several chambered and cairn tombs and the settlement of Skara Brae, together with a number of as yet unexcavated dwelling, ceremonial and burial sites. Because there were no trees in Orkney the inhabitants of Skara Brae were forced to build much of their dwellings and even their furniture from stone, thus leaving a fine archaeological record.

Purnululu National Park (68p) in Western Australia is home to the Bungle Bungle Range. The remarkable sandstone towers and banded beehive structures of the Bungle Bungle are the product of millions of years of sedimentary deposits, tectonic uplift and erosion by wind and water. The regular dark horizontal bands in the structures were caused by cyanobacteria.

The joint issue of Royal Mail and Australia Post stamps goes on sale on 21 April, opening day of the Pacific Explorer Stamp exhibition in Sydney. The stamps were previewed here in February. ●

Text © Dave Warriner 2005

Making a mark for himself Cyril Parsons talks to Richard West about his philatelic life, and the letter box in his garage

DO YOU HAVE a letter box in your garage? Cyril Parsons does: he acquired it locally when it became redundant. Collecting has been part of Cyril's life since he was ten, when his father returned to the hobby and involved Cyril. Soon they were both active members of the local, Epsom, philatelic society. At Cyril's grammar school, pupils were encouraged to join a club – one happened to be a stamp club, in good hands because teaching at the school was the noted collector Ian Hamilton. Cyril's collection was like most for his age, although he did share his father's interest in collecting British West Indies.

Then, in 1953 and his final year at school, he was asked to put on a display of stamps to mark the Coronation. Having read John Easton's book on British postage stamp design, Cyril decided to focus on royal portraits, those of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II. This would lead to



him writing an article on the subject, and later to publish a book on the stamp portraits of The Queen. Another outcome was the founding of the Royal Portraits Study Group.

By this time Cyril was at Reading University, but still developing the royal portraits collection, particularly noting how each portrait was interpreted depending on the printing process used. Once more he joined the local society, this time Reading, and in his final year at the university gave his first society display (and is still showing his royal portraits to this day).

Like many students, Cyril spent Christmas working for Royal Mail, and thus came his introduction to the world of postal mechanisation and postmarks. Thus history started to repeat itself, for, as he acquired material, so he gained knowledge to write an article on machine postmarks and, together with Bill Kneil, helped create the British Postmark Society.

Through this society he met Colin Peachey and the late George Pearson. They realised that little had been written about slogan postmarks, so decided to right this wrong, and in 1962 published their first catalogue of British slogan postmarks, surprising all three by selling 1,200 copies.

After university Cyril became a maths and science teacher, and thus did not undergo National Service. Since then he has had a varied career, encompassing publishing, publicity and accountancy. Now in 'semi-retirement', collecting is still an important part of Cyril's life, continuing with machine cancellations, but more recently studying British 'paid' markings, which have now largely given way to PPI, or postage paid impressions.

Most of the material comes from dealers and by visiting exhibitions (Cyril has not ventured much into the world of stamp auctions), while many of the cancellations have been rescued from wastepaper baskets. Most of the postmarks are stored in boxes, although those that are mounted are on A4 card, needed to hold the weight of covers and markings on piece. Generally speaking these items are mounted using photo corners. The royal portrait collection is on album leaves, and mounted with hinges – when it was started there were not the niceties of mounts. He has no set time which he devotes to the collections: as with many of us, it is what is urgent at the time, whether it be researching an article or preparing material for a display. It still gives Cyril the greatest satisfaction seeing something he has written appear in print, knowing that the results of his research have been put on permanent record.

He has a number of goals he would still like to reach: to write a book on British 'paid' postmarks, another on the postal history of Aylesbury, and an updated version of John Easton's book *Postage Stamps in the Making*.

Despite the fact that Cyril is retired, he is still one of the younger members of the Aylesbury Philatelic Society, now his 'local'. Consequently he does have some concerns for the future of the hobby, one reason he became involved with the Friends of the National Postal Museum in its formative years, and remains active with the organisation it is today, the Friends of Postal Heritage.

