The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 58 No.6



Cushty collectibles



UNITED KINGDOM: A CELEBRATION • DECIMALISATION • MONARCHS' HIDDEN NAMES



My Favourite Things
One Page Competition

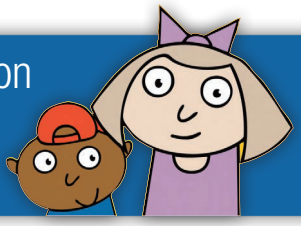
Stamp Active Network is pleased to announce this year's one page philatelic competition displaying 'My favourite things'. Themes could include Places, People, Hobbies, Objects and much more. Favourite Flowers, Authors, Toys, Animals, Sports or Transport are possible subjects, or anything else that the entrant likes to do, see or visit. The scope is endless. Entrants may choose to focus on one area such as Football or Cars – or they may wish to cover a wider range such as Sports or Transport. Alternatively, you may want to be creative and 'Make a Wish for 2021' with details of what you are looking forward to!

Young people up to the age of 18 (on 1 September 2020) are invited to create a one page mini-exhibit. Stamps, covers and other philatelic items can be used. The page must have a title, and either captions or a short write up that tells the story. The entrant's full name and address (home or school) should be on the back of the page, also their age on 1 September 2020. Entries should be on good quality paper (A4) or a similar size album page, and placed in a clear protector. The entries can be either hand-written or prepared using a computer.

A scan of the page should be sent to stampactive@btinternet.com to arrive by 28 February 2021. There will be four age groups – Up to 7; 8-10; 11-14; 15-18: – with prizes being awarded (for First, Second, and Third) in each age group, sponsored by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins. Winners will receive philatelic gifts selected by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins to the value of £25 (1st), £20 (2nd) and £15 (3rd).The best overall entry will also receive an Amazon voucher for £100. The entrants will be judged on their knowledge of the subject, originality and presentation.

Winners will be announced in the philatelic press and on the Stamp Active website. The entries will be also be on display as part of Virtual Spring Stampex 2021 from 25-29 March 2021. If you are unable to scan your entry, it can be posted to: Stamp Active Network, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB. Entries will only be returned if you send a stamp-addressed envelope. Only one entry per person is allowed. UK entrants only.

Stamp Active is a voluntary organisation which promotes stamp collecting for young people in the UK



For more information about collecting and the activities of the Stamp Active Network visit www.stampactive.co.uk

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Editor Tim Lees, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.45 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £22.95 UK and Europe; £29.50 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) are priced at £4.99 and are available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 2633 2310 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

16. 2. 2021
LONDON SE15

Lovely jubbly



A Losing Streak – 1st Class Del risks it all in a game of cards with Boycie, but he has a trick up his sleeve



Yuppy Love – 1st Class Sharp-suited Del is keen to make an impression with the yuppies in the wine bar... which is exactly what he does



Sleeping Dogs Lie – 1st Class The Trotters agree to look after Boycie and Marlene's beloved dog, Duke, but soon regret it when the Great Dane falls ill



A Touch of Glass – 1st Class Del and Rodney are poised to catch a priceless chandelier – unfortunately it's not the one Grandad is unscrewing from the ceiling...

Only Fools and Horses **– Stamp Specifications**	
Date of issue	16 February
Number of stamps	Eight (4 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.70)
Design	Interabang
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	50mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Perforations	14 x 14
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

BBC and ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES (word marks and logos) are trade marks of the British Broadcasting Corporation and are used under licence. BBC logo © BBC 1996. Only Fools And Horses logo © BBC 1981. Series created and written by John Sullivan. Licensed by BBC Studios.

The *Only Fools and Horses* stamp set marks the 40th anniversary of Britain's best loved sitcom, which still holds the record for the highest comedy programme ratings at 24.3 million viewers. An eight-stamp main issue and four-stamp Miniature Sheet showcase its brilliantly drawn characters, hilarious plots and cracking scripts. All our favourite Peckham people are here – wheeler dealer Del Boy Trotter, his daydreamer brother Rodney, endearingly daft Trigger, Uncle Albert, Grandad, Raquel, bad boy Boycie and more. The stamps feature some of the show's greatest moments: the falling chandelier foul-up; Del's plunge through the wine bar hatch; the exploding coach on the boys' day trip to Margate; and the birth of Del and Raquel's son.

Royal Mail celebrates the 40th anniversary of Britain's much-loved comedy with hilarious iconic moments



The Jolly Boys' Outing – £1.70 The Nag's Head regulars' annual beano to Margate goes with a bang – and Trigger loses his dolphin



Three Men, a Woman and a Baby – £1.70 Del and Raquel await the birth of their first child. Rodney, however, is worried about what might actually arrive



The Unlucky Winner Is... – £1.70 Rodney wins a holiday in a painting competition he hadn't even entered – and membership of the Groovy Gang



Time on Our Hands – £1.70 Raquel's Dad spots something of value in the Trotters' lock-up and this time Del and Rodney really do become millionaires

Out on 16 February, the issue includes a Prestige Stamp Book, Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir Cover, Collector's Sheet, Medal Cover and a Del Boy Framed Print signed by David Jason. There's also a Boycie Framed Print signed by John Challis, the actor who played the secondhand car dealer with whom Del Boy enjoyed a love-hate relationship. The Presentation Pack tells the story of the programme's creation and development, the real-life inspirations for writer John Sullivan, and the parts played by actors David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst that made *Only Fools and Horses* the massive success it was. (Famous fans are numerous and include the Royal Family, David Beckham and the Dragons' Den business guru Theo Paphitis.)

And it is quite a story. *Only Fools* was always going to be a convincing comedy as creator John Sullivan was the real working-class deal. Sullivan was born in a tough part of Balham, south London, the son of a plumber and a charlady, in a little terraced house with an outdoor toilet and a tin bath hanging up in the backyard. Young John at first showed little interest in school, though he made good use of the imagination that would help him pen TV shows like *Citizen Smith*, *Just Good Friends* and *Dear John*. In return for cash, he concocted excuses for fellow pupils to tell teachers. But when a young Geordie English literature teacher called Jim Trowers arrived at John's secondary school, his life was transformed. Unconventional Trowers (he wore ►



Del Boy – *First Class*
(played by David Jason)



Rodney – *First Class*
(played by Nicholas Lyndhurst)



Uncle Albert – £1.70
(played by Buster Merryfield)



Grandad – £1.70
(played by Lennard Pearce)

The Miniature Sheet includes the four main Trotter characters on individual perforated stamps; Del Boy, Rodney, Uncle Albert and Grandad. The background features Del and Rodney with the unmistakable Trotters Independent Trading yellow three-wheeled van



