

BRITISH *PHILATELIC*

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

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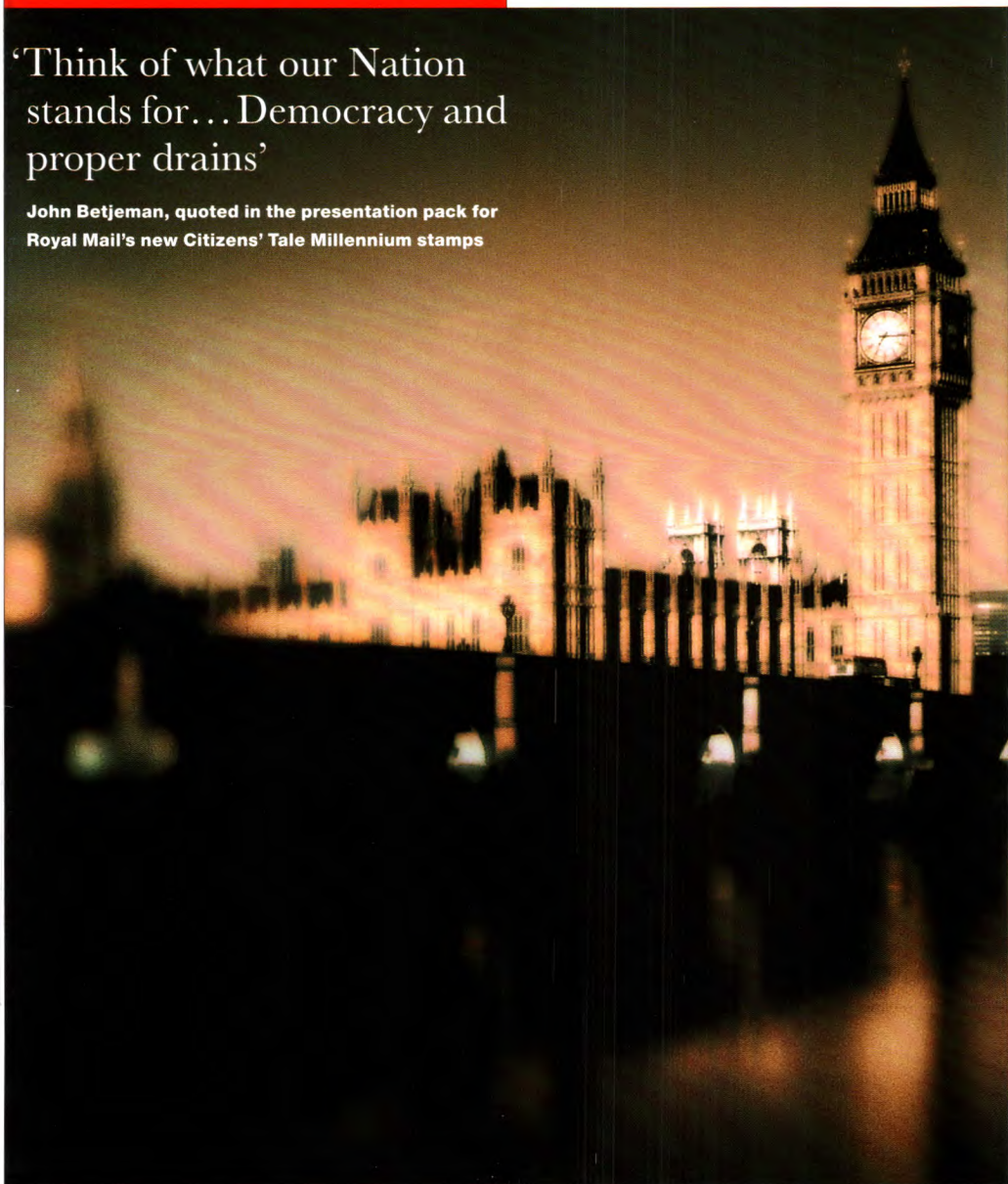
JUNE 1999 • 85P

Bulletin

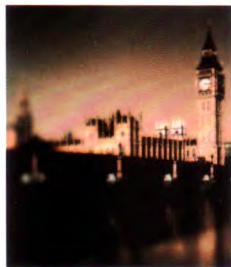
Millennium Citizens' Tale •
Scottish heraldry on stamps

'Think of what our Nation
stands for... Democracy and
proper drains'

**John Betjeman, quoted in the presentation pack for
Royal Mail's new Citizens' Tale Millennium stamps**



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The United Kingdom's legislative assembly conducts its business in the Houses of Parliament. This magnificent Victorian Gothic building on the Thames was designed by Charles Barry and Augustus Pugin in 1834. Royal Mail's new Citizens' Tale stamps are featured on page 308. Photograph: Tony Stone Images.

1 June	Issue Millennium Entertainers' Tale stamps and presentation pack
8 June	Issue Scotland and Wales – 2nd, 1st, E (European rate, 30p), and 64p new design country stamps. Northern Ireland 19p, 38p and 64p in existing (1971) design. The 19p is a re-issue but now printed in gravure rather than litho. Also presentation packs for each country and stamp cards for Scotland and Wales.
8 June	Issue Royal Wedding stamp cards
15 June	Issue Royal Wedding stamps and presentation pack
22 June	Withdrawal Health stamps, pack and stamp cards; 10 x 1st Woolworths promotional stamp book
29 June	Issue Millennium Citizens' Tale stamp cards
30 June	Withdrawal British Philatelic Bulletin Publications No 3 <i>Burns Bicentenary</i> , No 4 <i>British Victorian Stamps</i> and No 5 <i>An Introduction to Thematic Collecting</i> (available from Philatelic Bureau, price £2.95 each)
1 July	Issue Philatelic Numismatic Cover Scotland (available from Philatelic Bureau)
6 July	Issue Millennium Citizens' Tale stamps and presentation pack
20 July	Withdrawal Magical Worlds stamps, pack, stamp cards and aerogrammes
27 July	Issue Millennium Scientists' Tale stamp cards

Issues Note some items are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester Colchester, Coventry, Croydon Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Gloucester, Grimsby, Guildford Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester Liverpool, London (Lombard Street and Trafalgar Square) Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Truro, Windsor and York

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The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p single copies from Collections, philatelic counters, and National Postal Museum • **Annual subscriptions** UK and Europe £9.50, rest of the world £13.50. Subscriptions should be sent to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7. Available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK & Europe £10, rest of world £21.75 • **Copyright** Unless copyright attributed to specific authors, all articles and features may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be sent to the Editor, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119

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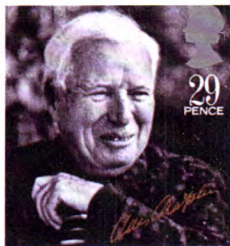
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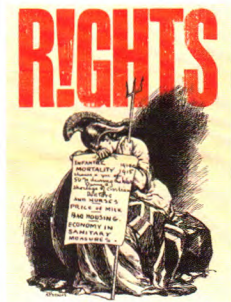
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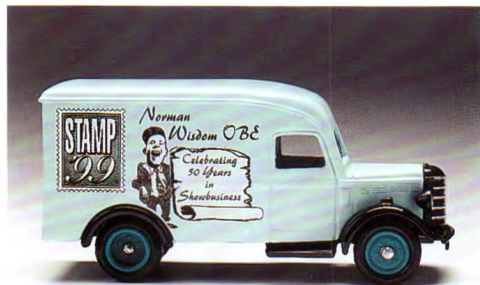
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Stamp '99 Over 20,000 collectors enjoyed the Stamp '99 show at Wembley in April. The show, opened by comedian Norman Wisdom, included features and attractions for collectors of all ages. It was good to see so many young visitors having fun at the Royal Mail and Stamp Active stands and entering the Design a Stamp Competition run by The House of Questa.

All four current British stamp printers – De La Rue, Enschedé, Questa, and Walsall provided interesting displays on their stands for collectors of modern GB issues.

The accompanying Trains 1999 exhibition, organised by the British Philatelic Trust and Railway Philatelic Group, included some fine displays. Top awards went to Ivan Edmondson, Harold Wilson and Francis Kiddle. As well as railway stamps and postal history material, there were also displays of model railways.

Once again Stanley Gibbons produced a souvenir model van, this time a 1950 Bedford 30cwt delivery van, with Stamp '99 logo and picture of Norman Wisdom on the side (shown left). Produced in a limited edition of 1200 and sold at the exhibition at £7.95, some may still be available from Stanley Gibbons. Phone 0800 611 622 for details •

Entries should be sent to: Friends of Thematica, PO Box 311, Esher KT10 0YE by 31 August.