He fully supports the aspirations of Tony Conder, Chief Executive of the British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA), in his endeavours to explore the whole breadth of interest that can be gained from stamps and postal history. For a time he edited the journal of the Friends, *Cross Post*, gaining awards for this, and for the catalogues on British slogan postmarks, at the former British Philatelic Exhibition.

Of course, the BPMA is far more than archives and stamps, and includes many three-dimensional objects. Cyril is keen on letterboxes, and was one of the first members of the Letterbox Study Group. He used to go cycling with his daughter, taking photographs of letterboxes they would pass on their way. When a lamp box became available locally, he made sure it found a good new home – hence Cyril Parsons has that letterbox in his garage ●

SOME QUESTIONS PUT TO CYRIL PARSONS

What brought you from Epsom and Reading to Aylesbury? I started working in Buckinghamshire, so moved to Aylesbury in 1962. As it happens my wife Joyce was a nurse at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, so living in Aylesbury proved very convenient.

How did you meet Joyce? We met at a scout and guide camp, and were married in 1964. Scouting is still very much a part of our lives, as it is for our daughter and two grandsons. We all look forward to going to camp, meeting up with others as one big happy family.

Where do you take your holidays? We have a time-share in Tenerife, and occasionally visit New England where my wife's sister lives.

Who would you name as one of Britain's great philatelists?

One who I would like to have met is Colonel Guy Gouch, who lived in Aylesbury, an early postal historian whose interests included machine postmarks. I like to feel that I have carried on his work.

What is your best philatelic bargain? It has to be an unused example of the 1929 Postal Union Congress £1. I needed it for my royal portraits collection, and paid £5, although, of course, at the time £5 seemed a lot of money.

Do you have a favourite philatelic book? It has to be that by Peter Johnson on the British travelling post offices, which I find fascinating.

Do you still have any personal ambitions? Although I have been retired for three years, I still like to do some paid work. I am very much involved with Headway, an organisation which provides help for those who have suffered a traumatic brain injury, and whose work I came to appreciate after my wife was involved in a serious car accident.

Mainly Machins Specialist collectors report by D G A Myall



The Brontë Sisters PSB Printed by Walsall Security Printers Ltd in gravure (definitives) and lithography (covers, interleaves, special stamps) this latest in the longest-running series of GB stamp books is well up to the standard of its predecessors. These books, sold at the face value of the stamp content, are always good value, but I was impressed by the text and illustrations in this one. The story of the three surviving sisters (two older ones died young) is well told and sheds new light on their achievements, which were not restricted to literature. All three, and their brother Branwell, were keen artists, and Charlotte was very accomplished. Her delicate portrait of her sister Anne, shown in the book, is particularly striking.

Walsall also printed the sheets of special issues so, as one would expect, the booklet stamps are a good match. So, too, are those on the miniature sheet, which featured all six stamps and was a separate printing. The head and value on the 2nd class stamp are a shiny silver, in contrast to the corresponding elements on the other five values. The phosphor bar on the 2nd class stamp is the standard 4.5mm wide but the two bars on the other values are each a graduated 9mm made up of an 8mm fine screen and a 1mm coarser screen on the right of the left bar and the left of the right bar. As usual with Walsall printings, registration is not exact and they are to be found both short at top or bottom and inset from the left or right. Such minor shifts are within Royal Mail's specification to the printers as to the placement and performance of the phosphor bars and thus are of philatelic rather than operational significance.

There are two panes of definitives (illustrated in the December 2004 *Bulletin*). Apart from the 2nd class NV1 the two values on the Machin pane are new to collectors as they are the first of their kind to have been printed by Walsall in these colours. The other pane carries two each of the England country pictorial 2nd class and 40p stamps. These are Walsall's first printing of the England stamps. Both are a very good match to the De La Rue versions. The easiest way to distinguish them is by the direction of printing revealed by the swarf left behind by the perforator. Viewed from the back, this is at the top of the holes on the Walsall stamps and at the bottom on the De La Rue stamps. The blue fluor bars are interesting. On the Machin stamps they are all at the standard 4.5mm wide, whether placed in the centre or at the sides. The England 2nd class stamp also has a 4.5mm central bar. On the 40p stamp they are graduated, being 5mm + 1.5mm at the left and 1.5mm + 5mm at the right, making a total width of 13mm. The narrow bars are a coarser screen. All the bars on the definitives fluoresce a much brighter blue than do the lithographed ones on the special issues.

