

BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

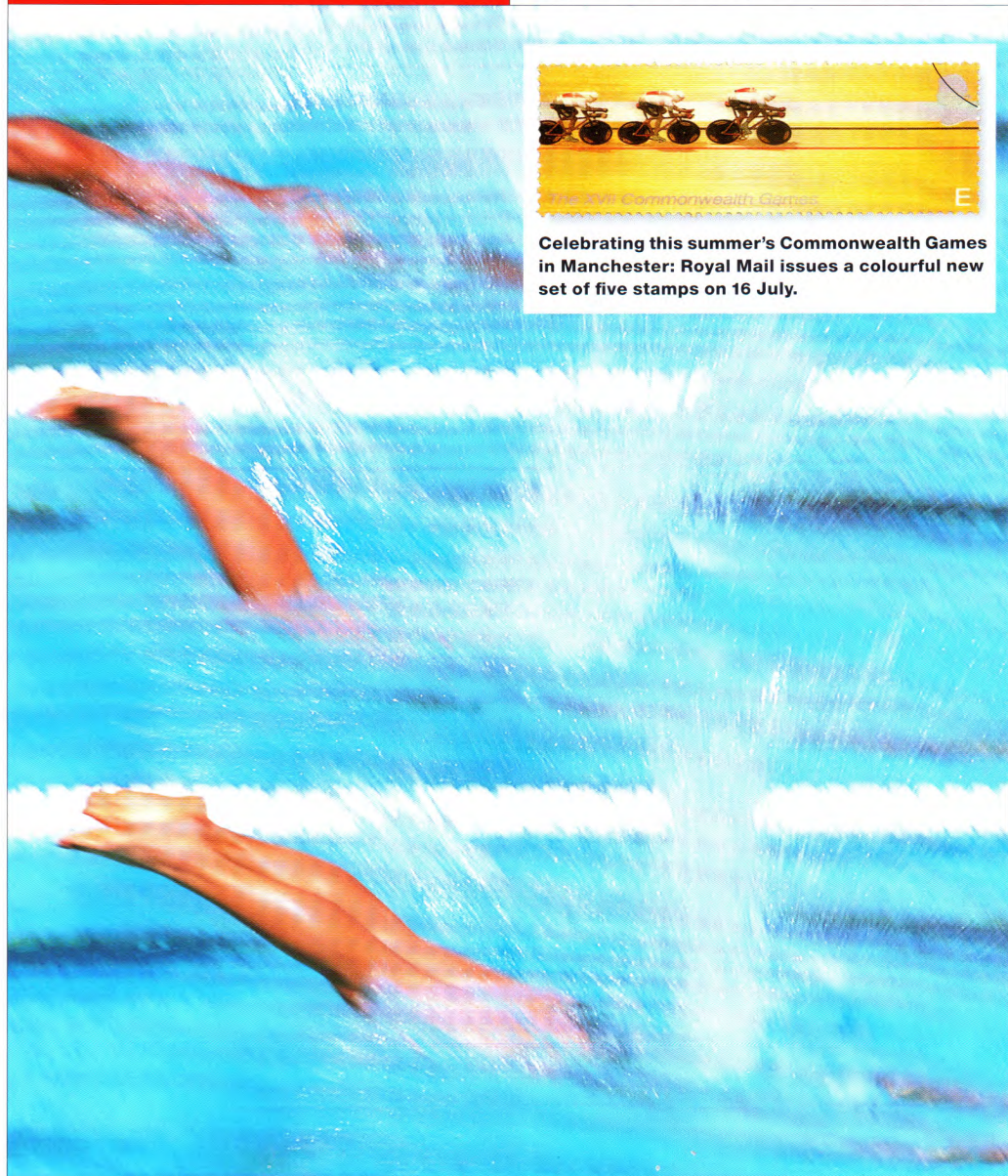
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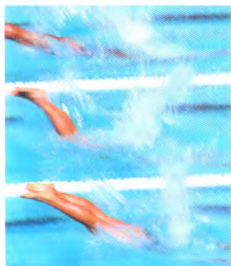
35th anniversary of Machins
• QEII first day covers, part 2



Celebrating this summer's Commonwealth Games in Manchester: Royal Mail issues a colourful new set of five stamps on 16 July.



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Royal Mail's Commonwealth Games stamps were previewed in the *May Bulletin*, on pages 272-73.

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

31 May	Issue World Cup coin cover (available from Tallents House only).
1 June	Issue Golden Jubilee coin cover (issue postponed from 6 February; available from Tallents House only); <i>Queen Elizabeth II – A Jubilee Portrait in Stamps</i> book available from Tallents House with commemorative document or British Library/bookshops without document.
4 June	Withdrawal 2001 Occasions stamps in Smilers sheets.
5 June	Issues Books of six and 12 1st class NVI definitive in gold (previously flame/orange) printed by Questa and Walsall (books of six) and Walsall (12). Matrix (margin) surrounding stamps removed. New book cover design • Scotland 1st and 2nd class stamps printed by De La Rue (previously Walsall).
18 June	Withdrawal Fabulous Hats stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
2 July	Withdrawal Smiles Greetings stamps in Smilers sheets.
4 July	Issue Machin national definitives 37p dark grey, 42p sage, 47p sea green and 68p stone; 68p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Presentation packs containing the four national definitives and four country stamps.
4 July	Issues Books containing six self-adhesive E (European rate), 42p and 68p stamps, price £2.22, £2.52, and £4.08 respectively. Matrix (margin) surrounding stamps removed • Business sheets of 1st (gold) and 2nd class stamps with matrix removed.
9 July	Issue Friendly Games stamp cards.
9 July	Withdrawal Pondlife stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and postbag.
16 July	Issue Friendly Games stamps, presentation pack and coin cover.

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The Machin debut 35 years ago, on 5 June 1967, the first of the long-awaited Machin stamps were issued. Douglas Myall recalls the day he was hooked **300**

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Editor** J.R. Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies, from Post Office Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe; £13.50 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives details of forthcoming special hand-stamps. Available on annual subscription, from Edinburgh address above: UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Design and text Consignia plc, unless attributed to a specific author. Requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Consignia plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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Editorial

Below: two of the World Cup stamps recently issued by the Isle of Man Post Office, and a cover produced in 1970 for the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.