Millennium stamp design competition Young collectors between the ages of five and 16 are invited to design a stamp on the theme 'How you see your future in the new Millennium'. Entries should be on an A4 sheet of paper and may use any conventional artists' materials – pencil, pen & ink, crayon, felt pen, etc. The Queen's head and value should be included in the design and your name, address and age should be on the back of the sheet. All entrants will receive a small prize and the winners a major prize. Winning designs will be exhibited at Autumn Thematica exhibition (24-25 November) •

Doris Green who died in March was a noted collector of the stamps of the Belgian Congo and Saar, also postal history and GB greetings telegrams. Mrs Green, who was born in 1904, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1938 and signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1970. With her husband Harry (1901-91), she was a founder member of the Postal History Society; she attended the Philatelic Congress for 36 years •

1840 Postmasters notice Amongst many interesting items to be auctioned in a GB sale at Spink & Son Ltd on 3 June will be a notice sent 'to all Postmasters' from the General Post Office on 7 May 1840. This refers to the circular sent in April 'transmitting specimens of the Penny and Twopenny Stamped Covers and Envelopes, and of the Penny Adhesive Labels' (ie the Mulready's and the Penny Black). The notice bears specimens of the Two Pence labels (2d blue) and also two specimens 'of the Label Stamp bearing the Letters VR at the upper corners, which are to be applied to the correspondence of Public Departments, and other Persons formerly enjoying the privilege of Official Franking.'

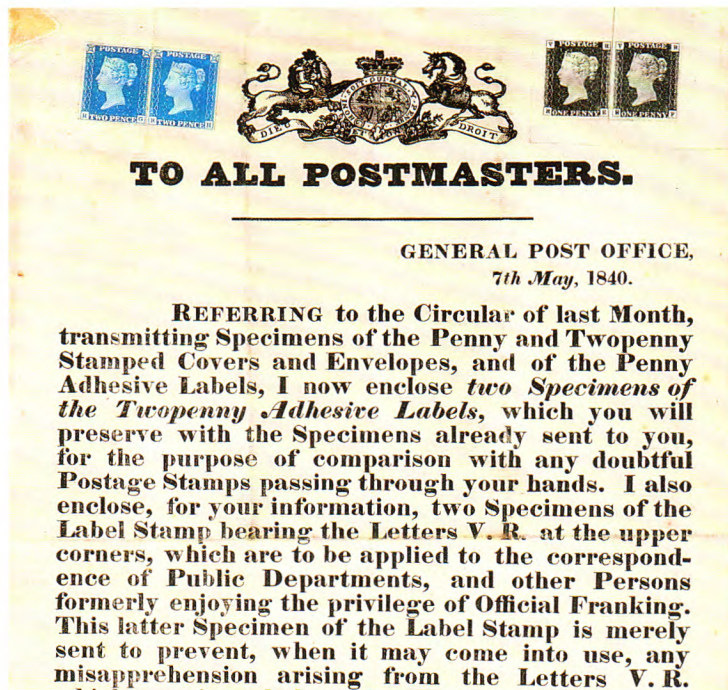
The notice, signed by W L Maberly, Secretary of the Post Office, ends: 'I embrace this opportunity also of stating, it is at present understood that Postmasters and Letter Receivers will be required to sell the Adhesive Label Stamps, and the Stamped Covers, (but not the Envelopes) under Licence from the Commissioners of Stamps; upon this subject, however, you will receive full Instructions when the issue of Postage Stamps is extended to other Places than London.' It is interesting that stamps are described as both adhesive label stamps and postage stamps in the same document.

On 5 May 1840 eighteen sheets of 2d stamps were supplied to the Post Office and three days later pairs of stamps from these sheets were forwarded to postmasters. It is known that at least one sheet of the 2d stamps forwarded with this notice had inverted watermarks.

The outer stamps of the pairs on this notice were at some time cut off but later found to be in the collection of Ernest Dale of Newcastle upon Tyne. In 1969 they were mounted on pieces of 1840 paper and reunited with the document •



Also included in the 3 June sale are proofs of the 1924 British Empire Exhibition stamps signed by designer Harold Nelson.



At the top of the notice are horizontal pairs of the 2d blue (lower corner letters RG and RH) and VR 1d black (letters RE and RF).

Enquiries Spink & Son Ltd, 5 King Street, London SW1Y 6QS.

Telephone 0171 930 7888

A further sale of GB stamps and postal history will be held on 15 December.



Orders and enquiries BFM Collectables, PO Box 69, Fleet GU13 9YN. Telephone 01252 617952 (weekdays 09.00-18.00).

ly sold for £7.50). Also available is a diecast 1930s Royal Mail postman and motorcycle delivery combination; the bike and sidecar (2" tall and 3" long) features moveable wheels and an authentic livery. Price £34.95; quote the *Bulletin* when ordering and receive a free 1910 Fleet Town postman and bicycle (normally £16.95) •

For an illustrated leaflet

with further details and prices write to Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH or phone 01425 472363.

GB stamp albums Stanley Gibbons produce a wide range of albums as well as their famous catalogues. For collectors of GB stamps, their *GB Album* in 4-ring binders is ideal for a straightforward collection, with stamps identified by SG catalogue numbers. The album is in three volumes covering 1840-1970, 1971-1990 and 1991-97. These are available separately or, at a discount, as a three-volume set. Supplements are produced each year. The *Luxury Hingeless Album* is likewise produced in three volumes covering 1840-1970, 1971-89, and 1990-97. All are supplied in matching slipcases and are available separately or as a set at a special price. The *GB Standard Album* comes in two volumes covering 1840-1989 and 1990-97, available separately or as a pair. Supplied with slipcase. Finally the *GB Commemorative & Greetings Stamp Album* provides for special stamps and miniature sheets issued since 1924. Vol 1 covers 1924-85, Vol 2 1986-97 •

Enquiries Harmers of London, 91 New Bond Street, London W1A 4EH. Telephone 0171 629 0218.

High prices for GB stamps The Harmers of London auction on 18 March included some good GB material. An 1840 2d Mulready envelope additionally franked with 1841 1d pair realised £2400 (estimate £500), an envelope from Dublin to Lubek with two pairs of 1841 1d went for £1900 (£300), and an 1867-83 5s with original gum fetched £4000 (£2000). An 1882 Inland Revenue £1 brown lilac made £7500 (£4500). A block of four of the 1935 Silver Jubilee 2½d Prussian blue error realised £8500 (£8000). A group of postal scales and stamp boxes included a 1904 Birmingham sterling silver candlestick letter scale which made £320 (£200), 1892 London hallmarked sterling silver stamp box in the form of a sewing machine table £550 (£260), and a mahogany coin-operated stamp dispenser £900 (£820) •



Airmail postcard The North of Ireland Philatelic Society has issued this postcard reproducing a Post Office photograph showing the loading of mail into a BEA plane for the Manchester-Dublin-Belfast airmail service in 1951. Unused cards cost 25p, used on first day of sale, 27 March, 60p; add 35p postage and packing. Orders to: N Scott, 49 Kingsdale Park, Belfast BT5 7BZ •

Glasgow 2000 youth competition Young persons under age 17 are invited to design a label on the subject of the year 2000. Prizes will be awarded to the winner and runner-up in two age groups: up to 12, and 13 to 16 inclusive. The competition is being part-sponsored by Joh Enschedé Security Printers who will print the winning designs. The labels will be available prior to and during the Glasgow 2000 national philatelic exhibition at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow, 17-19 November 2000. ●

Franceska Rapkin honoured We are pleased to record that our occasional contributor Franceska Rapkin will receive the 1999 Distinguished Topical Philatelist award at the American Topical Association convention in Milwaukee in July. Another contributor, Margaret Morris, received the award two years ago (see *Bulletin*, June 1997). Mrs Rapkin, well-known for her collection of 1936 Olympic Games stamps, is President of the British Thematic Association, serves on the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and is a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. She outlined her views on the hobby in a *Bulletin* interview in October 1996. Also receiving the ATA award in July will be Betty Rutherford of Iowa, noted for her exhibits, 'Beethoven', 'First Ladies Cookbook', and 'Whales and Whaling'. The Distinguished Topical Philatelist award was established in 1952; recipients are selected from nominees submitted by ATA members. ●

Competition rules and entry forms F N Soutar, 1 Campbell Drive, Larbert FK5 4PP. Entries must be submitted by 31 December.

Glasgow 2000 website www.btinternet.com/~philateglas2000.



The Rowland Hill Awards

Top: guests listen to Melvyn Bragg at the Gibson Hall, on 8 April.

Left: Francis Kiddle of the BPT; award winners Joanna Shute, Scott Ferguson (back), and Paul Walker (front); and Michael Sefi and Susan Ellis of the BPT.

Right: George Barker, editor of *The London Philatelist*, and Franceska Rapkin RDP. ●



Souvenir booklet Available from Mrs D Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4RY. Price £2 plus stamped addressed envelope.

Northeast Philatelic Weekend A souvenir booklet was produced for this event (21-23 May). This contains two 1st class NVI stamp panes with cover illustrations showing the *Rocket* railway locomotive and the controversial *Angel of the North* sculpture near Gateshead. The limited edition booklet, not produced by Royal Mail, is available from the address opposite •

Donations All material, which will be gratefully received and put to a good use in helping young collectors, should be sent to: National Youth Stamp Group, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury OX16 9LB.