Royal Mail supplied a first day cover for the Machin pane but not, surprisingly, for the other definitive pane. Both have stamps which are new only to specialists and both have se-tenant combinations. The gap was amply filled by the many dealers who include the provision of first day covers among their services. There are signs of an awakening of interest in such covers, so I hope you have made sure of yours.



The four panes in the Brontë Sisters PSB (24 February), and Lynton Lamb's 1955 castles designs on the 50th anniversary miniature sheet (22 March).

50th anniversary of Castles definitives The miniature sheet celebrating this event has much to interest collectors, both general and specialist. The sheet was illustrated in the January *Bulletin*. Printed by Enschedé, it differs from the original design issued as a press release when De La Rue were expected to print it. Most notably, the country emblems in the four corners are no longer in the colours of the stamps, and these do not have elliptical perforations. The method of intaglio printing is new and an account of it appeared in the Bulletin Publication on the Castles stamps included with last month's *Bulletin*.

The 1955 issue comprised 26d, 5s, 10s and £1, designated as high values at the time. The 2005 set comprises two at 50p and two at £1 but these are not high values. The official definition of a high value has changed several times. It became '£1.50 or more' in 2003 when the worldwide air-mail stamp was issued at £1.12, a value now common to some special issues. One reason for the distinction between the high and low values is to allow for separate presentation packs, as some collectors may not be able to afford a pack containing the whole range and costing £15 or so.

The Castles definitives have always been popular. In my opinion, Lynton Lamb's 1955 designs, adopted for the new issue, could not be better for their purpose. The three elements – castle, value and head – are perfectly balanced and give proper prominence to the Monarch's portrait.

Royal Mail has long had a policy of featuring the four parts of the Kingdom in stamp sets, and the choice of a castle from each part was a happy

one. The castles have always been Carrickfergus in Northern Ireland, Caernarfon (the Welsh spelling) in Wales, Edinburgh in Scotland and Windsor in England. The castle names did not appear on the original stamps and the same policy is followed for their decimal equivalents. However, two of the names appear at each side of the miniature sheet with a tiny arrow pointing up or down to indicate which design is being referred to.

In March 1969 the original castles stamps were replaced by intaglio high values with the Machin head. But in 1988 the castles returned in designs based on photographs by HRH The Duke of York. For my part, I do not think the designs were as artistically fit as were the originals. I do not like to see The Queen's head floating, as it were, and looking like an afterthought, even if at first it was based on the Machin sculpture. I was glad when Machin high values re-appeared in 1999 engraved by Czeslaw Slania. These intaglio-printed small-size high values were first printed by Enschedé, then by De La Rue. The DLR printings are being withdrawn on 1 April. In July 2003 the stamps were reissued printed in gravure but had a relatively short life as they were taken off sale at post offices on 31 March 2004. However they remain on philatelic sale and at BFPO post offices, and are available to businesses through Royal Mail Retail. Still, I am not displeased with the resurrected castles – they are very attractive and they are only temporary, aren't they?

As I had not seen the sheet at the time of writing I cannot say what, if any, security features are incorporated. I have already mentioned the decision to dispense with elliptical perforations and I think that the options for including optically variable ink (OVI), used on the decimal castles from 1991, are limited. The stamps are overprinted with phosphor and the paper does not include any optical brightening agent (OBA).

The miniature sheet is to be issued in a presentation pack. Numbers printed are not published nowadays but it is evident that these are lower than was usual at one time and several recent packs have sold out before their first anniversary. My advice is to make sure you get one of the new Castles packs before they disappear •

Philately on-line Ron Negus on another single country site



IN THIS COLUMN in October 2004, I wrote about a site that a collector had set up to explain the pleasure he gained from his collection of Philippine Islands stamps. I feel that the use of the internet to bring virtual displays of material to a wider audience is one great benefit of on-line philately. Whether that material covers a single country or a single theme is not important, since keen collectors will always learn something new from looking at displays.