THIS MONTH marks the 35th anniversary of the issue of the first Machin stamps. When the 4d, 1s, and 1s9d values went on sale on 5 June 1967 no one would have predicted that 35 years later the series would still be around, with hundreds of basic stamps (thousands if you include varieties, gum differences, shades etc) for philatelists to collect and study. There are three specialist groups concerned with Machin stamps and stamp books, and the literature on the subject is vast. The longest-lasting British stamp design was the 1d in black, brown and red issued between 1840 and 1880. It seems likely that the Machin design will surpass this.

When this issue of the *Bulletin* is published we will be entering that long summer of sport – the World Cup followed by Wimbledon, test matches, and next month the Commonwealth Games. With TV schedules no doubt disrupted to accommodate the sport, the next few weeks will be a good time for many of us to catch up on our collections and philatelic research.

JOHN HOLMAN •



Stamp scene Exhibitions • Awards dinner • Societies news • New literature • NYSG

Exhibitions Thematica will be held at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (near Marble Arch) on 29-30 June. Opening hours are Saturday 10.30-17.30, Sunday 10.30-17.00, admission free. Leading thematic dealers will be present. Visitors will receive a free souvenir of the Machin definitives. During the late 1980s the distinguished stamp designer Jeffery Matthews was asked by Royal Mail to investigate alternative ways of presenting the Arnold Machin portrait of the Queen on British definitives. Among his ideas were designs adopting a horizontal format. While Royal Mail decided not to pursue the idea of seeking an alternative approach, the horizontal format was used for the initial British self-adhesive stamps, which were designed by Jeffery Matthews.

The souvenir features two of the conceptual horizontal Machin layouts which Jeffery Matthews produced, reproduced by kind permission of Heritage Services, Consignia. The souvenir has been printed in a limited edition of 5000 by Walsall Security Printers Ltd, who printed the original self-adhesive stamps. While supplies remain, one will be given to each visitor to Thematica. Among the displays at the June event will be entries in the special competition which has been organised for young collectors. They have been encouraged to produce a small display on 'The Life and Times of Queen Elizabeth II' as part of the celebrations during this Golden Jubilee year •

An exhibition of the postal history of the county of Brecknock will be held at the Brecknock Museum and Gallery for six weeks from 28 February 2003. This is being organised jointly by the Welsh Philatelic Society (Cymdeithas Ffilatelig Cymru) and the Museum •

WPS enquiries Peter Brindley,
14 Victoria Park, Bangor LL57
2EW. Telephone 01248
352682.

Rowland Hill Awards The awards for philatelic achievement during 2001 were presented at a dinner held at the Draper's Hall, London on 19 March, and the winners' names were published here in April. The compere for the evening was broadcaster Angela Rippon •



Clockwise from above: well-known thematic collectors and *Bulletin* contributors Margaret Morris and Brian Sole; guests at the awards ceremony; and Gavin Macrae, Managing Director Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles with Gerald Davis receiving his award for Journalistic Excellence from Angela Rippon.

Societies news The March issue of *Rundbrief*, published by the German GB study group, Forschungsgemeinschaft Grossbritannien EV, contains worthwhile articles on newspapers and other publications with newspaper privilege 1840-80 (with many interesting illustrations), the introduction of decimalisation in 1971, private stamped to order postcards, parcel stamps of the Great Western Railway, and a look at new issues – Christmas, Golden Jubilee prestige book, Smilers sheets, etc. There is a useful list of articles and features in other GB magazines •

Enquiries Bernhard Weiss,
Florianweg 57, 47574 Goch,
Germany.

BDSCC For more information and a free copy of its literature contact the new Secretary: Dave Threadgold, 39 Scrub Rise, Billericay CM12 9PG.

Friends of Postal Heritage

For membership details contact the Secretary: Andrew Watton, Cornhill Chambers, Union Street, Stroud GL5 2JT.

Heritage Services Consignia

Collections can be seen by appointment at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Telephone 020 7239 2570. Open Monday-Friday 09.00-16.15.

GBCC details Parker A Bailey, 17 Greenwood Road, Merrimack NH 03054, USA.
www.gbstamps.com/gbcc

After 20 years as Treasurer of the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle, John Thompson has passed his mantle to Dr Stuart Carne, CBE. Steve van Kimmernade has also passed on his secretarial duties after eight years in the position. The Circle thanks both John and Steve for their work and long term support of the BDSCC and its aims. The BDSCC is committed to the study of British decimal stamps in all their forms and variations. Founded in March 1975, the Circle now has a world-wide membership and produces regular updates and a quarterly Newsletter for members on new issues and new finds •

The Autumn 2001 issue of *Cross Post*, journal of the Association of Friends of Postal Heritage, published in April, contains several features of value to philatelists and postal historians. Brian Sole writes on 'The First British Greetings Telegram', illustrating a number of attractive examples. Martin Robinson provides a detailed and welcome account of 'Post War Postage Due Marks', with over 60 illustrations of handstamps, self-adhesive labels, and covers. One of the covers bears a bisected 8d stamp, postmarked Chelmsford in May 1965; this was surcharged 8d and a 10 label (P460G) affixed asking for the return of the envelope 'as it is required for official purposes'. Peter Worsfold writes on 'George VI – Light Coloured Definitive Stamps', an interesting story told through reference to Post Office archive files and published articles in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and this *Bulletin*. There are eight fine colour illustrations. It is appropriate in this anniversary year of the introduction of the posting box, that Malcolm Marples provides a feature on 'Trollope and the Post Office'; this includes a portrait of Trollope (he doesn't look very friendly!), an illustration of the first letter box in Guernsey and a poster of November 1852 announcing the introduction of road-side letter boxes. The Editor, Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye, looks at the 1814 Ship Letter Act and David Padgham records 'An Early Private Registration Label Identified'. There is also an interesting note on Letter Boxes on Tramcars & Buses, and Douglas Muir (Curator Philately at Heritage Services, Consignia) records a recent acquisition – a Brighton Ship Letter marking. There is a profile of Michael Bament – a leading contributor to *Cross Post*, a stalwart of philatelic societies in Sussex, and authority on Penny Posts. In this issue of *Cross Post*, Michael writes about 'The Heart of the Returned Letter Branch' •