National Youth Stamp Group Kids Corner, promoted by the NYSG and sponsored by the Philatelic Traders' Society and the Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society, provided a variety of attractions for young collectors at Spring Stampex. The Group has found a winning formula with children returning to Kids Corner on a regular basis. Over 200 entered a competition to design a first day cover on the theme of 'Save a Life'; the winner, Catherine Grainger of Midlothian, received a Royal Mail Year Book. The Group needs stamps, first day covers, books, etc for its activities, competitions and free childrens' auctions •

Royal Mail news

New country stamps for Scotland and Wales • Royal wedding postmarks • New stamp books • Definitive news



Country stamps Colourful new design country stamps for Scotland and Wales go on sale at post offices in the two countries, and at the Bureau and philatelic outlets on 8 June. They were previewed last month and we are pleased to show the designs this time.

The Scottish stamps were designed by Tayburn and feature sculptures of the Scottish lion and thistle by Frank Pottinger and Tim Chalk, a painting of the Saltire by Anton Morris, and tartan supplied by Kinloch Anderson of Leith, tartan suppliers to members of the Royal Family. The first day cover envelope features a Highland scene near Loch Fyne.

The Welsh stamps, designed by Tutssels, feature Welsh symbols produced by talented craftsmen. The dragon was forged in Welsh steel by brothers Tony and Gideon Petersen, the leek carved from Welsh sycamore in the style of a lovespoon by their father David Petersen, a daffodil created in Welsh slate by Ieuan Rees, and the Prince of Wales Feathers crafted in Welsh gold and silver by Rhiannon Evans. The first day cover envelope shows the seven miles of sands at Rhossili Beach in South Wales.

Postcards, reproducing the stamp designs, and presentation packs will be available from main post offices in the two countries, the Bureau and philatelic outlets. The cards cost 25p each, the packs £1.75 each.

On 1 July, the day The Queen opens the new Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, a philatelic numismatic cover (PNC) will be available bearing the four new Scottish stamps cancelled by a special handstamp, and the 1999 £1 coin showing the Scottish lion rampant. The cover shows Falkland Palace – a popular ‘hunting box’ for some of the Scottish kings. James V died there in 1542, and his daughter, Mary Queen of Scots, stayed there on several occasions. The PNC will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, at £12.95. Early ordering is advised.

New 38p and 64p stamps for Northern Ireland, shown last month, will also be issued on 8 June. The 19p stamp is also being reissued that day, this is in olive-green as the 1993 stamp, but now printed in gravure rather than litho. It is regarded as a variation rather than a new issue by Royal Mail. The cylinders used are all w1 phosphor w2; on the 19p and 38p sheets the phosphor number is below the ink number whereas on 64p sheets it is above.

A pack containing the four current Northern Ireland stamps (reissued 19p, existing 26p and new 38p and 64p) costs £1.80 •



The PNC special handstamp



Northern Ireland stamps

Although the covers serviced by the Bureau on 8 June will bear just the new 38p and 64p stamps, covers serviced by collectors also bearing the re-issued 19p and/or existing 26p Northern Ireland stamps will qualify for first day of issue postmarks. Please note the 19p and/or 26p used alone (without 38p or 64p) will not qualify.

Millennium news The pane of 26p Settlers' and Workers' Tale stamps, issued in a £2.60 stamp book on 12 May, is available as an unfolded pane from the British Philatelic Bureau, price 52p. Now available on the World Wide Web, is the miniature artwork collection that makes up the Millennium Collection and details of the artists responsible for the designs •

Millennium cylinders The cylinders and colours of the May and June Millennium sets are as follows.

Workers' Tale: 19p p78 (phosphor) 1A (drab) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (cerise) 1D (new blue) 1E (grey-black) 2F (bronze) • 26p p80 (phosphor) 1A (silver) 1B (greenish yellow) 3C (rosine) 1D (new blue) 1E (grey-black) • 44p p80 (phosphor) 1A (silver) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (orange-red) 1D (bright blue) 1E (yellow-brown) 1F (grey-black) • 64p p80 (phosphor) 1A (silver) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (rosine) 1D (new blue) 1E (grey-black)

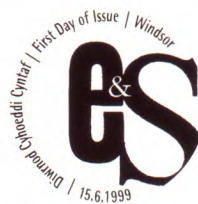
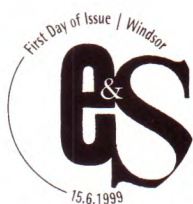
Entertainers' Tale: 19p 1A (greenish yellow) 1B (bright magenta) 1C (new blue) 1D (grey-black) 1E (gold) 1F (phosphor) • 26p 1A (greenish yellow) 1B (bright magenta) 1C (new blue) 1D (grey-black) 1E (gold) 1F (stone) 1G (phosphor) • 44p 1A (greenish yellow) 1B (bright magenta) 1C (new blue) 1D (grey-black) 1E (silver) 1F and 1G (phosphor) • 64p 1A (greenish yellow) 1B (bright magenta) 1C (new blue) 1D (grey-black) 1E (silver) 1F (phosphor) •

The Millennium Collection

www.millenniumstamps.co.uk

The numbers read upwards (phosphor number at top) on Entertainers' stamps printed by Enschedé. Numbers on the 19p Workers' are plate rather than cylinder numbers as the stamp is printed lithography. There are two phosphor numbers on the 44p Entertainers' stamp – a double application of phosphor ink was necessary to achieve the required phosphor signal.

Royal wedding 26p and 64p stamps to commemorate the wedding of Prince Edward and Miss Sophie Rhys-Jones go on sale at post offices on 15 June. The stamps, shown in last month's *Bulletin*, will be the first British issue featuring Prince Edward •



Solar eclipse miniature sheet A miniature sheet containing a block of four of the 64p Scientists' Tale stamps will be issued on 11 August to mark the solar eclipse of the Sun. Details of the sheet and first day facilities will be published in next month's *Bulletin* •

Stamp books The next prestige stamp book, entitled *Science and Invention*, will be issued on 21 September together with a special retail book containing panes of two Farmers' Tale 26p Millennium stamps and eight 1st class NV1 definitives. The first of these special books, containing Workers' and Settlers' Tale stamps was issued last month.

A book of four 1st class NV1 stamps and pictorial label commemorating the Rugby Union World Cup will go on sale on 1 October. A Philatelic Numismatic Cover (PNC) will also be available bearing the commemorative label pane and £2 Rugby coin. Another commemorative label pane book and PNC, for the Millennium, will be issued in December •

Postbus news Two new postbus services were introduced in Royal Mail's North East Division on 22 March. The first links the villages and hamlets of Pigdon, Netherwitton, Embleton Terrace and The Lee with the town of Morpeth. The four-seater service is Northumberland's ninth postbus: two run from Royal Mail's Hexham office, three from Alnwick, and three from Morpeth. They carry over 6000 passengers a year. The new service, which runs twice a day Monday to Friday and once on Saturday, is operated in conjunction with Northumberland County Council and supported by the Rural Development Commission.

The second new route serves Cuxwold, Swallow, Thornton Le Moor, Caistor and Market Rasen in rural Lincolnshire. The new 11-seater postbus adds to the 15 already running in the North East Division. The Division's oldest service – Louth to Goulceby – was introduced in 1973, and like the latest route, is supported by Lincolnshire County Council •

Definitive news Royal Mail announces that the colour for the new £1.50 stamp (9 March) should now be called terracotta, and not rust as originally announced. Plate numbers so far reported for the new £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 stamps are: £1.50 – 1 no dot (boxed 5), 1 dot (boxed 1 and 2); £2 – 1 no dot (boxed reversed 5 and 8), 1 dot (boxed 8); £3 – 1 no dot (boxed 1, 4 and 5), 1 dot (boxed 1); and £5 – 1 dot (boxed 2, 4 and 5). The 20p definitive with two phosphor bands (20 April) is from cylinders 17 phosphor P45 •

1999 Europa stamps Shown here are some of this year's Europa issues, on a theme of Parks and Nature Reserves. Britain's Europa stamp will be included with the Farmers' Tale set to be issued on 7 September.



Europa stamps are issued by most European postal administrations. The theme is decided by Posteurop, the organisation for public postal service operators.

British entertainers James Mackay writes about a long tradition of the art of performing

The set of four stamps released on 1 June highlights aspects of contemporary popular entertainment on a very broad scale, covering music, sport, television and the cinema. These are all subjects which have, of course, been depicted on previous British stamps and, indeed, both Bobby Moore and Charlie Chaplin, portrayed on the 26p and 64p stamps, have appeared on stamps of 1996 and 1985 respectively.

AN ENTERTAINER may be defined as someone who holds the attention in an enjoyable manner by a performance as singer, musician, actor, comedian, athlete or sportsman. A talent to amuse and entertain has probably been practised since the Stone Age and is one characteristic that marks out man as distinct from the animal world.

Mummers and Morris A 25p stamp of February 1981 featured one of the earliest forms of entertainment, the medieval mummers who usually performed their plays around Christmas time. The simple plots revolved round a quarrel, a fight, the death of one protagonist and his miraculous resurrection. Whatever the hidden symbolism of these ritualised dramas – and much has been written by folklorists on the subject – they



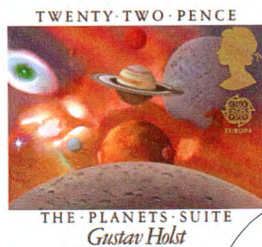
Mummers and Morris dancers from the 1981 Folklore issue. Morris dancing was also the subject of the 10p value in the 1976 Cultural Traditions set.

seem to have been primarily a form of street theatre for the purpose of collecting money from the public. Teams of mummers were to be found in most villages of England till the late 19th century. Nowadays, like so many old customs, mumming has been successfully revived, often as an adjunct to Morris dancing.