Taking the single country route, Gary Little, an American collector from California, has put together a site that is simply called Luxembourg Philately (address above). This provides access to information on the various aspects of this country's stamps and postal stationery. For English speaking collectors, one drawback of studying this country in the past has been that most of the relevant philatelic literature is written in French or German. This site overcomes this problem, and is written entirely in English. This will allow more collectors to appreciate the interest that is contained in Luxembourg issues from 1852 to the present.

The various topics that make up the site can all be accessed easily from the home page. This is arranged as a contents list, with each heading amplified with its own short description. The first three headings, called 'References', cover the various formats in which issues have appeared. They are divided into Stamps, from 1852 to date, Postal Stationery, from 1870 to date, and Stamp Booklets, from 1906 onwards.

www.luxcentral.com/stamps For those considering adding this country to their collecting range, the site described in this month's column also links to the Luxembourg Collectors Club home page. The Club has produced a regular bulletin since 1997, which contains articles of specialist interest.

Selecting the 'Stamps Reference' heading opens a page giving a chronological list of years of issue. When any particular year is chosen, a short table is displayed containing a full list of the titles of the stamp sets produced in that year. Clicking on any set then opens a separate page of colour images of the full set. The exact date of issue is given along with a brief narrative explaining the purpose of the set of stamps and their design.

This same approach is taken with the 'Postal Stationery Reference' and 'Stamp Booklets Reference' sections of the site. Choice of the relevant date period reveals colour illustrations of the cards or booklet covers as appropriate. Suitable notes are appended to each picture.

Of particular interest are the 'Postmark Reference' pages, which follow the above three sections. These are also illustrated and annotated. They are arranged under main types and, as well as conventional postmarks, they include pre-cancels and slogans. The dates of the markings covered run from 1852 to 1944 inclusive.

Three other illustrated sections complete the catalogue part of the site. 'Special Flight Covers' contains images and descriptions of first flights made by aeroplane, helicopter, balloon and rocket. 'Rare Stamps & Covers' focuses on images of covers, unusual stamp blocks and multiples, and postmarks of the early classic period. These have been taken from sales at auction houses around the world, and the date of sale and realisations made are quoted. Finally, a section on 'Forgeries' is provided that illustrates genuine and fake examples of some valuable Luxembourg stamps.

By using good illustrations of all the material being described, this site shows the diversity of Luxembourg philately. Many collectors will not have seen its stamps as they are rarely shown in society displays. This is a good starting point for those who want to learn more about them ●

100 years of Dundee and District PS by Colin Campbell



DUNDEE AND DISTRICT Philatelic Society is the second oldest philatelic society in Scotland and is the only one to have kept its original name for 100 years and to have had continuous meetings. During wartime these were regarded as a 'useful tonic'. In 1905, answering a small advertisement in a local Dundee newspaper inviting 'any who were interested in philately to attend a meeting', 13 men met and decided to form a society. The first president was Mr Fred David. Mr George Whitaker, credited with forming the Society, was elected as Secretary and Exchange Superintendent. The subscription was set at 1s 6d (7½p) for adults and 1s (5p) for juniors under 18 years.

Joint Meetings The Society was instrumental in setting up the first Joint Meeting of the Scottish Philatelic Societies – a forerunner of the Annual ASPS Congress. The efforts of Dr A E Kidd, President of the Society 1921-38, resulted in the first meeting in the Dundee Arts Rooms on Saturday 28 February 1925. As numbers increased, the Annual Meeting in 1928 moved to Perth – the venue for the present day Annual Meeting of ASPS. Dr Kidd's interests lay in stamps of the Balkans and his displays were well received by Scottish societies. He was also well known for his 14 volumes of *Forgeries, Fakes and Frauds*. His is the first name entered in the Book of Scottish Philatelists.

Another well known philatelist, C W Meredith, became a member in 1921 and was an active and prominent member of the Dundee Society until 1967, being President 1939-42 and 1951-52.