The April issue of the *Chronicle*, quarterly publication of the Great Britain Collectors Club, includes Larry Rosenblum's regular 'Mostly Machins' column, a feature by Charles Deusner on Second World War mail, a survey of pillar boxes on stamps and postmarks from Tom Current, and extracts from Ian Hay's book *The Post Office Went to War*, published by HMSO in 1946. The main feature is an interview with Janet R Klug, a former GBCC President and now Vice President of the American Philatelic Society. She recalls as a child buying 'an orange cloth bag stuffed full of stamps' for \$1 at a local Woolworth store. This mixture contained many US definitives plus GB Wildings which she still likes. 'Generally speaking', Janet considers 'the design work of British stamps to be the best the world has to offer'. The pride and joy of her collection is her exhibit entitled 'Tonga Defini-

tives, 1897-1953' which she has 'been working on for more than 25 years. I still love those stamps and have not tired of it'. The interviewee in the July Chronicle will be the well-known GB dealer Bill Barrell •

The April issue of *Stamp Lover*, journal of the National Philatelic Society, includes features on the Edinburgh Philatelic Society (marking its 75th anniversary), the stamps of Patiala (Indian Convention State), Iceland, Sweden and Western Samoa, Airships and Zeppelins, and the exhibitions organised by the Society's founder, Fred J Melville. In addition there is news of NPS and other events, book reviews, letters and an obituary of Francesca Rapkin. The Society, founded in 1899, is noted for its famous library, housed at the British Philatelic Centre where its meetings are held •

National Philatelic Society

107 Charterhouse Street,
London EC1M 6PT. Telephone
020 7336 0882.

www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

New literature The second supplement to the third (1998) edition of the Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue Vol 5 Queen Elizabeth II Decimal Special Issues* was published on 29 March. This includes revised pages for the years 1976-80 and new pages for the issues of 2000 and 2001, as well as a useful Design Index covering all decimal special stamps, 1971-2001. This is essential reading for all specialist collectors of modern special issues, giving cylinder/plate and secure stock operations (warrant) numbers, other sheet markings, quantities, etc. Printed on quality art paper, punched for filing in binder. Price £17.95. The 2002 edition of the Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue* was published on 26 April, price £17.95. Available from SG Strand shop or by post from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH, postage £2.95 UK, £8 Europe, £12 rest of world. A new 6th edition of Part 7 Germany was also published on 26 April, price £24.95. The 6th edition of Part 2 Austria & Hungary is scheduled for publication in July and the first edition of *Collect Motor Vehicles on Stamps* during the autumn.

Dr Gordon Mitchell, son of R J Mitchell, designer of the Spitfire, informs us that a new 3rd edition of his biography of his father is now available. *R J Mitchell, Schooldays to Spitfire* has been published by Tempus Publishing in association with the Imperial War Museum. R J Mitchell's Spitfire featured on the 20p Architects of the Air stamp of 1997 •

Enquiries Stanley Gibbons
Publications 01425 472363.

R J Mitchell, Schooldays to

Spitfire is available from Dr Mitchell, Barn Close, Lower Slaughter, Cheltenham GL54 2HT, price £16.99 postpaid.

National Youth Stamp Group The NYSG is pleased to announce that Richard West has accepted the position of Chairman. He is well-known for his involvement with youth philately over many years, and has been Vice-Chairman for some time. The NYSG is very busy working for Autumn Stampex (18-22 September) which includes the annual British Youth Stamp Championships and Stamp Active competitions, sponsored respectively by Stanley Gibbons and Cavendish Philatelic Auctions. Contact Jean Woods on 0191 252 8733 for entry forms. The presentation to the competition winners will be on 21 September. After the tremendous success of Spring Stampex when many youngsters visited the stand, the NYSG is expecting a lot more visitors in September. Stamps and other philatelic items are required for use at the exhibition and NYSG urges collectors to donate unwanted material to encourage the youngsters of today to enjoy stamp collecting •

NYSG donations Unwanted material should be sent to: Anne Dummer, 2A Bryant Road, Kettering NN15 6JE. Telephone 01536 5199549.

Royal Mail news New country stamps and definitives • Peter Pan issue • Coin covers



ENGLAND
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
DEFINITIVE STAMPS

Above, the new 68p country stamps, and new definitives. The 68p stone definitive will be shown next month.

New definitive and country stamps New overseas postal rates are scheduled to come into effect from 4 July. The minimum rate for surface mail postcards and letters will increase by 1p to 37p, airmail postcards by 2p to 42p, and the two basic weight steps for airmail letters from 45p and 65p to 47p and 68p. This is the first increase on most of these rates since April 2000.

Four new definitive stamps will be issued on 4 July: 37p dark grey, 42p sage, 47p sea green, and 68p stone. They will be printed in sheets of 200 by De La Rue. A presentation pack containing one of each of the new stamps will cost £2.30.

New 68p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will also be available from 4 July. These will be in the same design and colours as the current 65p issues (also previous 64p for Scotland and Wales). They will be printed in sheets of 200 by De La Rue. The four 68p country stamps will be available in a single presentation pack, price £3.10.

NEW STAMP BOOKS Books containing six self-adhesive E (European rate), 42p and 68p stamps, printed by Walsall, will be available from 4 July, price £2.22, £2.52, and £4.08 respectively. The matrix (margin) surrounding the stamps will be removed and each book has a new cover design. These changes are being introduced on 5 June with new books containing gold 1st class stamps – books of six printed by Questa and Walsall, and book of 12 printed by Walsall. The new overseas rate books include redesigned air mail labels.

FIRST DAY ARRANGEMENTS First day cover envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets, price 25p each. The cover for the new Machin definitives will show part of the Consignia (Post



First day postmarks Above, and opposite:

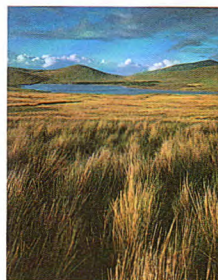
FD0231 Tallents House
FD0232 Windsor
FD0233 London
FD0234 Edinburgh
FD0236 Cardiff
FD0235 Belfast



SCOTLAND
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
DEFINITIVE STAMPS



CYMRU/WALES
AMLEN DWNROD CYNTAF Y POST BRENNHINOL
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
STAMPAU DIFFINIOL/DEFINITIVE STAMPS



NORTHERN IRELAND
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
DEFINITIVE STAMPS



Above: First day envelopes for the country stamps and, right, for the new Machin definitives. Left: new book of 42p stamps.