At a higher level in society, the masque was a popular entertainment in royal circles. Costumes for a court masque may be found on one of the 3p stamps issued in 1973 to mark the quatercentenary of the birth of Inigo Jones. Though best remembered as an architect he was also employed by Anne of Denmark (wife of James VI and I) in devising costume and sets for royal masques, a form of courtly entertainment combining song, dance and drama. Out of these masques developed the operas of a later generation and the musicals of the present day.

First theatres By Tudor times, companies of actors were organised as strolling players who travelled from town to town giving performances wherever a suitable hall or open space could be found. By the end of the 16th century, however, the first theatres were being erected in London, and five of them, dating between 1595 and 1614, were depicted on a strip of 25p stamps issued in 1995 to celebrate the reconstruction of the Globe Theatre.

The quatercentenary of Shakespeare's birth was marked in 1964 by an international festival at Stratford-upon-Avon which inspired a set of five stamps. A set of 1982 devoted to theatre traditions showed Hamlet contemplating the skull of Yorick, the most famous prop in dramatic history, while the other stamps featured a ballerina, Harlequin and an opera singer.



Stamps of 1994 and 1996 show how far children's entertainment has moved in recent years – from the traditional seaside Punch and Judy show to the highly sophisticated programmes on children's television. Orchestral music has been relatively overlooked, despite the 1985 Europa set which paid tribute to Handel, Holst, Elgar and Delius, the 9p of 1972 portraying Ralph Vaughan Williams and the set of 1980 featuring celebrated conductors.

Pop star In this latest chapter in the Millennium programme, the 19p stamp represents a form of entertainment that is very much part of the contemporary scene. The vast open-air pop concert, combining musical talent with the latest high-tech sound systems, arose in the rock 'n' roll era of the 1960s and has become larger and more spectacular with the passage of time. The stamp, designed by Peter Blake, shows the late lamented Freddie Mercury and his group Queen (Brian May, John Deacon and Roger Taylor) in concert. At the height of his career, he often played before audiences of 250,000 ecstatic fans. Born Faroukh Bulsara in Zanzibar in 1946, he was educated in India, joining the school choir and learning to play the piano. His family moved to England in 1963 and he enrolled at Ealing College of Art. In 1968 he joined the group Smile which already included Brian May and Roger Taylor, but made his professional debut in 1969 with Ixex in Bolton. In May 1970 Queen was born and with the release of their first album in 1973 the group were instant chart-toppers. Freddie Mercury died of AIDS in 1992 but his music lives on. Incidentally, he was a keen philatelist whose stamp collection is now preserved in the National Postal Museum, London.

Top row: the 19p Entertainers' Tale, Freddie Mercury and his group Queen; the traditional Punch and Judy show, 1994; and 1985 Europa set paying tribute to composers.

Bottom row: the 1995 Globe theatre, including the figure of William Shakespeare in the bottom left-hand corner; 1988 Australian bicentenary stamp, with Shakespeare and John Lennon symbolising the range and diversity of Britain's cultural heritage which has spread around the globe; and 1964 Shakespeare issue portraying scenes and characters from the Bard's most famous plays.

The National Ballroom
234 KILBURN HIGH ROAD, N.W.9
TEL: 01-329 3141

On the 26p stamp (opposite page, top left) Bobby Moore lifts the World Cup after the 1966 final at Wembley when England beat West Germany 4-2 after extra time. Capped 108 times in his long career, Moore was previously shown on the 25p stamp in the 1996 series for the European Football Championship (opposite).



This 1996 postmark featuring John Logie Baird marked the 50th anniversary of his death.

Football legend By contrast, the subject of the 26p stamp is spectator sport, Mike White's motif showing Bobby Moore (1941-93), captain of the England football team of 1966. Association football has come a long way from its modest beginnings in 1871; then, most players were weekend amateurs but today they are super-stars with astronomic earnings from matches, sponsorship and advertising, while soccer has become big business, with film and television rights and a vast range of merchandise. Stamps, from the World Cup series of 1966 onwards, have played an important part in this, triggering off a spate of souvenir covers and cards, a subject that could form a life-long study in itself.

Broadcasting Although television was a British invention, it has had comparatively little coverage on British stamps. John Logie Baird (1888-1946) has yet to be portrayed, although he was featured in a set of six Royal Mail postcards of 1989 devoted to the communicating genius of Scottish inventors. Children's television is the theme of the 44p Entertainers' Tale stamp by (Lord) Snowdon, though what started life as a children's science fiction serial has now acquired cult status worldwide.

First broadcast on 22 November 1963, *Dr Who* recounted the adventures of a Time Lord, known simply as 'the Doctor', a member of a fantastically advanced race whose technology enabled them to travel through time and space and regenerate their bodies when necessary. It was in the second episode, however, that viewers first encountered the Daleks, a race of mutant killers whose bodies had been so hideously deformed by radioactive fall-out that they were forced to live inside protective metal shells. By the time the last episode was screened in 1989, *Dr Who* had become the world's longest-running science fiction series on television.

Moving pictures If Britain's achievement in the cinema, the 20th century's other great contribution to popular entertainment, had to be denoted by a single person then the choice could only be Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin (1889-1977), shown on the 64p by Ralph Steadman. Indeed, it is a mark of his global significance that he has already been portrayed on one of the 32c Millennium stamps released last year by the USA, and will appear on one of the 17f stamps to be released by Belgium later this year. Very much a legend in his own lifetime, Charlie Chaplin was first portrayed on a stamp (from Czechoslovakia) as long ago as 1968.

The extreme poverty of his early life (part of which was spent in the Lambeth workhouse) gave him an acute sense of pathos which he refined in his tramp role. His skills of mimicry brought him to the attention of Fred Karno with whose vaudeville troupe he toured from 1906 to 1913. Chaplin moved to Hollywood in 1914 and made his film debut with *Making a Living*. From 1940 he made a number of talking pictures but left the USA in 1952 and settled in Switzerland. In 1973 he returned briefly to America to receive a special Oscar and in 1975 he was knighted by The Queen. Apart from the Film series of 1985, the Comedians set of 1998 paid tribute to some of the great stars of stage, screen and television ●



Children's television, the theme of the 44p stamp, above, was also the subject of five stamps in 1996 (above left, the 31p value, *Stingray*). John Logie Baird's invention was depicted on the 1s9d Discovery and Invention stamp of 1967, above right.

Chaplin's Genius, the 64p stamp by Ralph Steadman, portrays Chaplin in his role as the little tramp. The 29p stamp in the series of 1985 devoted to British Film Year showed a photograph of Sir Charles in old age taken by (Lord) Snowdon.



The Ronald Grant archive

The Citizens' Tale

The seventh of 12 sets of Millennium stamps to be issued in 1999 is on the theme of citizenship

Citizens' Tale stamps go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 6 July

Natasha Kerr's design of the **19p** stamp features equal rights for women. Political reform in the 19th century led to votes for all men but it took the actions of the Suffragettes to win the right for women. Best-known of the Suffragettes were Millicent Fawcett (1847-1929), President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and Emmeline Pankhurst (1857-1928) who established the Women's Social and Political Union in 1903. After a vigorous campaign, when many Suffragettes were imprisoned, equal voting rights for women over age 30 and who owned property or were married to property owners, were granted in 1918. Ten years later all women were given the vote.

The photograph shows Sylvia Pankhurst in Bow Road, London in 1912, telling a group of young men about the fight for women's suffrage.





The 19p stamp, by Natasha Kerr, is titled *Equal Rights*, and represents equal rights for women. Emmeline Pankhurst, one of the best-known of the Suffragettes, appeared on a 9d stamp in 1968, for the 50th anniversary of the limited franchise.

The 26p value is by Michael Craig-Martin, and represents the right to health. Several stamp issues have documented health matters, most recently the set marking the 50th anniversary of the National Health Service, issued last June.

The right to learn is the subject of Allan Drummond's 44p stamp. The educational reformer Robert Owen was remembered in the 1976 Social Reformers stamp issue, and Public education in England was featured in the 1989 Anniversaries set.

The design of the 64p stamp, *First Rights*, is by Alan Kitching. Articles of Magna Carta (Great Charter) later developed into legal rights and civil liberties. The Houses of Parliament have been featured on a number of stamps.

ROYAL MAIL MILLENNIUM STAMPS 6661

Cylinders and colours

19p 1A (silver) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (cerise) ● 1D (new blue) ● 1E (grey-black) ● P81 (phosphor)

26p 1A (grey-black) ● 1B (new blue) ● 1C (bright mauve) ● 1D (rosine) ● 1E (turquoise-blue) ● 1F (apple-green) ● P80 (phosphor)

44p 1A (bright blue) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (cerise) ● 1D (new blue) ● 1E (grey-black) ● P80 (phosphor)

64p 1A (gold) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (cerise) ● 1D (new blue) ● 1E (grey-black) ● P80 (phosphor)

The **26p** value designed by Michael Craig-Martin, features a tap representing the right to health. Clean water supplies and effective sewerage systems are now taken for granted but were largely unheard of before Victorian times. Edwin Chadwick (1800-90) campaigned for clean water and good sewerage systems in the industrial towns, and civil engineers took up his challenge. Parliament legislated for water works to install filtration systems and Boards of Works were set up to implement the schemes. Sir Joseph Bazalgette (1819-91) solved London's sewage problem with some 1300 miles of sewers using 318 million bricks.