He initially specialised in the Chalon Heads of New Zealand but his main interest was the line-engraved stamps of GB. He carried out a huge plating study of the 1841-64 1d. He was a founder member of the Society of Postal Historians.

Mr John W Christie joined the Dundee Society a few weeks after its formation in 1905 and became 'interim' secretary in 1909, a post he held for the next 25 years! He was involved in organising the 5th (GB) Philatelic Congress held in Edinburgh in 1913 and later in organising the 1923 and subsequent 'Joint Meetings'. Mr Christie was the permanent Secretary of the 'Perth Meeting' from the inception of the Joint Meetings – a post he held for 10 years. He was an early 'thematic' collector, of stamps showing Greek gods, goddesses and Hellenic mythology. The names of the latter two will be entered in the Book of Scottish Philatelists at Congress in April.

Commemorative covers For a number of years the Society has produced commemorative covers associated with Dundee, and its centenary cover marks the 700th anniversary of the death of Sir William Wallace. The cover insert gives details of his Dundee connection. The special postmark is sponsored by Winters Pioneer Ltd, a printing firm in Dundee whose history dates back to James Chalmers' printing works. See the *Commemorative Covers Review* for further details, or e-mail cgc@campbell1706.freemove.co.uk or telephone 01382 667901.

Current activities Dundee and District Philatelic Society is proud of the contribution that its members have made to philately during its first 100 years and looks forward its next 100 years. To join us in our second century telephone the Secretary on 01382 226843. The Society meets at 19.30 at the Art Society Rooms, 17 Roseangle, Dundee. The meetings this month are: Telegraph & Fiscal Stamps of India & Ceylon (7th) and AGM and Competition Awards (28th). The Society is hosting the ASPS Congress at the Dewar's Centre, Perth on 15-16 April •

Competitions Win £200 in two easy-to-enter competitions



January identify The detail was from the 44p Life & Earth stamp of 2000. The winner was D Hitchin of South Africa.

January knowledge Answers: 1) turquoise green; 2) 1999 Entertainers' Tale/2000 Body & Bone; 3) Jake Sutton. The winner was D Mole of Kent.

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

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

- 1 Which famous train featured on a 31p stamp in 1985?
- 2 What colour was the Edward VII 7d stamp?
- 3 Where is an international stamp exhibition to be held next month?

Send your answer (addressed to either the April *Identify* competition or the April *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 13 May will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

Until 17 April 9th annual STAMP Lincs exhibition at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Rd, Lincoln.

Enquiries P Wain, 01522 525984.

9 April Railway Philatelic Group Annual Convention, Severn Valley Railway Museum, Comberton Hill, Kidderminster, 10.00-16.00. AGM 14.30. Dealers, displays. **Enquiries** T Davies, 01746 862600.

15-16 April Scottish Philatelic Congress. See p229.

21-24 April Pacific Explorer 2005. See p228.

22 April Kent Federation of Phil Socs Spring Rally & Stamp Fair at East Malling Village Hall, East Malling. Refreshments, free parking, 15 dealers. **Enquiries** M Thompson, 01474 325507.

23 April North East England Phil Assn Convention at Seaburn Centre, Seaburn, Sunderland, 10.00-16.00.

23 April Welsh PS meeting at Meifod Village Hall near Welshpool. **Enquiries** G Prior, 01656 740520.

23 April Thematic Workshop, organised by British Thematic Association, at Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2. **Enquiries** P Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford CM23 2BY.

30 April Exeter & District PS Annual Stamp Exhibition and Fair at Priory School, off Topsham Road, Exeter, 10.30-16.30. Dealers, displays, refreshments, free parking, regular bus from city centre. **Enquiries** A Pavey 01392 445194 (evenings and weekends).