Office) crest; this design was previously used for the pane of Millennium National Space Centre and Web of Life stamps issued on 26 May 2000. It will now become the standard FDC envelope for new definitive stamps. Serviced covers with Tallents House or Windsor pictorial postmarks, showing respectively the Scottish and English versions of the Consignia crest, can be ordered from Tallents House, price £2.70 UK, or £2.30 overseas. Collectors can send stamped covers for these postmarks to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark) or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Windsor).

The covers for Scotland and Wales will be the same design as those used for the stamps issued on 8 June 1999 and 25 April 2000, showing a Highland scene near Loch Fyne and Rhossili Beach, South Wales. The covers for Northern Ireland and England will be as those used for the stamps issued on 6 March and 23 April 2001 respectively, showing Dears Meadow, Mourne Mountains, Co Down, and Upper Whitelea Green, near Parkend, Gloucestershire. Serviced covers can be ordered from Tallents House, price £4.88 UK, £4.16 overseas for four covers. Please state if Tallents House postmark required or those for the country capitals – London (England), Edinburgh (Scotland), Cardiff (Wales) or Belfast (Northern Ireland). Details of any sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

The six first day postmarks can be applied to any of the new definitives and country stamps issued on 4 July. This includes the 42p and 68p self-adhesive stamps from books but not the self-adhesive E stamp which is regarded as a variety and not a new stamp. The E stamp was first issued in 1999 •



4.7.2002



4.7.2002



4.7.2002



4.7.2002

Golden Jubilee book Readers are reminded that a joint Royal Mail/British Library book *Queen Elizabeth 11: a Jubilee Portrait in Stamps* is being published on 1 June. This has been written by Fay Sweet who wrote the text for the recent *A Gracious Accession* prestige book. Philip Parker described the new book in last month's *Bulletin*. Two editions are being produced; that sold by Royal Mail will include a commemorative document bearing four of the Jubilee stamps cancelled by a special London SW1 postmark applied in gold ink. This limited book can be ordered (order code PB361) from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, price £16.95. The edition without the commemorative document will be available from the British Library and main bookshops ●

Additional special issue A set of five stamps is to be issued on 20 August featuring Peter Pan. The values will be 2nd, 1st, E (European rate), 47p, and 68p. The stamps are linked to the 150th anniversary of the Great Ormond Street Hospital. Sir James Barrie, author of Peter Pan, gifted the copyright of this work to the Hospital. Details of the stamps will be given here next month ●

Smilers sheets Readers are reminded that Smilers sheets bearing the fourth St George's flag stamp from the World Cup miniature sheet are now available. The 'generic sheet' contains 20 of this 1st class stamp with adjoining labels showing football fans and match scenes. Price £5.95. Also available are sheets of 20 with your personalised image printed on the labels, price £12.95. *Note:* we regret that the wrong price (£12.95) was quoted in April and May for the personalised image sheets. All personalised image sheets (other than World Cup) are now £14.95. The World Cup Smilers sheets were printed by Quеста in lithography. For order form and further details phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas). Orders for generic and/or personalised sheets should be sent to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ●

Going off sale The Fabulous Hats stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards will be withdrawn from sale at Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 18 June. The Pondlife stamps, pack, cards and postbag will be withdrawn on 9 July ●

Collectors Club The May edition of *Stamp!*, the magazine of the Royal Mail Collectors Club, includes features on the Queen Mother, Airliners and World Cup issues (25 April, 2 and 21 May), aviation history and air-mail stamps, plus the usual jokes, cartoons of Sammy the Stamp Bug, and ideas for a Golden Jubilee party. A supplement includes members' swaps, puzzles and pen pal requests. The Club is for young collectors up to age 12; members receive a fun starter pack, membership card, something in the post each month, six sets of stamps a year and *Stamp!* magazine six times a year. Annual subscription is £15 UK, £22.50 overseas. Application forms from: Collectors Club, Freepost NEA 1431, Sunderland SR9 9XN ●



Golden Jubilee coin cover All coin covers are limited edition, and early ordering is advised.

Coin covers Two new covers are now available. A cover bearing the World Cup miniature sheet, cancelled with special Wembley 31 May postmark, and English £1 coin costs £12.95. The postponed Golden Jubilee coin cover bearing the five Jubilee stamps cancelled by special 1 June London SW1 postmark, and Jubilee crown (£5) coin costs £15.95. A further cover marking the Commonwealth Games will be available from 16 July. This will incorporate four £2 coins, price £19.95. Available from: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB •

New printings of Scottish stamps As announced in the April *Bulletin* (p232), new contracts have been awarded for the printing of definitive and country stamps. New printings of the Scottish 1st and 2nd class stamps by De La Rue (previously Walsall) will be available from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets from 5 June •

Bulletin publications Copies of publication 8 *Alternative Ways of Collecting* by Richard West will be withdrawn from sale on 30 June. This was given free with the April 2001 *Bulletin* but readers wanting additional copies should order now (order code PB348) from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, price £2.95. Publication 9 *The Wildings: The First Elizabeth 11 Definitives* was issued free with the April 2002 *Bulletin*; additional copies can be ordered (code PB362) from Tallents House, price £2.95. Publications 1-7 are now out of print •

£10 stamp draw The winners of the special draw in the March *Bulletin* were: A Walker of New York; Mr Skinner, Bath; D Glazier, Australia; Mrs N Rieger, Oxfordshire; D Colthup, North Yorkshire; J D Sparham, Kent; D McCormick, Northern Ireland; Mrs P Benning, Canada; I Mounter, Kent; and C F Shores, Lincolnshire •

The Machin debut Douglas Myall looks back at the day, 35

IN JUNE 1965, in a written parliamentary reply to Lord Gosford, the Postmaster-General (PMG) stated that: 'he hoped shortly to settle the terms of an invitation which he will be sending to a number of artists inviting them to submit designs for a new definitive series of postage stamps'. The rest, as they say, is history. Thirty-five years ago, on 5 June 1967, the first of the long-awaited sheet stamps with the Machin profile head were released. The three values were: 4d olive-brown sepia, 1s and 1s 9d. The latter value was new to the range, as well as being the first bi-coloured definitive for over 50 years. At the time the 4d stamp pre-paid the minimum inland letter rate. This ensured that it would also be issued in booklets and coils, although these did not appear until a few months later.