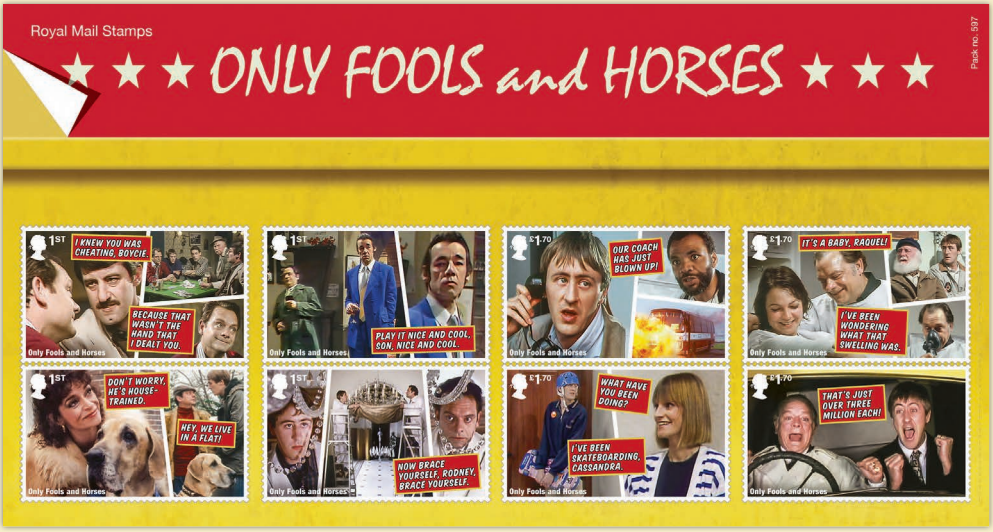
an eye patch and would pretend to take his eyeball out and clean it) read literature to his pupils out loud, doing all the characters with different voices, mesmerising John and instilling in him a love of Dickens. The colourful personalities of *David Copperfield*, for example, would inspire Sullivan to create smartly crafted characters and lively scripts when he began writing for the BBC in the 1970s. But Sullivan, who like Del Boy had worked in the markets, was also influenced by the characters he grew up around. He based Del on a cockney called Chicky Stocker (you couldn't make it up), who sported plenty of rings on his fingers and always had a roll of readies to peel off in the pub and buy a round, just like in the show's watering hole, the Nag's Head. Even the title, *Only Fools and Horses*, short for 'only fools and horses work', nodded to the dodgy geezers Sullivan had witnessed selling hooky gear – they'd rather make a mint as traders than sweat in a factory or office.

David Jason's Del proved that brilliant characters with a nice line in chatter were central to the show's success. Del's unique vocabulary even entered our language: 'lovely jubbly' was included in the

Only Fools and Horses **Miniature Sheet Specifications**	
Date of issue	16 February
Number of stamps	2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70
Design	Interabang
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Format	Landscape
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Sheet size	192mm x 74mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



If cars can be stars, Del's grubby yellow Reliant Regal three-wheeler van (which appears on the Miniature Sheet) is a screen legend. For comic-effect seediness, the *Only Fools* props team equipped it with a dashboard valve that, when opened, blasted thick smoke out of the exhaust. So iconic in British culture did the van become that it even appeared in the 2012 London Olympics opening ceremony.



Presentation Pack

Oxford English Dictionary in 2003. (Sullivan got the idea from 'lubbly Jubbly', an ad slogan for the orange 'frozen drink' called Jubbly.) Del's mangled French was a delight: 'creme de la menthe' was his phrase for the very best and he'd say 'menage a trois' to express surprise. He'd say 'bonjour' for goodbye and 'au revoir' for hello. And we savoured great one-liners like: 'He who dares wins, he who hesitates… don't' and 'It's the toughest chicken I've ever known – it's asked me for a fight in the car park twice.' Jason danced a line between crafty conman and likeable loser so we somehow wanted him to come out on top – though the humour was based on Del's many disasters. Like the Margate trip, on one of the £1.70 values, when the coach bursts into flames after one of Del's dodgy products, a Mustafa F80 cassette player ('It's got MW, FM, VHF… B&Q and ICI'), catches fire. Fake products were Del's speciality, of course – cue the Peckham Spring water he sold in the 1992 Christmas special, which was actually from a tap on Grandad's allotment. David Jason later revealed he'd kept some bottles of Peckham Spring from filming but admitted he wouldn't have any, saying: 'Would you drink something Del Trotter had made?'

And there's the classic 1989 episode, shown on a First Class stamp, when Del and Trigger abandon the Nag's Head for a yuppie wine bar and try to impress the ladies. 'Play it nice and cool, son, nice and cool,' says Del as he casually leans on a bar that's no longer there and disappears off shot. Sullivan fed Jason plots that could also cut a line between comedy and poignancy – like the birth of Del and Raquel's son Damien in the 1991 episode *Three Men, a Woman and a Baby* (on another £1.70 value). 'Don't you come near me again, Del Trotter!' Raquel warns while in labour. But Del didn't hog all the best banter. Roadsweeper Trigger's adorable daftness was a source of much mirth – like the episode where, in Sid's café, he proudly proclaims ▶



If it was dodgy, Del sold it, though most items he flogged were totally useless. They include: 'radically designed hairdryers' that were in fact electric paint strippers (sending Nag's Head landlord Mike to hospital after using one); 'made in Britain' dolls that only sang Chinese lullabies; and wigs that lost their hair so Del was obliged to market them as giving punters the 'Bruce Willis look'.

First Day Cover with Tallents House handstamp with Del Boy's favourite catchphrase 'Lovely Jubbly'!

Below: Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp which has the *Only Fools and Horses* logo. London SE15 represents Peckham, where the sitcom was set

Bottom: Prestige Stamp Book Pane First Day Cover with eight Machin Definitive stamps; 3 x 20p, 2 x 2nd Class and 3 x 1st Class



ROYAL MAIL · TALLENTS HOUSE · EDINBURGH
LOVELY JUBBLY
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE · 16.2.2021

FD2108-TH



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
ONLY FOOLS and HORSES
LONDON SE15
16.2.2021

FD2108-PL



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
16. 2. 2021
LONDON SE15

FD2108-NP



Medal Cover with customised handstamp which features the 'Trotters Independent Trading Co' logo



Stamp Book with 4 x 1st Class Machin Definitives and also 2 x 1st Class stamps from the MIniature Sheet

he's had his broom for 20 years, adding it's had 17 new heads and 14 different handles. 'How can it be the same bloody broom, then?' demands Sid. Trigger produces a photo of him and his broom and asks: 'What more proof do you need?'

No proof is required for the show's wide appeal to everyone from The Queen Mother to pretty much all of Serbia, where *Only Fools and Horses* has legendary status (see boxout). The Royal Family are big fans, so no wonder the cast were invited to perform a sketch for the 1986 Royal Variety Performance at London's Theatre Royal. In the skit, Del, Rodney and Uncle Albert (played by Buster Merryfield) are on their way to deliver dodgy Scotch to West End club owner Chunky Lewis when they get lost and end up on stage at the theatre, where they mistake the Duchess of York for Chunky. The Queen Mother, the Duchess's fellow audience member and a keen *Only Fools* fan, waved and smiled at the boys during the sketch. Afterwards she met the three actors, and joked with famously full-bearded Merryfield: 'So the beard is real, then!' And global figures have always been keen to make guest appearances, including Richard Branson and Bee Gee ►



Prestige Stamp Book: pane one (4 x 1st Class Special Stamps)



Pane three (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70 stamps from the Miniature Sheet)



Pane two (Machin Definitive stamps; 3 x 20p, 2 x 2nd Class, 3 x 1st Class)



Pane four (4 x £1.70 Special Stamps)

Cushty quiz



How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Cushty Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.lees2@royalmail.com.

Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the *Only Fools and Horses* Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 March 2021.

November solutions Trekkie quiz
1)c 2)b 3)c 4)c 5)a 6)b.

Winners Mr T J L Browne, Bury St Edmunds; S Bocoater, Yarhampton; Alan Adcock, Kettering; Mark Priddis, Maidstone; A H Lewis, Ilford.

1 Where was the show's creator John Sullivan born?
a) Peckham b) Balham c) Clapham



Barry Gibb. Superfan David Beckham starred with Jason and Lyndhurst in a 2014 sketch for Sport Relief where Beckham helps the Trotters flog 'Golden Balls' briefs – a cheeky nod to wife Victoria's nickname for him. Beckham was so nervous about meeting his heroes that he stayed up late going over his lines and woke up with the script still on his chest, but after his appearance he gushed: 'I can die a happy man!'

Many of us today still have our own happy memories of this legendary show, whose seven series of 64 episodes and a brace of Christmas specials have entertained tens of millions. Now with the new stamp issue we can say 'bonjour' again to the hilarious, heartwarming characters of *Only Fools and Horses*. Or should that be 'au revoir'?

Article by Andrew Neish



The comic appeal of *Only Fools and Horses* is so far-reaching it's been sold around the world, from Ireland and Israel to Portugal and Pakistan. But its most extraordinary success must be Serbia: many Serbs remember that watching it was the only thing that kept them sane during the horrors of the Balkans conflict in the 1990s. It's gained cult status, as Boycie actor John Challis discovered when he visited the capital Belgrade last year; he was mobbed like a pop star by fans and found murals of the show's stars across the city, including one of Del Boy sipping a cocktail at the Nag's Head.

***Only Fools and Horses* – Prices**	
Set of 8 Special Stamps	£10.20
Presentation Pack	£16.20
Miniature Sheet	£5.10
Stamp Set Pack	£10.50
Miniature Sheet Pack	£5.40
First Class Stamps Pack	£7.10
First Day Cover Stamps	£12.90
First Day Cover Stamp Sheet	£6.80
First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Pane	£6.00
Stamp Souvenir	£12.90
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£6.80
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (13 in set)	£5.85
Collector's Sheet	£9.60
Prestige Stamp Book	£21.70
Limited Edtion Prestige Stamp Book	£54.99
Stamp Book	£5.10
Press Sheet	£78.55
Stamp Sheets	Various
Medal Cover	£19.99
Silver Proof Medal Cover	£99.99
Scripts Souvenir Folder	£24.99
Framed Stamps and Miniature Sheet	£49.99
Framed Collector's Sheet	£29.99
Boycie Framed Print signed by John Challis	£99.99
Del Boy Framed Print signed by David Jason	£239.99

2 What phrase was included in the *Oxford English Dictionary* in 2003?
a) cushty b) plonker
c) lovely jubbly

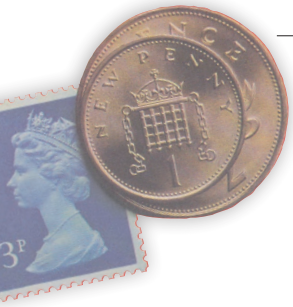
3 What did Del Boy and Raquel name their son?
a) Damien b) Albert
c) Edward

4 Which character worked as a road sweeper?
a) Trigger
b) Boycie
c) Denzil

5 Who did 'Rodders' marry in series six?
a) Celestine
b) Cassandra
c) Chelsea

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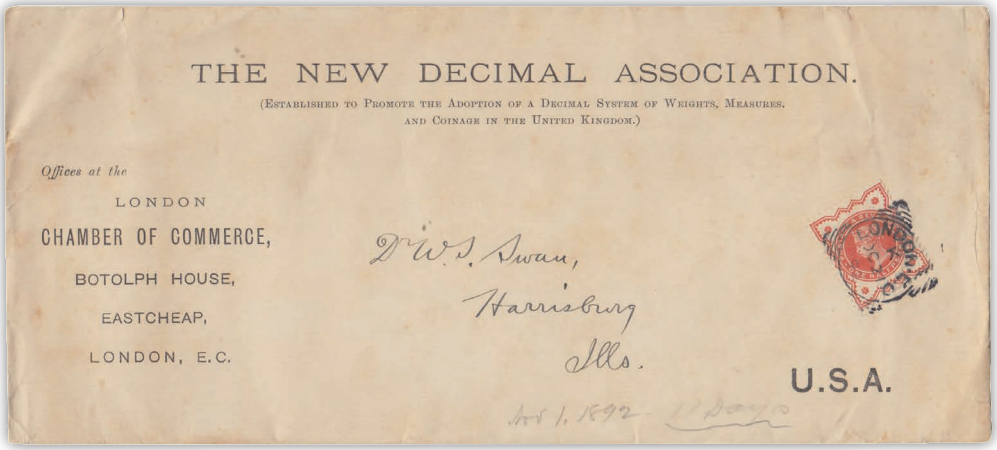
Terms and conditions Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes 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.



Decimalisation and the Post Office

Fifty years ago, the UK changed from its traditional currency of pounds, shillings and pence to a new decimalised currency of pounds and pence, thus finally coming into line with the vast majority of other countries. As the Post Office was one of the vital organisations in the economic life of the UK, it needed to adapt to the new currency across a wide range of areas. This article and its follow-up will look at some of them.

Suggestions for the decimalisation of British currency (and weights and measures) go back a long way. The Decimal Association was founded in 1841 to promote decimalisation and metrication, causes boosted by a realisation of the importance of international trade. Parliament agreed that a one-tenth of a pound coin would be produced to test public opinion on the introduction of decimal currency. This 'florin' was first issued in 1849, and struck continuously thereafter – but despite many discussions and reports on the subject over the next century or so, it was not until the 1960s that concrete proposals were agreed.


THE NEW DECIMAL ASSOCIATION.

(Established to Promote the Adoption of a Decimal System of Weights, Measures, and Coinage in the United Kingdom.)

Offices at the

LONDON

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

BOTOLPH HOUSE,

EASTCHEAP,

LONDON, E.C.

Dr W. S. Swan,

Harrisburg

Ills.

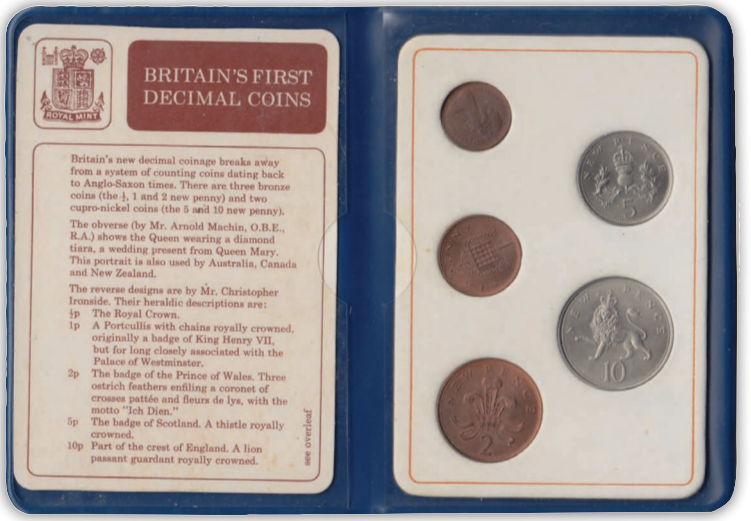
U.S.A.