Education and the right to learn is the subject of Allan Drummond's design of the **44p** value. Amongst many who campaigned for better education was Welshman Robert Owen (1771-1858) owner of the New Lanark cotton mills near Glasgow. Owen gradually replaced the employment of children under 10 years of age by a comprehensive system of education. Toddlers went to a nursery, three to six year olds attended the world's first infant school, and from seven onwards were taught reading, writing, history and other subjects. Many distinguished people, including European Royalty and the philosopher Rousseau, visited New Lanark to see Owen's progressive system.

The **64p** stamp features a design by Alan Kitching commemorating first rights of freedom, justice, equal rights, liberty, and lawful judgement. Back in 1215 Magna Carta (Great Charter) acknowledged that the king was subject to the rule of law – a crucial step in the evolution of constitutional government. Provisions that the king could not demand extra revenue from

Royal Mail Millennium Stamps
Citizens' Tale

19p 1A (silver) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (cerise) ● 1D (new blue) ● 1E (grey-black) ● P81 (phosphor)

26p 1A (grey-black) ● 1B (new blue) ● 1C (bright mauve) ● 1D (rosine) ● 1E (turquoise-blue) ● 1F (apple-green) ● P80 (phosphor)

44p 1A (bright blue) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (cerise) ● 1D (new blue) ● 1E (grey-black) ● P80 (phosphor)

64p 1A (gold) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (cerise) ● 1D (new blue) ● 1E (grey-black) ● P80 (phosphor)

What a woman may be and yet not have the Vote

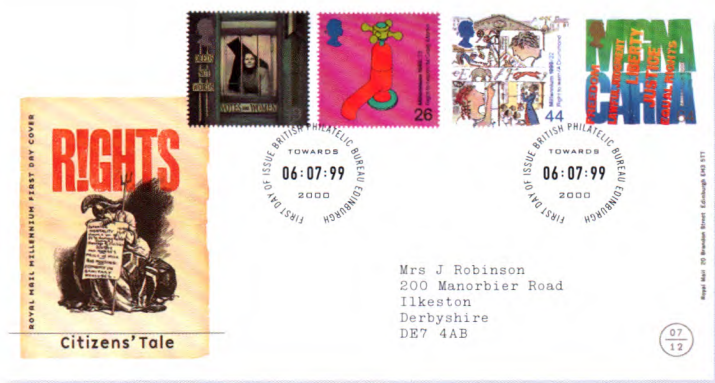
What a Man may have been & yet not lose the Vote

Benjamin Franklin's vision of underground sewers for the city. The splendour of the Abbey Mills Pumping Station expresses all that polite Victorian society could not about the importance of sanitation.

The Factory acts of the 1870s limited the working hours for women and children in industry. Legislation on public health, artisans' dwellings and food and drugs regulated social welfare. Society was changing. Modern attitudes and expectations were evolving.

The growing cities had their own problems: poor sanitation, housing and nutrition. Major engineering projects and public health policies made possible by the activities of central and local government helped

The Women's Social and Political Union in 1903, and believed in 'deeds, not words'. Suffragettes' protests frequently led to imprisonment. But these times saw a substantial increase in the number of women in the workforce as society was mobilised for total war. In 1918 women won the right to vote, and in 1928 the voting age for men and women was equalised. The Second World War again saw women working in previously male-dominated spheres, and during the War the Welfare State and Health Service were conceived. Progressive changes in the economy, society and the law further reduced the discriminatory burden. In 1979 Britain elected its first woman Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. Female suffrage has been a driving force in democratization. Today there is the widely held aspiration for a society in which all citizens are free from discrimination and enjoy equal opportunities.



the barons evolved into laws that taxes for ordinary people could not be raised without Parliamentary consent. The 700th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament was marked by two stamps in 1965 and a set commemorating the Civil War between king and Parliament was issued in 1992.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 6 July, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Newtown (birthplace of Robert Owen) must reach the Bureau by 6 July. Price £2.22 UK (including VAT) or £1.89 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (Newtown postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9915' (Bureau), or 'FD9916' (Newtown). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Newtown postmark. A non-pictorial Newtown postmark will also be available, by sending covers to the Cardiff Handstamp Centre, requesting 'FD9916 NP'. Both Newtown postmarks are bilingual.

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). Covers may bear just the 19p Citizens' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 6 July.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £1.90) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. A Millennium Stamps Album, with pages for the 1999 issues, also three FDC and three presentation pack pages, is available from the British Philatelic Bureau. Price: album and slipcase £19.99; sets of pages only £9.99. A presentation case has been produced to display the Millennium presentation packs or first day covers. Enquiries: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT •

Technical details

Printer De La Rue Security Print

Process Gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 19p •
two bands others

Gum PVA



Scottish heraldry Paul Chesham describes



The thistle, lion rampant and Saltire all appear in this painting of James V, King of Scots and Queen Mary of Guise.

All three Scottish emblems appeared on Scottish country stamps of 1958-70 (below), along with the Scottish crown (3d-5d) made for Robert the Bruce in 1314.



THE HERALDIC SYMBOLS which distinguish three of the new Scottish stamps go far back into the mists of antiquity, so much so that various accounts of their origin differ in many respects. Every Scottish schoolboy knows that the thistle was adopted as the national floral emblem when a barefoot marauder trod on a thistle and let out a scream of pain when it pricked him, thus alerting the defenders, but where and when this incident occurred is a matter for argument. Some say that the barefoot enemy were attacking Edinburgh Castle at some unspecified date in the Middle Ages; others that the Danes lost the element of surprise in this manner before the Battle of Luncarty in 995.

Another contender was the Battle of Nectansmere in 685 when the Northumbrians under Ecgrith were defeated by the Picts under Brude. The defeat was so decisive that never again did the Angles of Northumbria challenge the peoples north of the Border. The Picts regained their territory while the Scots of Dalriada and Britons of Strathclyde won back their liberty. Nectansmere, whose 1300th anniversary was celebrated by a pictorial handstamp in 1985, was a turning point that led eventually to the unification of the country and the emergence of the Scots as a nation.

Order of the Thistle This would also accord with the hoary old tradition that the Order of the Thistle was founded by Angus MacFergus, King of the Picts, in 787. If there is, indeed, any truth in this story, then the Thistle must have been one of the oldest orders of chivalry in Christendom. It had been in abeyance for centuries, however, when King James VII and II revived it in 1687, supposedly the 900th anniversary of the original foundation, as a very exclusive order confined to himself and eight knights. Sadly, it was almost as ephemeral as its medieval counterpart, being abolished a year later when James fled the country. It was revived by Queen Anne in 1703, and then consisted of the sovereign and 12 knights, but the number was increased to 16 in 1827, which makes it still the most exclusive order of knighthood in the United Kingdom and probably the world. The Latin motto *Nemo me impune lacessit* (no one touches me with impunity) is roughly rendered in Scots as 'Wha daur meddle wi me?'

Even the botanical identity of the emblem is the subject of controversy. It is a common fallacy that the Scottish Thistle is the cotton thistle (*Oнопордон асanthium*) and, as such, is often depicted on Scottish souvenirs. In fact it is the spear thistle (*Cirsium lanceolatum*) which can grow to a height of 2 metres. A fine display of the cultivated variety can be found in the garden outside the Thistle Chapel, Edinburgh, founded in 1827. Of the three heraldic emblems of Scotland, it was the last to appear on coinage.

the historic symbols distinguishing the new Scottish stamps

making its debut on the silver groat (4d) of James III in 1471, the reverse depicting a cross with thistle-heads and mullets in alternate quarters. Oddly enough, earlier coins had had a marked preference for the lys, or fleur-de-lis, instead. It did not achieve the prominence of the principal element of the design until 1538 when a crowned thistle was depicted on the obverse of the bawbee and half-bawbee. Four thistle-heads graced the reverse of the gold crowns of Mary Queen of Scots and flanked her monogram on the reverse of the silver testoon (shilling). It really came into its own in the reign of James VI, where its reverse motif gave the name to the gold Thistle Crown of 48 shillings Scots and its English counterpart, the four-shilling piece of 1604-19, as well as the silver two-merk piece or Thistle Dollar. The best depiction appeared on the reverse of the 10s coins of 1593-1601 where a triple-headed thistle was featured. The legend around the circumference of these coins was the *Nemo* motto, and this appeared as an edge inscription on the £1 coins of 1984 and 1989 featuring the Scottish thistle, which has also been the subject of the 5p coins since 1968.