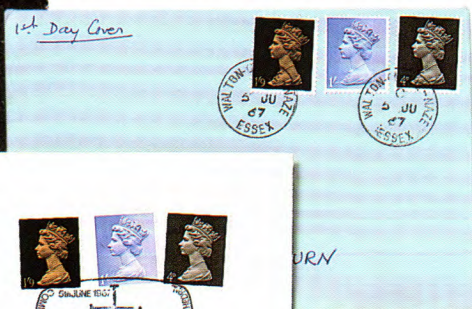
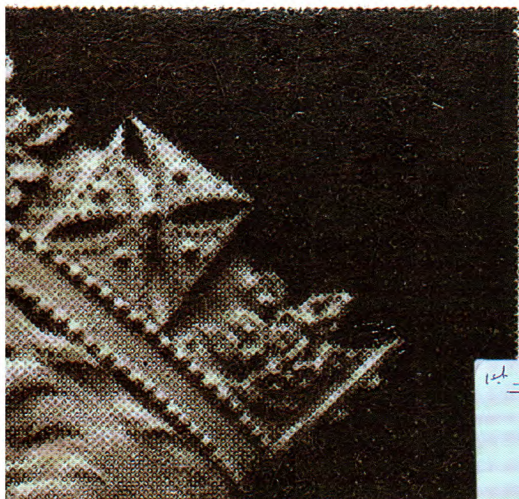
The 4d stamp and the story of its development had been revealed at a press conference on 6 March. There, the PMG described the design as 'a classic of stamp history, one of the greatest stamps of all time'. Most commentators agreed with him, although a lone dissenting voice wanted the words POSTAGE and REVENUE back. The general public were firmly with the majority. It is the very simplicity of the design and the timeless quality of a sculpted rather than a photographic image that has ensured its continuing popularity with collectors all over the world.

As an ardent collector of the Wilding portrait issue I was eager to see what was to replace it and I well remember queuing up at the Birmingham philatelic counter to obtain my cylinder blocks. I can still recall the excitement of anticipation I felt as I waited my turn to be served. From my first sight of these beautiful stamps I was hooked.

Such a long-running series is bound to have undergone many changes of form, value, colour, printing method and security enhancement, as well as reflecting advances in mail handling technology, all of which have provided great intellectual interest and enjoyment. It is said that Her Majesty is very taken with the design and it seems unlikely that it will ever be replaced, until Her reign comes to an end. Long may she reign! ●



years ago this month, that the first Machins were introduced



Coventry Cathedral



Fifth Anniversary Festival 1962 — 1967

Commemorative Printed Tapestry by Tibor Reich, F.S.A.
First Day Issue of Great Britain
Definitive Postage Stamps 5th June, 1967, Coventry.



**Definitive
Issue First
Day Cover**

GPO



Left: the 4d olive-brown sepia, one of the initial three Machin definitives, which the Postmaster General of the time referred to as 'the fourpenny black'.

Top: Arnold Machin refined his design by engraving into a mould taken from his original clay sculpture. A cast was then made from the mould, bringing the features back into relief.

Above: Machin stamps used on the first day: with ordinary handstamps, special, and first day postmarks.



Mainly Machins

New issues, imperforates and naming: the



Above, the now obsolescent business sheet – with telephone number and website address below the Royal Mail logo. Right, the new business sheet, with telephone number removed and printing date at bottom on reverse of sheet.

Opposite, far right: the latest self-adhesive booklet comprises four Machin first class flanked by two Airliners special stamps, issued on 2 May. All the contact details have disappeared from the outside back cover, except for the website address.

New issues The Enschedé business sheets of 100 first and second class NVIs were due to be issued on 9 May, but some offices ran out of stock of the Walsall and Questa sheets, and reprints could not be ordered from them because of the change of contracts. The second class sheets began to appear from 7 March and the first class sheets from 3 April. Like the conventionally gummed sheets, these self-adhesive ones now contain printing details. The ones I have seen are (first class) 260 18-02-02 0139930 and (second class) 261 08/02/02 0120240. Note that the dates have hyphen separators on the former and forward slashes on the latter. The stamps themselves are a good match to those from the previous printers and the sheets have the same barcodes as formerly. There are no cylinder numbers although there is room for them alongside the printer's imprint which still appears at the left of the bottom panel. The telephone contact number on the top panels no longer appears.

The latest in the series of self-adhesive booklets, comprising four Machin first class flanked by two Airliners special stamps, was issued on 2 May. Full details were given in the April *Bulletin*. I notice that the tips of the kiss die-cut simulated perforations are a different shape from those

used by Questa for previous booklets in this series but the gauge is the same. All the contact details have disappeared from the outside back cover except for the website address. A sign of things to come perhaps.

Imperforates Stamps issued imperforate in error are rare and always in demand by collectors despite the high prices they command. A good range of Machin imperforate sheet stamps were auctioned by Grosvenor of New Bond Street on 16 April last. One of the more spectacular was lot 768. This was a cylinder 3A1B block of 15 of the large format photogravure £1. This yielded four completely imperforate horizontal pairs and a further seven singles imperforate on three sides. The estimate was £800 to £1000. Anyone who obtained the item for such a sum would consider himself fortunate as a pair is catalogued in Gibbons' part 4 at £675.

Problems with naming In a previous article I mentioned the problem posed by the varying nature of recent issues of self-adhesives. In particular, I asked where the line was to be drawn between book(lets) and sheet(lets). As I pointed out, official practice has not been consistent, with the

specialist collectors report by D G A Myall



260 18-02-02 0121541



Aircraft



Issued May 2002



same product being called a sheetlet and a book, often in the same paragraph. While this creates problems for philatelic writers, it does give us freedom to call them what we like. The problem is: how do we ourselves achieve consistency if we do not have criteria which will govern how we treat future products? To provoke discussion, I made some tentative proposals. These produced a gratifying response with many helpful suggestions for distinguishing the various products. Unfortunately, none has proved to be entirely satisfactory. Let me take the Christmas 2001 book (I will call it that for the time being) of 24 second class XVI pictorial stamps to illustrate the problem and compare it with the business sheets of 100 second class Machin definitives first issued in March 1997. Both are rouletted and then concertina folded into five panels. Most people refer to the Christmas product as a book or booklet and the other as a sheet, yet the only essential difference between them is the number of stamps.