1892: New Decimal Association envelope with printed heading sent to the USA (unsealed, posted at ½d printed paper rate). The Offices of the Association were at the Chamber of Commerce, reflecting a key argument in favour of the change that it would be of assistance to business



The old halfpenny (equivalent in value to about a fifth of a new penny) was demonetised in 1969, as shown on this 'grille card' notice for Post Offices. Postal rates by this time did not generally include halfpenny amounts – the only rates that remained to be changed to whole penny amounts in 1969 were for HM Forces printed papers

The idea was given a considerable boost by South Africa's successful conversion to the rand in 1961, with Australia and New Zealand both planning to change to dollars and cents. In addition, the smaller units of £sd currency were increasingly becoming too small to be useful (the farthing had already been demonetised at the end of 1960). A Committee of Inquiry reported in favour of decimalisation in 1963, with final agreement in 1966, and an authorising Decimal Currency Act in 1967. The system chosen was to retain the pound sterling as the basic unit, now to be split into 100 new pence worth 2.4 old pence each, but with a ½p unit worth 1.2d as

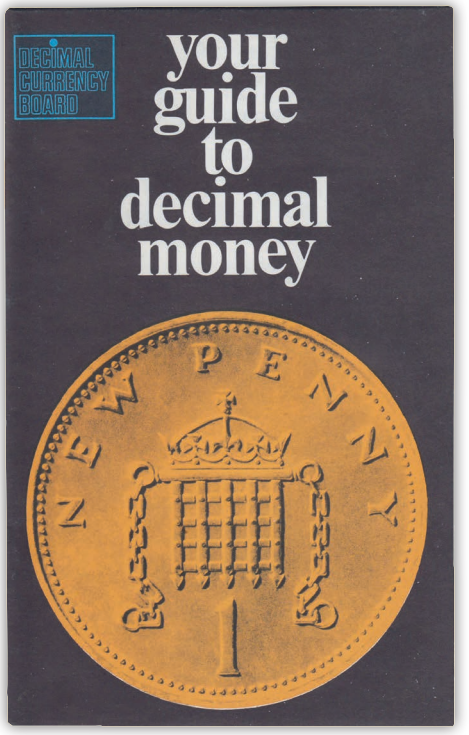


The wallets contained the new 5p and 10p coins, minted in and dated 1968, along with ½p, 1p and 2p coins pre-dated 1971. A card with information from the Decimal Currency Board gave information about the designs and technical details of the minting

an interim measure. Monday 15 February 1971 was chosen as 'Decimalisation Day', generally referred to as 'D-Day' in the publicity, doubtless to invoke that abbreviation's historical associations.

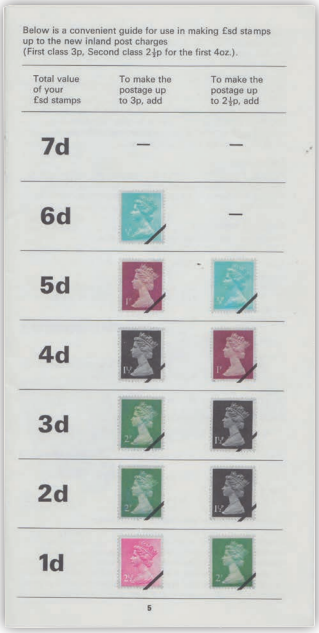
To assist public familiarisation with the new currency, the Royal Mint produced sets of the five originally planned decimal coins from ½p to 10p in a specially designed wallet (the 50p was added to the set later). These went on sale on 11 June 1968 at Crown Post Offices at a price of 5s 6d per set, and proved to be very popular, remaining on sale until at least late September.

Implementation of the decimalisation process was in the hands of a statutory Decimal Currency Board. As a main plank of their publicity strategy, the Board printed 20 million 'Your Guide to Decimal Money' booklets containing helpful advice for the general public. The Post Office undertook to deliver these to every household in the country between 11 and 25 January. As it happened, however, the largest strike in Post Office history began on 20 January, and only 15 million booklets were delivered before it broke out (postal workers did not generally return to work until 8 March). Another 4 million were available via Post Office counters. ►



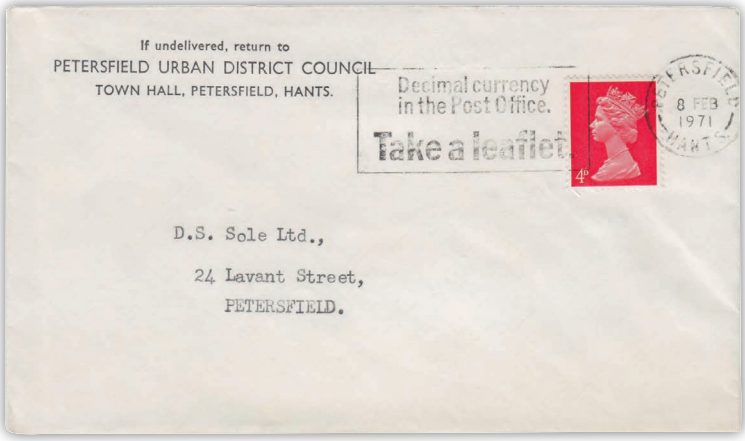
The booklet contained a short message from Lord Fiske (Chairman of the Decimal Currency Board), answers to 'FAQ'-type questions, and two currency conversion charts – an extensive 'Shoppers Table' for values up to 19s 11d that included ½p amounts, and a shorter 'Banking and Accounting Table' with whole new penny amounts (as banks did not use odd ½ps). It noted in passing that all Post Offices were closed on Saturday 13 February – a shorter period than the banks, which were closed from the 11th. This was done to allow time for essential preparations for D-Day to be carried out







A nationwide cancelling machine slogan postmark campaign for the 'leaflet' (more a small booklet) was planned to run throughout February, although in the event most usage was after the strike – only about a dozen dies were used during the strike on local mail, one such being at Petersfield, Hampshire



The Post Office's own guide to decimal currency came in two forms, one for the general public and one for businesses. They included lists of the revised decimal postal and telecommunications rates and tables for quick conversion between old and new currencies, and the former also included a handy illustrated guide to show how to make up the new postal rates with combinations of old and new stamps. Slogan postmarks were used to advertise it, although not as extensively as originally planned.

Stamp Issues

The first decimal stamps were actually issued some months before the big day, to ease pressure on printing and distribution of the new series. A new set of three Machin high values in the large size intaglio format of the existing £sd types were issued on 17 June 1970, in values of 10p, 20p, and 50p. As they represented fairly substantial sums – 2s, 4s, and 10s at a time when first class post was only 5d – these stamps are actually quite difficult to find used on covers before D-Day.