Philatelically, the thistle appeared in the so-called Emblems watermark of 1856-67, where it appeared alongside a shamrock and two roses. Thistles appeared on the 6d stamp of the Jubilee series (1887), on George VI definitive low values (1937-52) and 10s and £1 denominations, and on some Wilding definitives. The thistle appears on three of the Coronation set of 1953. Elsewhere, Scottish thistles will be found on stamps of New Brunswick (1851), Newfoundland (1857-61 and 1932), Nova Scotia (1851-57), New Zealand (1948) and South Africa (1962), as well as the set of four issued by Royal Mail in July 1987 to celebrate the tercentenary of the revival of the Order of the Thistle. All four stamps incorporated the breast star of the order, while the collar, consisting of thistles and sprigs of rue, may also be seen on the 18p value showing the arms of the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, whose office goes back as far as the reign of Robert II (1371) at least.



Above left: thistles in the upper corners of the 1887 Jubilee series 6d, and in the upper right-hand corner of a George VI definitive low value. In the Wilding definitives the thistle was confined to values from 5d upwards, though it also formed part of the heraldic nousegay on the lower values.

Above right: 1987 Order of the Thistle 18p; and thistles on 1948 New Zealand, 1962 South Africa, and on the George VI £1 denomination, to the right of the King's profile.



Top: a Scottish country stamp, featuring a lion rampant since decimalisation in 1971; a lion with sword and sceptre on a Scottish parcel post label; and lions rampant on the flag of Nova Scotia (note the reverse colouring of the Saltire Cross), and on the 22p Order of the Thistle.

Above: a lion rampant, as the emblem of the King of Scots, on a Medieval Warriors stamp of 1974.

arms depicted on stamps of the Thistle set of 1987, but the arms of the Lord Lyon himself (18p) show yet another version of the Scottish lion, crouching full-face and holding aloft a thistle and a heraldic shield in its forepaws, while crowned lions appear as supporters. A crouching lion armed with sword and sceptre was a popular device on the certifying stamps and stationery of Scottish government departments, and appeared on a number of the Scottish versions of postal labels in the period up to the Second World War.

While the lion rampant was a popular motif for Scottish coinage from the appropriately named lion of 1390 onwards, the crouching lion was adopted for the 'Scottish' shillings of 1937 (as a mark of honour to Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother). The 'Scottish' shillings of the present reign (1953-66), however, reverted to the lion rampant in a shield.



The Saltire The third Scottish emblem is the Saltire Cross, a white x-shaped cross on a blue ground which forms the flag of Scotland and a component of the Union Jack. It was the type of cross on which St Andrew, the fisherman of Bethesda who became Christ's first convert and first missionary, was crucified by the Romans on 30 November AD60. According to legend, Andrew chose this form of cross himself, as he felt unworthy to die on the same sort of cross as Jesus. His body was interred in the Church of the Twelve Apostles, Constantinople, where it remained till 1208 when what remained of his bones were taken to Amalfi. 450 years earlier, however, St Rule (Regulus) of Patrae was told in a vision to take three finger bones, an arm bone and the knee cap of St Andrew and travel to the most westerly part of the known world. According to tradition, he landed at Kilrymont in Fife, near the present town of St Andrews; from the shrine of the saint's bones, the cathedral of the archbishopric developed.

The saint's relics arrived in nice time for King Angus MacFergus to parade them in battle against King Alpin of Dalriada in 742. On the eve of battle the Picts saw a huge saltire cross shining in the blue sky and, taking this as a divine omen, they charged into battle and defeated the Scots. By this action Angus became master of Dalriada and Strathclyde as well as Pictland and was the first king to give some semblance of unity to what is now Scotland. The Cross of St Andrew became the national flag of Scotland, as opposed to the lion rampant which was the monarch's personal standard. The beautiful gold coins of Robert III (1390-1406) and James II (1437-60) had reverses showing the actual crucifixion of St Andrew, while the cross alone appeared on the reverses of the bawbees and half-bawbees of 1538-48.

The Scottish Saltire appears on the stamps shown above, and on the 18p Order of the Thistle series (page 313). It also features on many World Cup stamps, whenever the Scottish team has qualified for the final rounds •

Above, top row: the Saltire Cross on 1966 Robert Burns issue, and thistles on the unadopted design by A B Imrie (thistles also appeared on an unadopted design by Stewart Black). The Saltire appears on the 1970 stamp marking the 650th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath.

Bottom: Order of the Thistle, and St Andrew with his Saltire Cross on an express airmail stamp of Colombia (1954-57).



New stamp books: tariff change The four stamp books containing value stamps have been re-issued with changed content suitable for the revised tariff effective from 26 April. This reduced the minimum inland second class letter rate from 20p to 19p, left the first class rate unchanged and added 1p to the rates for overseas mail. The last of these has resulted in books of $4 \times 38p$ and $4 \times 64p$ in place of the former $4 \times 37p$ and $4 \times 63p$ which were first issued on 26 August 1997. Like them, the new panes were printed by Walsall in gravure from EME cylinders with inverted direction of printing and rotary (APS) perforated. Both stamps are completely new. A 38p stamp was issued in 1993 to prepay the second weight step for inland first class letters but that was red; the new stamp is ultramarine. The 64p is sea green, a colour from the Jeffery Matthews palette that was last used for the 20p of 1988.

Both of the new booklet stamps were printed from cylinders w.t. The numbers are against the bottom row of the pane and the panes are not flush with the covers which are 50mm high. These three attributes, among others, indicate that the books were not made up on the Bickel machine. (Bickel books have 48mm covers which are cut together with the panes and cylinder panes have the number against the top row of stamps.) The text on the inside back covers has been slightly revised. This mainly affects the last paragraph which refers to 'the Quick Guide to Mailing Abroad leaflet available at your local post office'.

instead of, as formerly, to 'the International Prices leaflet'. At the time of writing, the new leaflet was not available at my local office. The pane of air-mail labels in these two books is unchanged as is the text on the yellow strips.

The 19p stamp in the £1 and £2 machine vend booklets is a revival of the olive green stamp first issued in 1993 when the second class rate was last that figure. However, it is a new stamp to specialists as it is the first 19p to have the new, sharper, image obtainable from EME cylinders; with what I have designated head B4. It also has the new phosphor with an afterglow under long-wave irradiation. No other change to the content was required in the £2 book as the face value of the stamps still exceeds that sum (by a penny). In the £1 book, however, the face value of the content has been maintained at £1 by replacing the 1p on the right with a 2p stamp. The two labels are still printed in the colour of the 1p value and their wording is unchanged. Cylinder numbers in both books appear at the right and are not centrally placed in the binding margin as were those on the lithographed layouts. As before, the phosphor cylinders do not have numbers which appear in the books. The direction of printing is still sideways right and the perforation is rotary (APS) with an unchanged gauge.

At first sight, these are the only changes but the books repay closer examination. The first question which occurs to me is why are all the cylinder numbers 01? Clearly, the 2p is new but

there are two 19p cylinders since a single one could not produce the images in the right places on two different panes. The same applies to the 26p stamps. The 1p cylinder must also be new since, unlike the one used for the previous £1 book it results in only one stamp on the pane and the space taken by the new 2p stamp was formerly occupied by another 1p stamp. Questa do not confine their cylinder numbering to Q1; the colour numbers in the previous £1 went from Q1 to Q10 and from Q1 to Q5 in the £2 book. I can only assume that their policy is to start renumbering from Q1 each time a new layout is required. It is also a curious fact that all Questa colour cylinders seem to wear out at the same time so that the numbers all change together. In other words, combinations such as, say, Q1 Q2 Q1 Q3 do not occur. (I am aware that 'mixed' plate numbers very occasionally occurred on some Regional sheet printings.)

The colours of the 1p and 26p stamps are noticeably different from those in the previous gravure books. In fact, the 1p is so different that one wonders what has become of the Jeffery Matthews standard which was supposed to impose a standard formula on the printers. On the other hand, all the images stand out well from their backgrounds with the head seemingly much paler compared with other gravure renderings and I like them very much. I do not think I have mentioned this before but when the gravure books

appeared on 1 December last, the 26p values were a new type. Compared with those on the lithographed panes, the elements are much thicker. This is most noticeable in the letter 'p' and where the neck of the figure '2' meets the base. The same type has been used on the new panes.

The front covers have been changed to refer to the new contents. The rates table printed on the inside back covers has the new rates. This shows that, although there has been no change in the first and second weight steps, apart from the reduction from 20p to 19p, the cost of posting heavier items has gone up substantially. The 200g rates, for example, have increased by 10% or more. This is unlikely to interest most users of these booklets; they buy them in the main to post minimum weight letters and it is for that service that they are designed.

New stamp books: May special issues Two new books were scheduled for release on 12 May. One is the seventh in the commemorative label series. These contain a pane of first class NV1s with a large pictorial label attached. The new edition commemorates the ending of the Berlin airlift in 1949. This was a 24-hour air shuttle by the western allies to supply West Berlin when the Russians cut overland routes during the night of 23 June 1948. Everything from carrots to coal was ferried to the beleaguered city. The airlift was known to the Royal Air Force as 'Operation Plain-



Cylinder numbers seen in the £1 book (right, above) are: Q1 (green), Q1 (olive), Q1 (maroon) and Q1 (rust); and in the £2 book (below), Q1 (olive) and Q1 (rust).



fare' and to the US Air Force as 'Operation Vittles'. The blockade ended in May 1949 but the airlift continued for another three months. This summer the 500-strong British Berlin Airlift Association will attend a series of events in Berlin whose residents still gratefully recall their efforts.