Most of the suggestions I received involved attempted definitions of what is a book. In Postbag in the March *Bulletin* my American friend Larry Rosenblum avers that a book should have front and back covers with stamps inside and adds that a book can consist of separate pages

sewn together as in the prestige books (no problem there) or a single sheet that is folded to enclose all the stamps. Yet he says that this results in the Christmas product being a sheet and not a book. Perhaps he meant that a book is folded only once while a sheet has more than one fold. If so, that would make the very first GB self-adhesives of 20 first class horizontal format Machins a sheetlet since it has two folds. Reader Philip Overell suggested that the back of the laminate might serve as a criterion, depending on whether any stamps were visible when the product was folded. I rather liked this.

I think the truth of the matter is that self-adhesive products do not fit readily into established descriptions. For the purpose of these articles I intend to follow, as far as I can, the groupings used by Tallents House (formerly the Philatelic Bureau) in their stock lists for all self-adhesive products. In these, business sheets of 100 have the prefix DP, strips from coils are prefixed DC, retail booklets are prefixed UB, and machine-vended booklets have the prefix TB. The latter two prefixes are also applied to non self-adhesive products for these sales outlets. On this basis, all the following are booklets: 10 × Cats and Dogs plus two Machins (UB203 and now withdrawn

from sale), two special issues plus four Machins (Submarines, Punch and Judy, Flags and Ensigns, etc), books of six and 12 of both the inland letter NV1s and the two Christmas products. The vend-ed books of 10 are TBo68 1st class and TBo69 second class. Incidentally, have you noticed how often Royal Mail has reverted to the duodecimal system for its booklets?

Another naming problem is posed by the English first class country stamp which was issued on 21 May to mark England's participation in the football World Cup competition this year. The design is an adaptation of that used on the normal England stamp. As well as being a different size and colour, this new stamp has the words WORLD CUP 2002 printed up the left side. This inscription ties it to the event, so is it a special issue or a definitive?

Originally, special issues were called commemoratives because they commemorated an event or person, such as the Wembley Exhibition of 1924 and the Churchill memorial set of 1965. With the Landscapes of the British Isles set of 2 May 1966, the scope was extended and could no longer be described as 'commemorating' anything. This is why Royal Mail prefers to refer to these stamps as special issues in contradistinction to definitives. The latter are divided into two groups. First there are the stamps which are on sale throughout the United Kingdom. These are officially known as the Standard Unified Issues, or SUIs. Then there are the country stamps which are normally sold only in the country indicated.

So the new England stamp would seem to be something of a hybrid, being at the same time a country stamp and a special issue. If you collect country stamps you will not want to miss this special one. One feature of it which I find interesting is its colour, blue. In my last article I mentioned the red second class Wilding definitive, a colour normally reserved for first class NV1s. Now we have a blue first class NV1, a colour normally reserved for second class NV1s. Are you confused? I think that some postal sorters may be. The new stamp is to be sold in sheets as well as on a miniature sheet, so there are likely to be a few more used on ordinary postage than of the Wilding

stamp. I will deal with these issues in my next article in this series.

The third naming problem concerns the four sets of country stamps currently on sale. The first country definitive stamps were issued with the Wilding head on 18 August 1958. There were six 3d stamps, one each for Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey. These countries were identified, not by their names but by semi-heraldic symbols, such as a thistle for Scotland, a flax plant for Northern Ireland, home of an important linen industry, the dragon of Wales and so on. Similar but more heraldic emblems were used for the Machin decimal country stamps issued on 7 July 1971. To mark the establishment of the Scottish Parliament a new series of country stamps was issued on 8 June 1999. These did not have the Machin head; in its place, they had a silhouette of The Queen's head with ribbons. The country was identified by images redolent of Scotland, such as a tartan and the saltire. Similar sets have now been issued for the other three countries of the UK. How should these new series be referred to?

In a press announcement at the time, Royal Mail stated that 'definitive stamps were chosen rather than special or commemorative (sic) issues because these are the permanent stamps for Scotland'. Some authorities call them 'emblem definitives' but I do not find that entirely satisfactory. After all, all previous country stamps had incorporated appropriate emblems. I prefer to call them country pictorial definitives. But there is still that blue England stamp to fit in somehow ●



The English first class country stamp issued on 21 May to mark England's participation in the football World Cup competition this year: a special issue, or a definitive?

The Queen's golden jubilee stamp issues

SHOWN HERE are some of the stamps issued recently to commemorate HM The Queen's golden jubilee. Others were shown in Daniel Cooke's article in the February *Bulletin* •



QEII first day covers For many years, acquiring a FDC was

TODAY, the first day cover is a fully recognised part of collecting: for many a lay person, it is the essence of stamp collecting. There is a commonly held belief that the only way to collect any issue is on first day cover – and most Post Offices around the world are happy to oblige.

But while we are used to a slick service these days, with carefully designed envelope and cancellation, both complementing the stamps, which are neatly affixed to the envelope, with or without address, it was not always so.

The importance of the first day of usage has always been widely recognised. In many cases it provides evidence of when a stamp was initially put on sale, and first came into use. A good example is the debate that has ensued over the years as to when the Twopence Blue was actually issued.

However, until the British Post Office came to grips with stamp collecting in the early 1960s, those wanting first day covers were left very much to fend for themselves. The trouble taken over the Jubilee Jamboree issue in 1957 (recorded in last month's *Bulletin*) was very much an exception. Despite the actions of the Post Office on that occasion, it did not supply specially designed envelopes.

If we consider just the stamp issues of the present reign, it is not uncommon to find the earlier first day covers being created from ordinary blank writing envelopes. This was particularly true for those trying to obtain new definitives on cover. If specially designed envelopes were made available, they were privately produced. For a time the Philatelic 'Traders' Society representing the dealers (often in conjunction with the British Philatelic Association, essentially for the collectors) would produce blank pictorial envelopes appropriate for each new special issue. Another prominent producer was the stamp wholesaler John Lister Ltd.

One might be led to believe that, since special issues were such a rare occurrence in the early years of the reign, there would be plenty of time to design special envelopes that perfectly fitted with the design of the stamps. The truth was that

announcements about forthcoming issues were made fairly close to their actual release: as far as the actual designs were concerned, these were not revealed until the last possible moment.