In addition the £1 value was issued in a changed sheet format from new printing plates – 100 stamps in a single 10 x 10 pane, instead of four panes of 40 stamps 8 x 5. The new format meant these were laid down in the opposite direction from the £sd plates, so with the aid of a good magnifying glass it's possible to tell which issue an individual £1 stamp comes from (see the SG *Specialised Catalogue* volume 3, or indeed the July 2019 *Bulletin*, for details). ►





Two pre D-Day uses – a registered letter to an occult bookstore in the US with 10p and 20p stamps (3s registration + 3s double Zone B airmail = 6s = 30p), and a tag from an airmail package to Australia with both the old 10s and new 50p (together with £1 stamps from the new decimal format sheets)

A set of 12 new decimal low value Machins was issued on D-Day (the background to the choice of colours was outlined in the June 2019 issue of the *Bulletin*). They were printed in sheets of 200 (10 x 20) instead of the previous 240 (12 x 20). They were officially issued on D-Day, but the strike affected the preparation of First Day Covers. The Post Office announced on 15 February that it would backdate items of mail with the new stamps posted in the special FDC posting boxes on the fourth and fifth days following resumption of work. A late decision was taken to apply an explanatory cachet. Some were however cancelled on the day, either by sub-postmasters (who were not part of the Union of Post Office Workers), or at the relatively few Crown offices where enough staff had returned to work to make a local service possible.





Two types of FDC for the decimal low values. One was posted on D-Day itself in Lewes, Sussex where a local service was operating (the recipient noted on the back that it was received the following day), cancelled with the regular counter datestamp. The other was posted in the special posting box at Birmingham and cancelled with the regular 'First Day of Issue' postmark of that office, backdated to 15 February. In addition, it has a cachet 'POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971'. (These cachets were obtained locally by each office, and so there are a wide variety of them.)

Main rates paid by the intial low value decimal Machins

½p	General makeup value	3½p	Zone C airmail printed papers
1p	Certificates of posting (per item) Surface reduced rate printed papers Zone A airmail newspapers	4p	Europe all-up letters Rest of world surface letters Zone B/C airmail postcards Aerogrammes
1½p	Surface printed papers Zone B airmail newspapers	5p	Zone A airmail letters
2p	Commonwealth surface letters Surface postcards Zone C airmail newspapers	6p	Second step Europe all-up letters Second step rest of world surface letters
2½p	Inland second class Zone A airmail postcards Zone A airmail printed papers Europe airmail newspapers (*)	7½p	Zone B airmail letters Surface/Europe all-up small packets (*) Zones A/B/C airmail small packets (*)
3p	Inland first class Zone B airmail printed papers	9p	Zone C airmail letters

(*) Higher than might be expected due to minimum weight band requirements



One occasion for high surcharges at the time was on packets received from Rhodesia, which had unilaterally declared independence in 1965. Stamps commemorating this had been surcharged. Their issue of a new decimal currency set in 1970 was seen as provocative, with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office argument that letters bearing them should be treated as unpaid winning the day over the Post Office's objections. Surcharge methods seem to have varied according to local understanding of the rules! This letter with mixed currency dues appears to have been treated incorrectly as single deficiency at the UK equivalent rates – 1s 6d airmail + 3s registration fee = 4s 6d

Decimalisation also required a new set of Postage Dues, and the opportunity was taken to change the venerable existing design, which dated back to the introduction of dues in 1914! As with the regular postage stamps, the first stamps of the set were 10p, 20p, 50p, and £1 values issued on 17 June 1970. These are also hard to find used before D-Day, as it was unusual to find short payments of that magnitude. On 15 February six more were added to the set (½p and 1p-5p). All values now had the wording 'To Pay' rather than 'Postage Due', reflecting their dual use for collection of both deficient postage and customs duties (this wording had previously been confined to the higher value dues of 2s 6d and above, which were used mostly for the latter purpose).

This short outline brings the story up to D-Day. Next time we will look back at the training material used to bring postal staff up to speed on the new currency, forward to other 1971 issues of decimal stamps and postal stationery and the transition period when £sd and £p stamps could be used side by side, and… er, sideways at other things affected by decimalisation such as postage meters and postal forms ●

By Maurice Buxton, a long-term collector, and webmaster for the Great Britain Philatelic Society – www.gbps.org.uk

United Kingdom
A Celebration

Some of our nation's greatest strengths and accomplishments are recognised in Royal Mail's stamp issue of 26 January. The Miniature Sheet – themed United Kingdom: A Celebration, comprises two first class, and two £1.70 values. The four stamps represent quartered sections of the Union Flag, with each stamp substituting the regular red and blue segments with pictorial content – to create a colourful graphic representation of our national flag.

The effect evokes a sense of patriotism – with images honouring Britain's sporting prowess, technological innovations and creativity whilst acknowledging our sense of community spirit as portrayed in the £1.70 Great Community stamp (positioned top right of the four stamps). British people have often come together in celebration, in unity, in remembrance and in hope. Indeed, street parties, parades and celebrations for royal anniversaries, major sporting occasions and other national and local events have characterised the British way of life for centuries.

United Kingdom: A Celebration Miniature Sheet Specifications

Date of issue	26 January
Number of stamps	Four (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70)
Design	hat-trick design
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Sheet size	192mm x 74mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

The first class Great Sport stamp (top left in the quartet) reflects that Britain is a proud and passionate sporting nation. It is the birthplace of football and cricket, and, in 1948, hosted the first organised competition for athletes with disabilities. The UK has also produced ten Formula 1 champions – more than any other country. The £1.70 Great Industry and Innovation stamp (bottom left

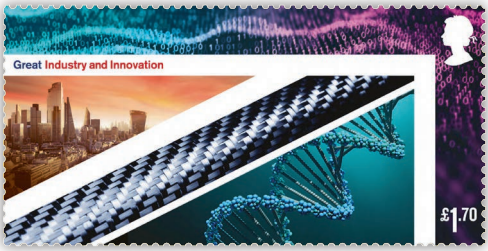




Great Sport – *First Class*



Great Community – *£1.70*



Great Industry and Innovation – *£1.70*



Great Creativity – *First Class*

in the quartet) reflects Britain's lead in the fields of science and technology. For example, DNA fingerprinting was perfected in the UK and Britain played a central role in the sequencing of the first draft of the human genome. The UK is also a leading light in the digital technology sector, which contributes around £149 billion per year to the economy.

The first class Great Creativity stamp (bottom right in the quartet) – celebrates the creative industries. Britain is renowned for the originality and quality of its contemporary music, with the music industry worth around £5.2 billion annually. The UK has also become one of the world's leading centres for film and TV production, the arts and literature. And in the sphere of architecture, cities around the world are being reshaped by British architects.