The new pane has been printed by Walsall and is the first in the series to have been printed in gravure. This is a surprise as the combined print runs of the last two issues were met by a single combination of lithographic plates from the same firm. There are eight colour cylinders and one phosphor cylinder, all w1. The printing on the yellow strip reads: 'Commemorative Label Inside' and is the only outside indication that the contents are unusual. The validity notice on the inside back covers is the newly revised version emphasising that the stamps are not, on their own, valid for postage to Europe, not even, on this occasion, to Berlin.

The second of the May books is the first in a new series to celebrate the millennium. It contains two panes inserted one on top of the other

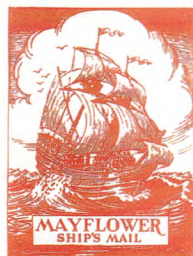
in the manner of the panes of stamps and air-mail labels in the overseas books. The top pane consists of the 26p Pilgrim Fathers stamp from the Settlers' Tale and the 26p Mill Towns stamp from the Workers' Tale. These are se-tenant and surrounded by margins in the manner of a miniature sheet. This is the first time that special issues have appeared in a retail (window) book. Collectors of the millennium series will be sure to want this, especially as both stamps are printed in gravure by Walsall whereas the Workers' 26p sheet stamps are by De La Rue, which means that the phosphor is different.

The second pane contains eight 1st class NV1s in two rows of four, also printed by Walsall in gravure, making the total content £2.60. This is the first time that NV1s have been printed in a pane of eight stamps, with cylinder number w2. The front cover shows part of the two millennium stamps as well as a part block of the NV1s. The inside text gives the address of the Millennium stamps website: www.royalmail.co.uk/millenniumstamps. This is well worth a visit •

Text © DGA Myall 1999

Cover corner

THE FIRST item this month is relevant to the 26p Settlers' Tale stamp commemorating the *Mayflower* and the Pilgrim Fathers. It was produced in 1957 for the maiden voyage of *Mayflower II* and bears a handstamp used only on mail posted on board during the voyage. The handstamp, which can be found with * or codes A to F above the date, is number A441 in the British Postmark Society's *Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom*.



The second item follows on from that shown in February, that is a card commemorating the coronation of George V and Queen Mary in June 1911. This card, submitted by A Burnett of Suffolk, was posted in Bungay and postmarked there at 6.45pm on 3 July 1911. It bears the message: 'Dearest, Will write in a day or so. Brichy P C sent me some lovely flowers. Wish I could write to him. Love Forever Eva' •

This *Mayflower* cover was backstamped on arrival on 13 June at Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA.

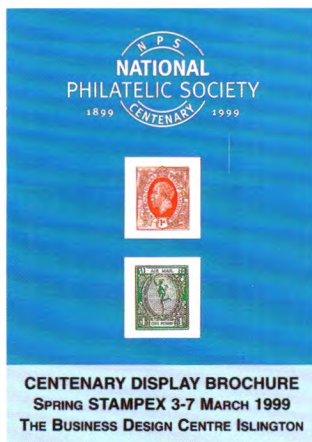


Books New Stanley Gibbons publications • NPS brochure



Stanley Gibbons publications The 1999 edition of the *Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue* was published mid-April. It lists British stamps from 1840 up to the Machin high value stamps (9 March). Prices have been checked and revised where necessary. This new edition lists new discoveries including missing colours and imperfs as well as many varieties and errors on Elizabeth II issues. The listings are more advanced than those in the Part 1 (British Commonwealth) catalogue but not as detailed as the five-volume GB Specialised catalogue. Included are regional, postage due, official and postal fiscal stamps, stamp books, postage labels (Framas) as well as first day covers, presentation packs, PHQ cards and other material produced for the philatelic market. For specialist collectors the listings cover perforation and watermark varieties, missing colour, embossing and phosphor errors, UPU specimens and useful, quick-reference diagrams of Machin decimal booklet panes.

The third edition of *Collect Railways on Stamps* will be welcomed by collectors of this popular theme. Over 8000 stamps are now listed – some 2400 having been added since the second edition nine years ago. The useful subject index has been expanded. The book is now published in A4 format, 224 pages, price £19.95.



Great Britain Concise Stamp

Catalogue 336 pages, softbound.
Price £14.95.

All SG catalogues are available from Stanley Gibbons' shop, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX or by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Mail order credit card phone line 0800 611622 (UK only).

NPS Centenary Display Brochure

Available free from the National Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. Please enclose two 1st class stamps or international reply coupons to cover cost of postage and packing.

New to the SG thematic catalogues range is *Collect Fish on Stamps* listing over 7600 stamps featuring some 1600 species of fish (apparently there are over 24,000 in total). A5 format, price £16.95 •

National Philatelic Society Centenary Display Brochure

The NPS was founded, as the Junior Philatelic Society, by Fred Melville in 1899. Over the past 100 years it has become recognised as one of the major philatelic societies, with members in countries far beyond the UK. It holds regular meetings, auctions, publishes a good journal, *Stamp Lover*, and has a fine library at its home in the British Philatelic Centre in London. To mark the centenary an impressive display was arranged at Spring Stampex (3-7 March). The display drew on the collections of many members covering subjects as diverse as: Trieste; Nigerian Civil War, 1967-70; Lundy; Mulready Caricatures; Upper Silesia; Thematics (Cycles, Vine to Wine); Swiss Booklets, 1907-48; the Development of the Letter Box, and much else. There was something to interest all visitors in the display. The Society published a handsome brochure illustrating in colour a key item from each collection with a brief description of the display. This brochure is not only a useful record of the display, but a worthwhile centenary souvenir and a joy to peruse •

Postbag

High values Like Mr Parr (April) I regret the passing of the Castle high values. In your preview of the new stamps (February, p167) Linda Norris of Royal Mail states that the change to the small-size Machin design was to provide 'a consistent image across Royal Mail stamps on permanent sale'. I can see a logic in this but does she really believe that businesses and the general public will send more heavy letters, parcels or registered post simply because there is a consistent stamp image? If this were so, then the change would have greater justification. From the collectors' standpoint, some will welcome the new Machins but others will miss the attractive Castles. They were certainly a fine set and great fun to collect. I expect the Machins will be as interesting from a specialist point of view but I don't think they will make such an attractive display on the album page. DAVID BROOKES, LONDON N7 ●

Millennium I am pleased that Royal Mail is commemorating the Millennium although have some reservations about the designs of some of the stamps. Alan Sabey's interesting book on the Empire Exhibition of 1924-25 (with April *Bulletin*) leads me to hope that the Millennium stamps will be on sale at the Millennium Dome at Greenwich next year and that there will be plenty of posting boxes around the exhibition for visitors to post cards and covers to receive a special Dome postmark. The volume of mail posted might be too great for each item to be handstamped so perhaps a special machine postmark could be applied as used on mail posted at the international stamp exhibition in London in 1960. If there is a post office at the Millennium exhibition perhaps a unique special handstamp could be used on mail sent by the special delivery service – again as used on registered mail from the 1960 exhibition. Such postmarks would be unique to mail posted at the Millennium exhibition and in addition to the somewhat artificial sponsored philatelic handstamps that will no doubt be used at Handstamp Centres. What do other collectors think? PAUL SNOW, CHELMSFORD ●

Machin head As a keen Machin collector I welcome the new £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 stamps and am pleased that we have a unified definitive series again. The engraving of 'The Queen's head by Slania is good, complemented by the rich colours chosen. The stamps sit well alongside Slania's fine engraving of the 1st class stamp in black in the prestige stamp book. Much less satisfactory, although certainly interesting, were the embossed and letterpress stamps in the same book. Congratulations to Royal Mail on keeping the interest in the Machins going. Finally, how sad that Mr Machin died on the very day the new high values were issued. M CARTER, LIVERPOOL ●

Best letter I applaud your annual poll for the favourite *Bulletin* author of the year and am pleased to read that Douglas Myall has won the award for the third year running. His well-researched articles are a joy to read. If you were to ask readers to vote for their favourite letter of the year, Mr Jeremy Wilson (March) would get my vote. Yes we should have fewer special issues once the Millennium programme is over. The government has announced that it requires less money from the Post Office so surely there is less need for special stamps to help fund this hidden tax which falls heavily on stamp collectors. I feel that six sets a year of special stamps, plus a Christmas issue, would be adequate and the reduced number would increase the impact of the special issues. G L BAXTER, PORTSMOUTH ●

Stamps for charities In July 1998 you printed my appeal for used stamps for charity. I have had a good response and further donations of stamps are always welcome. I also now take postcards and foreign money, as some of the charities also take these. I now send stamps to 20 charities. I wish to thank everyone who has sent me used stamps. SHARON ONION, 18 Elizabeth Drive, Park Lodge, Tamworth B79 8DF.