Nevertheless the private producers did manage to provide very acceptable and pleasing special envelopes and since, back in the 1950s/1960s, there was such a generous sprinkling of stamp shops around the land, it was fairly easy for a collector to buy one of the envelopes in advance of the day of issue.

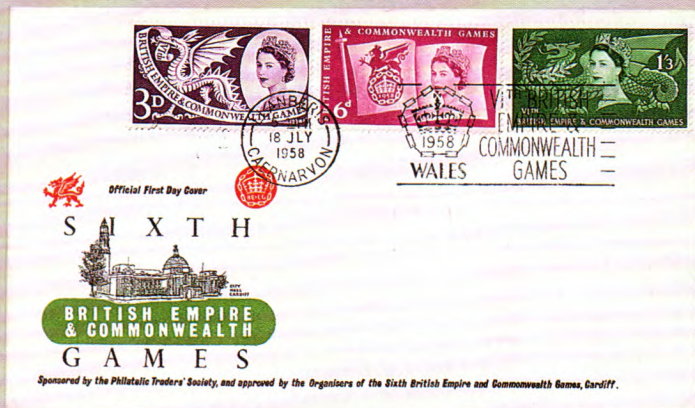
Life was a little more difficult for those wanting definitives on cover, particularly if interested in recording changes, such as of watermark. With no Philatelic Bureau, and no *British Philatelic Bulletin*, to keep collectors informed, many would have remained ignorant that a new variation had been put on sale until after the event.

Surprisingly, for the FDC collector, the question of cancellation was relatively easy. The cover could, of course, be simply put in the post to receive an everyday machine cancellation. However, in those days it was far easier to arrange for items to be hand-cancelled (albeit operational, rather than pictorial sponsored), and many early FDCs were so treated.

However, because special issues were such an uncommon occasion, their significance was that much greater. There was a good chance that a slogan cancellation would be in use that linked with the subject of the stamps.

Last time, reference was made to the Jubilee Jamboree slogan, appropriate to the stamps in 1957. Back in 1953, for the day of issue of the Coronation stamps, on 3 June, the slogan 'Long Live The Queen' was brought into use. Likewise for several other commemorative issues, appropriate slogans were available, including: with British Empire & Commonwealth Games, Wales, 1958 (two different designs); CEPT European Conference of Posts & Telecommunications (in 1961); Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference 25-30 September 1961; National Productivity Year November 1962-63; and Freedom from Hunger Week 17-24 March 1963.

not easy, as Richard West reveals in part 2 of his new series



From top: Slogan postmarks on covers for the 1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games, Freedom from Hunger campaign in 1963, and CEPT Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications in 1961.



J. SANDERS (PHILATELIST) LTD.,
7, COMMERCIAL ROAD,
SOUTHAMPTON,
HANTS.





FDC for the first phosphor line commemorative issue in 1962, and a pictorial handstamp for the 46th Parliamentary Conference, 1957.

While the 46th Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference in 1957 did not justify a specially designed stamp, only an amended definitive, such was the view of such matters at the time, nevertheless this event did warrant a pictorial handstamp, turning what might have been a fairly dull FDC into something more pleasing. The handstamp, showing the Palace of Westminster, reads '46th Parliamentary Conference London SW1'.

With no Bureau, another problem could affect the producers of first day covers, that of obtaining the stamps concerned. I am not necessarily thinking just of changes such as of watermark. The original graphite-lined stamps were only put on sale in the Southampton area. Supplies of the stamps would soon reach stamp shops, but it was often down to the locally-situated dealers actually to produce FDCs.

Southampton-based dealer, J Sanders, was able to provide FDCs for the phosphor band versions of the National Productivity Year stamps of 1962, the first commemorative to be released with phosphor bands in addition to the 'ordinary' version. At the time, I lived in an area that used 'ordinary'

stamps; fortunately, one of my grandparents lived in a part of London where phosphor stamps were soon to be brought into use. I had to provide meticulous instructions as to how to produce a first day cover – and hope the stamps bought on the day of issue would indeed have phosphor bands.

There would be many who would claim that those were far more interesting times. Stamp collectors did not have everything presented to them on a plate. Sometimes a fair amount of initiative was needed to procure a 'distinctive' FDC. Finding a place with a close association for each new issue, and then organising the FDC, was a challenge. Perhaps that is the reason that, even today, some still strive for something which is different.

There are a number of catalogues produced that detail British first day covers; these reveal the variety of cancellations which are appropriate for each issue, whether special slogans or operational handstamps.

However, early in 1963 the Post Office would awaken to stamp collectors, and for those collecting first day covers, a new chapter would begin ●

Philately on-line Ron Negus looks at a site for cricket fans



www.cricketstamp.com The owner of this site is always pleased to provide information to collectors having a question relating to cricket on stamps. He can be reached by e-mail at the memorable address: cricket@pavilion.co.uk

WHEN this article appears, the cricket season will be in full swing in England, and those followers of the game who are stamp collectors may have put their albums away until the winter. However, the website at www.cricketstamp.com may be of interest to them, as well as to any others who include cricket amongst their range of sporting thematics.

The site is run by A Melville-Brown, who has been a dealer for over 35 years and, in that time, has become a leading authority on the cricket stamps of the world. He has been responsible for the design of more than 60 cricket related issues from overseas postal authorities, as well as over 100 special handstamps for use on first day covers from Britain, South Africa and the Caribbean. His presence at many international games, where he sells the official covers for that particular match, has led to his being known as 'Mr Cricket Stamp'.

He has harnessed his extensive background knowledge of the game in this new website which claims to list and illustrate every stamp issued that relates to cricket. The site is easy to navigate with the country listings arranged into decades, starting at the 1960s. The first item included is a diamond-shaped stamp from the Cape Verde islands, with a picture of a batsman at the wicket, that was issued in January 1962. It is planned to update the site regularly, so that new issues relating to the theme will be included as they are released. The introductory page, called 'All About Us', gives the date on which the site was last amended, and gives details of the latest stamp issue received.

In addition there are separate sections for associated stamps and for cinderella items. Associated stamps are those which are issued by bona-fide postal authorities, but whose cricket theme is not readily apparent. Serious enthusiasts, nevertheless, have identified some association with the game in these issues. Examples are stamps illustrating venues for matches, such as parks or sports grounds, which were issued primarily as values in sets showing tourist attractions. The cinderella items cover a whole range of material from poster stamps to labels produced for private carriage purposes for offshore islands, etc.