It's not of course the first time that Royal Mail has issued stamps celebrating our nation's laudable attributes, and these stamps, like their predecessors, serve as stirring, artistic ambassadors for the United Kingdom ●

United Kingdom: A Celebration	Prices
Miniature Sheet	£5.10
Presentation Pack	£6.00
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£6.80
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£6.80
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (5 in set)	£2.25

Background image – illustration of Union flag by hat-trick design; Great Sport stamp – wheelchair athlete composite image © David Madison/Getty Images and © Image Source/Getty Images; cricket ball © Bootzilla/Getty Images; playing football © Sumetee Theesungnern/EyeEm/Getty Images; racing car © CAIA Image/Science Photo Library; Great Community stamp – Virgin London Marathon 2011 © Oli Scarff/Getty Images; hands making heart shape © martin-dm/Getty Images; nurse reassuring patient © Science Photo Library; rainbow illustration by Daisy James © Royal Mail Group Limited 2021; Great Industry and Innovation stamp – 3D illustration rendering of binary code © MR.Cole_Photographer/Getty Images; carbon fibre material © DaveAlan/Getty Images; 3D illustration of DNA molecules © Design Cells/Getty Images; London skyline composite image © Gary Yeowell/Getty Images and © Davy Larkins/EyeEm/Getty Images; Great Creativity stamp – microphone stand silhouette © ilbusca/Getty Images; office building glass façade © Musketeer/Getty Images; book pages, photograph by Joe Howat © Royal Mail Group Limited 2021; TV studio composite image © AskinTulayOver/Getty Images and © rasslava/Getty Images

Left: the Miniature Sheet celebrates the United Kingdom's greatest strengths and accomplishments, exploring just some of the ways in which Britain leads the way



FD2107-TH



FD2107-PL



FD2107-NP



Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with Tallents House handstamp



Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the alternative pictorial handstamp



Filler Card



Presentation Pack



Presentation Pack Outer

The Presentation Pack which contains the Miniature Sheet, highlights how the UK excels in a host of different ways. From sporting achievement to technological innovation, and from creative excellence to our strong sense of community spirit

Mixed Monarchs and Hidden Names

With the coronation of our present monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on 2 June 1953, there were many acknowledgements of this event by the design and availability of a great number of items. These included a British four stamp issue, with one stamp showing The Queen in Coronation regalia, and the other three featuring the Dorothy Wilding portrait. In fact some 78 colonies and dominions issued stamps to celebrate the occasion. It seems a long while ago now, and certainly a large percentage of this country's population were not alive at that time. However, this major event in British history was not only marked in the philatelic world by the issue of commemorative postage stamps, but also an array of postally linked covers of which this is one.

Since 1840 when the postage stamp idea began and later expanded right across the world, this country of the United Kingdom of Great Britain (and later with Northern Ireland) has had six heads of state, kings and queens. Wouldn't it be nice to commemorate that with a stamp from each on one cover, with dates and a limited edition, decided one enterprising individual, and so that's what happened. As the designs and dates show, there's more to discover and say. Much like a (royal) procession, the heads of state on our six stamps are all facing the same way, which is unlike our coinage where the head of each monarch is changed alternately. Not that we can see that now as all our coinage is decimal and features HM The Queen.

Who is next in line – the heir apparent – to become our King or Queen, is just that – apparent at the time. In centuries past and more troubled times, rulers and regimes were removed by others, and those with expectations of ascending to the throne were, shall we say, disappointed. To cover these six reigns fully we begin just over two hundred years ago, when the Prince Regent was just three years away from succeeding his father in 1820 as King George IV. His only child with his legal wife was a daughter, the Princess Charlotte of Wales, who was expected, in time, to become Queen Charlotte. Sadly and unexpectedly she died with her daughter in childbirth in November 1817. Her cousin, the



The very limited edition cover featuring the six monarchs through the time of the postage stamp, from 1840 to the 1953 Coronation. Postmarked in Letchworth on the day after the Coronation, it travelled the short distance to Hitchin

Princess Alexandrina Victoria of Kent, had not yet been born. When in May 1819 she was born, Drina, as she was known to her family, became a possible future heir apparent.

That's how it transpired, with The Queen who features on our first stamp taking Victoria as her regnal name, Alexandrina being 'hidden' and unknown to most of her subjects. The stamp is the well-known 1d lilac of 1881, and next to it is the ½d green of 1902 featuring Victoria's eldest son Albert Edward. This was how he was known, but he decided to take the regnal name of Edward without any mention of Albert. However, he was not the eldest child. This was his sister Victoria who could not accede to the British throne as Queen Victoria II due to the Salic law which required the eldest son to succeed, and only a daughter if there were no sons. King Edward's eldest son, the heir apparent Prince Albert Victor known in the family as Eddy, died before his father became King.

The third stamp, a 1d red of 1912, features the younger brother to Eddy who had become an heir apparent as a future monarch. King George V did not take a second given name as his regnal name, but we know him best as a fellow stamp collector whose Royal Philatelic Collection remains in the personal ownership of each reigning British monarch. The fourth stamp is a ½d green of 1936 showing David, as he was known to his friends and family, who came to the throne, briefly, as King Edward VIII before his abdication. The dates of reign are a little incorrect here, as he reigned only within 1936. Without marriage or heirs, his younger brother Prince Albert of York was suddenly thrust into the limelight in December 1936 taking the throne as King George VI. Another 'hidden' name. The stamp shown with his portrait, the fifth in the line, is a 2d orange from 1938.

That brings us to Her Majesty The Queen, with a 2½d red stamp first issued six months before this cover, in December 1952. The handstamp postmarks are of the day after the Coronation, 3 June 1953, and as the cover states, it has 'the Postage Stamp through Six Reigns'. This was No. 37 of only 100 printed, so the wonder is, where are any others? I've never seen one before, have you?

Article by Dane Garrod FRPSL



The reverse of the cover which, from the top, shows the space for the sender to add his or her name, but has been left blank. The seal below shows 'Elizabeth R / 1953', and the allotted number '37' to this cover of the 'only 100 printed'

1966 Anniversaries and Winners



By January 1966, the British annual stamp programme had enjoyed three years of success in what later became known as 'the swinging sixties'. Nine separate commemorative issues had been designed, printed and issued in 1965, and this exact number was repeated in the year that was remembered then for anniversaries, and recalled now for winners. No time was wasted, with the first issue in January. It had to be, to coincide with Burns Night and commemorate the anniversary of his birth, which was 25 January 1759. Burns Night is in effect a second national day in Scotland with Burns suppers around the world, and is more widely observed in Scotland than the official national day, St Andrew's Day. A public vote in 2009 on the greatest Scot of all time put Rabbie Burns first with William Wallace close behind. Royal Mail has issued postage stamps commemorating Burns three times – in 1996 and 2009, as well as in 1966. The two stamps issued on 25 January 1966 were the 4d showing his portrait after a Skirving chalk drawing, and a 1/3d with a head and shoulders after a Nasmyth portrait, both designed by Gordon F Huntly. Issues of both stamps were with phosphor bands and without, as were all the commemorative issues of this year. Some stamps are known postmarked on 24 January.