30 April Federation of South Wales Phil Socs Annual Convention Stamp & Postcard Fair at Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. 15 dealers, Kids activity area, light refreshments, limited free car parking. Souvenir card. **Enquiries** G Prior 01656 740520 ●

Late news

Royal Mail update The size of the Jane Eyre miniature sheet is 114 × 105mm, not as given here in December. The World Heritage Sites stamps were designed by Jason Godfrey using photographs by Peter Marlow. Following market research on recent stamp issues, it has been decided to curtail the British Journey series. A final set, to be issued in February 2006, will feature scenery in various parts of England, not just Northern England as originally announced •

Castles miniature sheet A number of readers have enquired about the printing of the Castles miniature sheet after seeing the master die on display on the Royal Mail stand at Stampex and reading the Bulletin Publication on the Castles stamps sent out with the March *Bulletin*. The etched plate, shown on page 18 of the Publication, is the printing plate used to print the miniature sheet. This plate, bearing the images of all four colours used, was rolled around the printing cylinder, and ink was then selectively transferred to specific areas of this printing plate using tensile rollers (made of rubber). The maximum number of colours that can be transferred onto the same cylinder is four. Once all four colours had been transferred to the specific areas on the cylinder, the complete image was printed on the stamp paper •

British Postal Museum & Archive will be celebrating National Stamp Day (6 May) by inaugurating a new permanent handstamp and cover. The distinctive handstamp features the new BPMA logo, along with a motif taken from the border of the iconic Penny Black. The accompanying cover, decorated with the colour version of the BPMA logo and the strapline 'Our history through the post', will be available from 6 May from the BPMA in packs of five, price £1.25 plus 50p post and packaging. To order, send a cheque payable to 'Postal Heritage Services Ltd' to: British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Collectors who would like the 6 May postmark on their covers will have

10 days in which to send them to Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB requesting BPMA handstamp. For further information visit www.postalheritage.org.uk •

Publications The January GBCC *Chronicle* includes a lengthy interview of Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, who began collecting as a schoolboy, gave it up, but started again in his mid-30s. He regards philately 'as a remarkable form of activity, bearing in mind that the word philately really engages studying something. It is a remarkably effective method of taking one away from whatever one's everyday business life stresses are while keeping the brain active.' Asked 'Do you think it's a dying hobby?', he responded: 'I would say that it's an ageing hobby. I think the demographics are very clear on that. One has to recognize that so far as youth is concerned, there are several things working against collecting. One is it seems to be what in the UK would be called an anorak activity, a nerd activity if you like... One of the attractions of philately is going to have to be to people who perhaps can be attracted to a new subject in their late 30s or their mid-40s'. Mr Sefi makes some poignant remarks about the private nature of many collectors, not wishing to show their stamps, join societies, or even to meet other collectors. He regrets that some in the philatelic establishment 'look down on people like that'. This is among the best interviews published by the GB Collectors Club. Enquiries: Parker A Bailey, 17 Greenwood Rd, Merrimack, NH 03054, USA or see website www.gbstamps.com/gbcc •

Letter box meeting The Letter Box Study Group meets at the Touchstones Heritage Centre, The Esplanade, Rochdale on 9 April, 10.00-15.00. Enquiries: Helen Crabtree, 01536 762127 •

Bulletin back numbers Kate Brewer offers a run from January 1975 to January 2005 to anyone who will collect or pay carriage. Contact her on 01366 500562 •

*To commemorate the Royal Wedding,
here are some pictures
for your album.*



On the 8th of April, HRH The Prince of Wales will marry Mrs Camilla

Parker Bowles at Windsor. And what better way to commemorate this special occasion than with this beautiful Royal Wedding Special Stamp issue?

By far the most celebratory way to collect these stamps – two 30p and two 68p – is in a Presentation Pack. These special packs contain a Miniature Sheet of the four stamps in a protective folder, as well as additional commemorative photographs of the couple.

The stamps are also available as individual Miniature Sheets, or First Day Covers which are personalised envelopes bearing a unique hand stamp.

This Special Stamp issue would also make an ideal present for a friend or loved one, or indeed anyone who'd like to remember this Royal event.

**The perfect Royal Wedding present,
from only £1.96.**

To order these stamps, call **08457 641 641** quoting reference 06AAA between 8.30am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Lines will also be open on Saturday 2nd April, from 8.00am to 4.00pm, and Sunday 3rd April, from 8.00am to 2.00pm.

Alternatively, you can order them online at **www.royalmail.com/bulletin**



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