Sharon has supplied me with a list of the charities she assists – these cover a wide range of activities from medical research to animal welfare. ED ●

1911 Coronation postcard I have seen the article on the 1911 Coronation postcard in the February *Bulletin* (p189). The card was sent to Mr Takasuke Rinoiye at the Isjikawa Prefecture Governor's Residence in Kanazawa-city, the prefectural capital. According to the public relations department of Ishikawa Prefectural Office, Mr Rinoiye was the 15th Governor of Ishikawa, in office from 14 June 1910 until 30 December 1912. The sender's name 'Tsgunori' seems to be the given name. The Chinese characters can be read in many ways and there could be a possibility of 'Tsgunori' to be a different name. Since this postcard has a man's given name to be the only signature, this sender could be a brother or a child of Governor Rinoiye although this could not be confirmed. In Japan, unless you are a member of the family or a close friend, it is quite rare to sign just the given name, taking into account the year this was sent. Meiji 44 in the postmark is 1911. MISS SANAE KONNO, LONDON W1 •

Coronation postcard Regarding the card shown in Cover Corner (February), the message informs the addressee that 'In the year AD 1911, June 21st, George V was crowned King of England'. The card is signed simply Junki, suggesting that he was a younger brother of Jun (addressee). The family name Rinoiye suggests that they were 'transplanted' Koreans, given that Japan annexed the Korea peninsula in 1910. Young Junki may have been a little mixed up as George V was actually crowned on 22 June. L P NICOLLE, TOKYO •

Bulletin back issues Graham Low has available copies of the *Bulletin* from Volume 12 through to the middle of Volume 35. Offers should be sent to him at 13 Kestrel Avenue, Staines TW18 4RU •

The Editor is always pleased to receive contributions for Postbag, especially letters adding information to that already published, so benefiting fellow philatelists. He regrets he is unable to reply personally to letters.

National Postal Museum

ALTHOUGH the Museum galleries are now closed to the public, the staff at King Edward Street are busy packing stamps and artefacts ready for the move to temporary accommodation at the Post Office Archives, Mount Pleasant, London EC1.

Until the Museum re-opens, we will feature each month some of its many treasures, this time a fine design for the 1935 Silver Jubilee stamp, submitted by Rex Whistler (1905-44). Whistler was a noted artist who specialised in depiction of 18th century life, ornament and architecture. He is noted for book illustrations, and work for the theatre and ballet. Examples of his work can be seen at Plas Newydd, a National Trust property on Anglesey. This somewhat florid design, featuring Neptune and Britannia, is one of over 30 designs for the Silver Jubilee stamp preserved in the NPM collections. According to the Museum's book on this issue (see right), Whistler's design was the last to be submitted, in October 1934. The designs were considered by the Director of the National Gallery, Kenneth (later Lord) Clark who felt that only that by Barnett Freedman was likely to produce an acceptable stamp. Freedman's design was eventually used for the four stamps issued on 7 May 1935. Huge quantities were sold – no fewer than 489 million of the 1½d value alone •



The George V Silver Jubilee issue is the subject of one of the Museum's Special Stamp History books. They are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, at £7.50 each.

To make an appointment to view any material not already packed for moving, telephone 0171 776 3636

Obituary Norman Williams 1914-99, by James Negus

THE DEATH OF Leon Norman Williams on 9 April marks the end of a universally known literary partnership. The famous by-line 'L N and M Williams' dated from 1934 but, following Maurice's death in 1976, Norman had continued researching and writing alone. Between them, the two brothers contributed to philately an immense body of published work, highly regarded for its accuracy and completeness.



For example, *Fundamentals of Philately*, published serially in *The American Philatelist*, appeared in book form in 1971 with a second, updated edition completed by Norman alone in 1990. It is a monumental source-book for the technicalities of stamp production, and a unique standard work. The brothers early embarked on meticulous cataloguing of philately's rarities, their *Stamps of Fame* (1949) amalgamating two earlier books. Norman had expanded this into the *Encyclopaedia of Rare and Famous Stamps* (2 vols, 1993, 1997), fulfilling the promise he made to his late brother. This incomparable reference work tracks the history of each example of the world's rarest stamps, separating fact from folklore; the archive of research papers on which it was based is lodged now at the British Library.

Cinderella philately was their lifetimes' work; they founded *The Cinderella Philatelist* as a quarterly in 1961, and Norman continued it without break after his brother's death. Similar longevity attends the column 'Cinderella Corner' in *Stamp Magazine*, published continuously from 1959 and of particular value to students. Among general works, the 1956 Penguin, *The Postage Stamp: its History and Recognition*, is an outstanding exposition of philatelic history.

Aside from countless articles and letters in the philatelic press, the Williams Brothers edited several journals themselves, most notably *The Stamp Lover* (1940-64) and *The British Philatelist* (1940-54). They worked hard and held high office in

societies, particularly the Junior (now National) ps, the Cinderella Stamp Club and the British Philatelic Exhibition (BPE).

The elder brother Maurice, confined to a wheelchair by polio from the age of 14, was a professional philatelic journalist; Norman was a barrister, called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1943 though on military service overseas at the time. His long career was in the exacting task of law

reporting, coupled since 1970 with editing the full-length *Road Traffic Reports*. On retirement in July 1997 he was awarded the rare honour of a valedictory address in the High Court in London. In philately, he had been recipient of the American Philatelic Society's high honours, and the Society's Writers Unit inscribed his (and Maurice's) name in their Hall of Fame.

As L N and M Williams, the published work was genuinely a joint effort, even though the physical act of writing may often have been Maurice's. As sole writer Norman's own legalistic style becomes more apparent, particularly in his later years. The literary bequest of this remarkable pair remains their perpetual memorial.

Editor's note The esteem with which Norman Williams was held was evident by the large number of people who attended his funeral. Amongst those representing the philatelic world were David Beech of the British Library, Ian Crane, Otto Hornung RDP, Richard West, Editor of *Stamp Magazine*, and myself. The rabbi spoke movingly of Norman's many attributes as a family man, and of his two careers in law and philately, mentioning some of many books penned with his brother Maurice. He continued with his philatelic work almost to the end, telling his doctor that he still had much to do. In an age when fewer collectors are prepared to study and write about stamps, he will be difficult, if not impossible, to replace ●

Competition Identify the stamp from the detail and win £100



SIMPLY IDENTIFY the special stamp from the detail shown above and send your answer, name and address on a postcard (or back of a sealed envelope) to the address above.

2,000 babies delivered every day NHS

March's detail was from the 1998 set for the anniversary of the NHS. R J Green of Surrey won first prize, and 20 runner-up prizes were also sent. Our thanks to all who entered.

Send Competition entries to June Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL

The sender of the first card drawn on 16 July will receive £100. Twenty runner-up prizes will also be awarded. The competition is not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

Until further notice Postal Memorabilia displays at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln, Manchester Postal Museum, Wythenshawe Park, Manchester, Manchester Transport Museum, and Oldham Post Office. **Enquiries** D Harrop, 15 Hawthorn Road, Stockport SK4 3DQ

4-6 June GB Collectors Club 3rd National Convention at McLean Hilton, Tyson's Corner, McLean, VA (suburb of Washington DC). **Enquiries** Gordon Milne, 9384 Hunters Creek Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45242-6658, USA

12 June Swinpex '99 (Swindon Phil Soc) at St Joseph's Lower School, Queens Drive, Swindon, 10.00-17.00. Over 40 dealers, specialist societies, etc. **Enquiries** 01793 783245

13 June Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle meeting at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2, 10.00 onwards. **Enquiries** G Fisk 0121 445 3889

19 June Bournemouth & District PS Annual Stamp & Postcard Fair at Summerbee School, Mallard Road,

Bournemouth, 10.00-17.00. Dealers, refreshments. Admission free. **Enquiries** R Sharp, 72 Cardigan Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 1BG

19 June Silent Times: Entertainers' Tale talk (a Saturday matinee with Chaplin and friends) at Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, Bath, 14.00. £2.50 contribution requested to include refreshment. **Enquiries** 01225 460333

26-27 June Thematica 99, Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Open 26th 10.30-17.30, 27th 10.30-17.00. Displays, specialist societies, dealers. **Enquiries** Thematic Exhibitions 0181 343 2434

2-11 July Philexfrance '99 at Parc des Expositions of the Porte de Versailles, Paris. Commemorates 150th anniversary of French postage stamps

3 July Midpex 99, ABPS national show for specialist societies at Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill, Coventry, 10.00-16.00. 62 societies, 34 dealers. **Enquiries** M Benford, Cloudshill, High Street, Shutford, Banbury OX15 6PQ •

FOR SUMMER READING



A series of British Philatelic Bulletin publications was launched in 1993. The first two are now out of print and nos 3, 4 and 5 will shortly come off sale. No 3 *Burns Bicentenary*, published in 1996, is a colourful record of stamps and postmarks commemorating Scotland's national poet. It reproduces an original Burns manuscript now in the National Library of Scotland. No 4 *British Victorian Stamps* (1997) provides a concise guide to these complicated issues illustrated with

material from the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum. No 5 *An Introduction to Thematic Collecting* (1998) gives guidance to collectors contemplating this increasingly popular form of collecting.

All three publications are well-illustrated in colour. They are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT until 30 June 1999, price £2.95 each.



Royal Mail