Celebrating the man considered by many to be the greatest Scot of all time are the two stamps portraying Robert Burns, issued on the day commemorating his birth – 25 January. The success of this issue, together with the continued interest in the man, brought further Burns stamps in 1996 and 2009

England's greatest men and women have the honour of being commemorated in Westminster Abbey, the building of which was begun before the Normans came across the English Channel in September 1066. The 900th anniversary brought two very differently designed stamps showing an exterior view of the building and the interior roof of the King Henry VII Chapel

This year of commemorated anniversaries continued a month later when on the last day of February, two very different stamps both in design and printing celebrated the 900th anniversary of the Collegiate Church of St Peter in Westminster, known to us all as Westminster Abbey. This is the nation's Coronation Church and a mausoleum for England's greatest men and women. The lower value at 3d was designed by Sheila Robinson and has an exterior view of the Abbey, whereas the 2/6d high value is somewhat larger, still landscape-shaped, but designed and engraved by Bradbury Wilkinson, and recess printed on chalk-surfaced paper. The view is of the fan vaulting in the King Henry VII Chapel inside the Abbey. The portrait of HM The Queen continued to be from the Dorothy Wilding portrait – the last time it featured on a British stamp. Late in the previous year, November 1965, HM The Queen had made it known that she did wish her portrait to remain on postage stamps, but did agree to the idea that it could in future be represented by a silhouette. The next issue brought the profile view of Her Majesty that was adapted for use from coinage by David Gentleman.

We knew this year was going to be different – with scope for stamps being issued for reasons other than anniversaries or special events. And so, on 2 May Britain's first special pictorial stamps were issued – the four landscape ►



Leonard Rosoman's first designs for British postage stamps were chosen for the Landscape set. His artwork for the four stamps depicted views of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. These were the first special pictorial stamps issued, not being for an anniversary or special event, and that had the profile of HM The Queen replacing the Dorothy Wilding portrait



The error of the missing 'D' in the full title of the printers on the 6d landscape stamp occurred on 40,000 sheets at the third stamp on the tenth row. By chance, conveniently placed to be shown in a block of six where the arrow in the margin indicates the row position halfway down the twenty-line sheet

designs met earlier demands for regional stamps, and appropriately featured views in England, Northern Ireland, Wales, and Scotland. Five artists were invited to provide suggested designs, and were allowed unprecedented freedom as to size, colour and choice of subject. This freedom extended, again with the agreement of HM The Queen, that her portrait could in future be represented by a silhouette. Bradbury Wilkinson had advised that they would be unable to print this issue due to its current workload, so Harrison and Sons would be the printers. Of the 43 submitted designs, the four by Leonard Rosoman, a newcomer to British stamp design, were selected as first choice. The planned release date of 25 April brought concern due to the General Election of that year. There was thought to be limited time available to promote the stamps in the philatelic market, and beyond, and so the issue date was deferred until 2 May. The four stamps were each printed in three colours, all having black and blue, with additional green for the 4d and 6d, yellow for the 1s 3d, and orange for the 1s 6d. No presentation pack was available with this issue, though the GPO did produce a first day envelope showing the four regional emblems of the Rose, the Thistle, the Daffodil and the Hand of Ulster. There was a possibility that some stamps had been issued prematurely, as six days before 2 May there was an attempt for a number of items to be posted bearing the landscape-view stamps, but the postmaster concerned refused to accept them for postage.

A member of staff who was responsible for outward postage and a colleague of this writer, noticed by chance that the sheet of 6d stamps he had just purchased from the Oxford City Centre post office during the first week of May





Three designers with three different styles were brought together to produce the World Cup Football Championship stamps issued on 1 June 1966. No shirt colours as it might have been



inappropriate to encourage and cheer for England before the event. But we did of course, right up to *'They think it's all over, it is now'*, and way beyond

had a very small, but discernible error. At the bottom of the 3rd stamp in the tenth row, the 'D' was missing from the printer's name in small capital letters at the bottom of this one stamp, reading 'HARRISON AN SONS LTD'. Having shared this information with me, I raced down with cash in hand and requested to purchase three complete sheets, all of which contained this single error. It was later catalogued, and apparently 40,000 sheets were printed before it was discovered, including all the phosphor stamps.

And now for the winners! Sixteen countries took part in the final stages of the World Football Competition for the Jules Rimet Trophy in England between 12 and 31 July. This was the first time the event had been held in the UK. You may recall that the cup was stolen prior to the event and later recovered by a dog named Pickles, which briefly became a celebrity and appeared on television and in some films. The issue date was 1 June 1966, well in time for the beginning of the matches, but there occasionally seems to be one that got away too soon, as there is with this issue, for the 4d ordinary (non-phosphor) stamp has been seen postmarked 31 May in Hereford. What there could not be is any identifiable players in the images portrayed, and so we see the 4d with two players and a ball, the 6d showing a goalmouth mêlée and the 1/3d with a goalkeeper saving a ball from two players. No particular shirt colours of course – the 16 games had not begun. The successful designers were varied, being David Gentleman, William Kempster and David Caplan. The vertical-shaped 4d was, however, the best of the three, and was later printed again with an addition, as we shall see.

Into August of 1966 and a set of stamps that portrayed what was termed as a 'pictorial experiment'. Something with 'rather less emphasis on direct commemoration'. It was decided that there should be just one theme for any one particular issue, and so 'British Birds' came to us as four 4d stamps that were issued on 8 August together in se-tenant blocks of four within the sheet. J Norris Wood was the successful designer, and he portrayed the black-headed gull, the blue tit, the robin, and the blackbird. These birds are indigenous to the United Kingdom and not migrant-visitors, this being a ►



The four indigenous British Birds chosen were all well-known to young and old, and were printed as a block of four throughout each sheet and first issued on 8 August. All four came from the designer hand of J Norris Wood, his name appearing in print at the bottom of each stamp

stipulation to the invited artists to submit designs. First day covers were issued in the usual way, but two months later in early November at the British Philatelic Exhibition in London, presentation cards were issued with one of the stamps affixed and signed by the designer. Illustrated here is that of a black-headed gull. The proposed issue date had been 15 July, and with this memorandum came a handwritten instruction from the PMG that all stamps should, in future, bear the name of both printer and designer.



One of the four presentation cards from the British Philatelic Exhibition in early November where one of the four stamps was added to the card, and the designer, J. Norris Wood, added his signature

In the meantime while this design and decision had been going on about British birds, national football teams had been playing, winning and losing, culminating in the memorable win for England at Wembley on 30 July. A World Cup Victory stamp issue had been suggested, and a memorandum one day before the match (!) said that there was an intention to produce the 4d World Cup stamp with the wording 'England-Winners' in the white space at the head of the stamp. Fortunately, our team of eleven ably rose to the occasion and all was well, and celebrated. It was not an overprint on the existing stamp, as new cylinders were prepared with the stamps specially printed in photogravure. To minimise the delay between the victory and the issue, it was intended that the print-run be limited to 100,000 sheets or 12 million stamps. Printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd at its High Wycombe plant, delivery was to the GPO's Supplies Department, and from there by stages to main and sub-offices. However, it seemed that the elation and interest had reached far more than dedicated football fans and stamp collectors. The one-tenth allocation of the print run to the Philatelic Bureau – 10,000 sheets – had been exceeded with orders to over 12,000 sheets within days. The demand for the stamps was high, described as 'exceptional', and with large queues at a number of post offices. For a time, there was a measure of speculation once it was known that supply could not meet this perhaps temporary demand. It all settled down long ago, and both mint and used stamps are now catalogued at 10 pence each, with a first day cover within reach of all.

We won! we won! – was there any doubt? Not much before the game, although both teams produced a memorable match. The GPO rose to the occasion afterwards to produce the 'England Winners' stamp. Not an overprint on existing stock, but a complete new print and issue, although the interest and wish to purchase proved to be beyond expectations



Although the year was way into its final third, there were still 14 more commemorative stamps to be issued before Christmas Day. Until 1966, special stamps, that is other than the definitive issues, had been issued to commemorate a specific event or anniversary. Now, with the encouragement of the Postmaster General, it was proposed to have stamps illustrating themes rather than events. The issue on 19 September was entitled 'British Technology' and back in March the Stamp Advisory Committee were asked to nominate artists for the stamps, which they did. Invitations to them were extended and also to printers Bradbury Wilkinson and Harrison and Sons. From the total of 37 commissioned designs received, the successful artists were Andrew Restall, and David & Ann Gillespie. The GPO took the precaution of checking the accuracy of technical aspects of the designs with various outside agencies. The final selection brought the following to the general public and the stamp collectors of the time – 4d and 6d by the Gillespies and 1/3d and 1/6d from Andrew Restall. Such a wide subject brief was finalised with Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope, British Motor-cars, 'SR N6' Hovercraft, and Windscale Reactor. At the time, the 6d stamp featuring the Mini and Jaguar E-type attracted some protest as no Ford vehicle was represented. ►



The commemorative British Technology pictorial issue of 19 September brought four completely different images with a variety of colours that went well together, as shown on this GPO produced First Day Cover









The orange, red and black sixpenny value of the British Technology issue had images of two iconic motor cars, the Mini and the Jaguar E-type. There was some discontent shown at the time by Ford owners as none of their vehicles featured, but their origins were outside the British Isles, unlike Jaguar and Austin/Morris

The six 4d values of the 900th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings issue, an event simply summarised on the GPO First Day Cover as '1066', show battle scenes in a row very reminiscent of the source from which they were taken – the Bayeux Tapestry. Three hand-stamps very ably and carefully cover all the eight stamps without hindering the visual aspect of the flow of battle in the designs



The two higher values of the Battle of Hastings anniversary set are the 6d showing a Norman ship bringing the invaders to our English shores, and the 1/3d stamp with Norman horsemen attacking King Harold's troops. The King was sadly to lose his life in the battle, a turn of events which hastened the beginning of the end of Anglo-Saxon England



Any child or even adult asked to name a battle would almost certainly say 'Hastings', where a foolish move by Harold's men by charging down the slope brought the Anglo-Saxon disaster so-well remembered – 1066 and all that. 900 years ago but visually captured in the Bayeux Tapestry. It may have been an English defeat but it brought a new order that for ever changed the landscape and way of life. The story of the stamps to mark this anniversary began four years before in November 1962 when the Postmaster General received a letter from the '1966 Celebrations Council' constituted in Hastings who were preparing events to celebrate the 900 years. By September 1965 the projected stamp programme for the coming year envisaged selecting designs for Battle of Hastings stamps, and this was carried forward to invitations to four artists on 4 March, as well as the stamp printing firms of Harrison & Sons and Bradbury Wilkinson who were instructed to submit designs from their respective design departments.

From a total of 31 submitted designs, eight designs were chosen by David Gentleman, all utilising images from the Bayeux Tapestry showing battle scenes. Six 4d stamps were printed in se-tenant strips of 6, the first time that such a strip had been produced. Nine colours were used to print the 4d stamps, and five each for the 6d and 1/3d stamps – considered to be an ambitious plan at the time. The two higher values were also the first British commemoratives with



HM The Queen's profile in gold, although it was later found that unscrupulous persons could dissolve the gold with a water and alcohol solution to bring deception. This also applied to the Christmas stamps that followed, hence they are not catalogue listed. The 1/3d stamp was notable not only for its oblong size but also for HM The Queen's profile shown facing to the right. This was the first time since the introduction of adhesive postage stamps in 1840 that the monarch's head was not facing to the left. As usual, first day covers were prepared and posted and a total of over 50,000 presentation packs were sold to collectors eager to acknowledge and remember an event they had known about since childhood days.





On 1 December, by which time many of us then and now have entered into the Christmas Spirit, were issued the first two British stamps celebrating Christmas. Long may it continue, the spirit and the stamps. Two designs by two schoolchildren show a colourful King of the Orient, and a snowman, complete with hat, scarf and buttons

From as early as August 1957 there had been written requests for consideration and issue of special Christmas stamps. Requests continued until 1965 by which time Anthony Wedgwood Benn had become Postmaster General and brought a new view towards special stamps. His suggestion for Christmas 1965 was not followed through, but with the 1966 plan that placed less emphasis on purely commemorative stamps, as we have seen with this review, it was revived with something somewhat different. Rather than the usual group of invited artists, it was suggested that a competition be held for children under school-leaving age to submit designs. The rules were kept simple and the designs had to illustrate a festive or religious theme, not to include any lettering and up to five colours in total. All designs submitted had to include a certificate from the school's Head Teacher to guarantee that the designs were the unaided work of a child.

To select the designs, the GPO assembled a panel of eight professional stamp designers who had around 5,000 designs to view. Thirteen were selected and presented to the PMG and from that four designs were chosen, two as first choice and two as second choice. The GPO produced a first day cover for this issue and the Philatelic Bureau operated its usual full first day cover service, as well as a Presentation Pack being available. The successful designs of the two stamps which are familiar to all GB collectors as they were the first Christmas stamps, were 'King Wenceslas' by Tasveer Shemza for the 3d stamp and 'Snowman' by James Berry on the 1/6d stamp, both designs being vertical in shape, and an excellent issue to complete an outstanding and memorable year of anniversaries, winners, and much else ●



Article by Dane Garrod FRPSL



New Issues and Withdrawals

Information correct at the time of going to press

1 February — **Withdrawal** Christmas 2020: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.



13 February — **Withdrawal** *Star Trek*: First Day Cover. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.



14 February — **Withdrawal** Royal Mail Heritage – Mail by Sea: Stamps.



16 February — **Issue** *Only Fools and Horses*: Stamps (4 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.70). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane. Prestige Stamp Book (Pane 1: 4 x 1st Class, Pane 2: 3 x 20p, 2 x 2nd Class, 3 x 1st Class, Pane 3: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70, Pane 4: 4 x £1.70). Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book. Postcards (13 in set). Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Stamp Sheets. Collector's Sheet. Stamp Set Pack. Miniature Sheet Pack. First Class Stamps Pack. Press Sheet. Scripts Souvenir Folder. Medal Cover. Silver Proof Medal Cover. Framed Stamps and Miniature Sheet. Framed Collector's Sheet. Signed Prints.



16 March — **Issue** The Legend of King Arthur: Stamps (5 x 1st Class, 5 x £1.70). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover. Postcards (10 in set). Stamp Sheets.

The Spring 2021 Stocklist – Royal Mail's catalogue for all current stamps and collectibles is now available for download at royalmail.com/sending/stamps

You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/shop** 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 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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