For each decade's stamps included on the site pictures of at least one value are shown from each set. The issues themselves are listed in date order, and have their own identifying number. As the site is also intended to allow collectors to buy the items shown, each entry has prices for mint and used sets, FDCs, both plain and signed, and for maxi-cards, where these exist. An order form is included that can be printed out and faxed or posted back, but no on-line payment facilities exist at present.

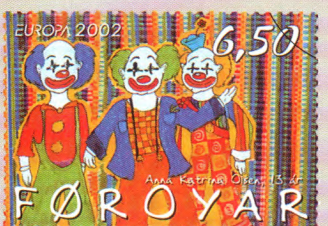
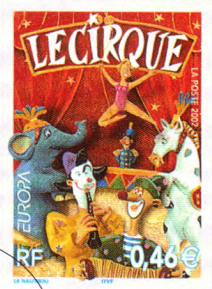
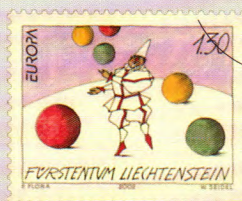
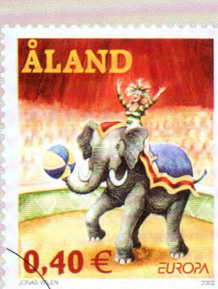
For any cricket devotee who uses philately to further their interest in the game, this site will be a means of building a comprehensive collection. It is an excellent example of the support that a dedicated dealer can provide for customers, and how the internet can be used for this purpose.

The owner of this site is always pleased to provide information to collectors having a question relating to cricket on stamps. He can be reached by e-mail at the memorable address: cricket@pavilion.co.uk ●

Europa stamps 2002

SHOWN HERE are some of this year's Europa issues, on the theme of the Circus. Royal Mail's contribution was issued on 9 April.

Posteurop, the association of European public postal operators, has recently selected Holidays and Gastronomy as the subjects for Europa stamps in 2004 and 2005; the 2003 theme is Poster Art. The Royal Mail 2003 Europa stamps will feature pub signs •



Keeping stamps in the family

From daughter to daughter, Richard West follows the course of the collecting 'bug'



Catherine and Rebecca Marshall, with their parents Elizabeth and Gary, at the Rowland Hill Awards ceremony in March.

AT THE DRAPER'S HALL in the City of London, on one evening in the middle of March, there were two very excited young girls. The occasion was the annual Rowland Hill Awards, and sisters Catherine and Rebecca Marshall had both been nominated as the Young Collector of the Year (Martin Ferguson was the third nominee).

Catherine is 10, and Rebecca is eight; they have a further sister, Stephanie, who is only four, and has yet to develop an interest in stamps – but there is plenty of time. From an early age, both have been surrounded by stamps.

For many, many years a familiar figure at the annual Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was Fred Myers. He thoroughly enjoyed his hobby, collecting the West Indies and aerogrammes, and would entertain fellow collectors with his anecdotes until the early hours – helped along with a glass or two. He made sure that his two daughters were soon introduced to the hobby. In fact, one of his daughters, Susan, attended her first Congress in a carry cot.

His other daughter, Jean, had success in what was then the Melville Junior Stamp Competition, which for many years was a feature of each year's Congress. The competition still exists, now split into the British Youth Stamp Championships and the Stamp Active Competition, the entries for which are on show each year at Autumn Stampex. Jean plays a pivotal role in encouraging the young to collect, being a member of the National Youth Stamp Group, the body which organises the annual competitions, of which Jean is Competition Secretary.

The collecting bug moved from Jean to her own daughter, Elizabeth, who also has had success in the Melville Junior Stamp Competitions. It is little surprising therefore that two of Elizabeth's daughters should show an interest in the hobby. (Incidentally, Susan's own daughter, Jessica, has achieved several awards in the Stamp Active Competitions.)

Both Catherine and Rebecca took up collecting at about the same time, when Catherine was six and Rebecca just four. It was only a year later that both were entering the Stamp Active Competitions, for the first time in 1998.

At first Catherine chose as her theme *The Zoo*, but during a visit to Stampex she saw another exhibit which gave her inspiration. She therefore now bases her collection on *The Flower Shop*, tracing the way and the occasions for which people buy flowers throughout the year, whether it be for St Valentine's Day, for a wedding, or at Christmas. She has so far achieved three silver and one gold award with this exhibit, and twice she has been awarded the Royal Horticultural Society Trophy for the best exhibit on a horticultural theme.

Rebecca started with birds, but she loves giraffes, and hopes one day to be able to go on a safari. So she decided to collect animals, in particular those you might encounter while on safari, arranging her display as if one was on a safari holiday. Her achievements with this have includ-

ed a bronze, two silver and a gold award in the Stamp Active Competitions.

For what they have achieved with their collections, both Catherine and Rebecca were nominated as Young Collector of 2001 at the Rowland Hill Awards. In the end, there can only be one winner, and this year the award went to Catherine. Proudly collecting her award, equally proud were her parents, Elizabeth and Gary, and her sister Rebecca. She has shown the magnificent trophy to her friends at her primary school in Garforth, Leeds.

However, stamps are not the only interest Catherine and Rebecca Marshall share. They are actively involved in the Guides and Brownies, and both enjoy swimming.

But apart from Fred, who began this chain, where are the men of the families as far as stamp collecting is concerned? Sadly, none collect.

If you know of a young collector who you feel might like to enter the annual National stamp competitions, why not write to Jean Wood for further details (send c/o the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT). You will need to be quick for 2002, as the closing date for the receipt of entry forms is 15 July. But if you don't make it this year, there is always 2003. As with Catherine, the outcome could be a great deal of personal satisfaction and achievement, and the reward of being Young Collector of the Year •

Text © Richard West 2002

Cover corner

THIS MONTH we will be celebrating The Queen's golden jubilee with special church services, street parties and numerous other events. Many of us will recall the excitement of the silver jubilee in 1977 when The Queen toured the country. Special Post Office souvenir covers were produced – one each for England, Scotland, Northern Ire-

land and Wales – and special postmarks used at places on the Royal route. Two of the covers are shown here, commemorating Her Majesty's visits to Cardiff on 24 June and Bristol on 8 August.

No doubt some special postmarks will be used this summer to mark Royal visits in this Golden Jubilee year •

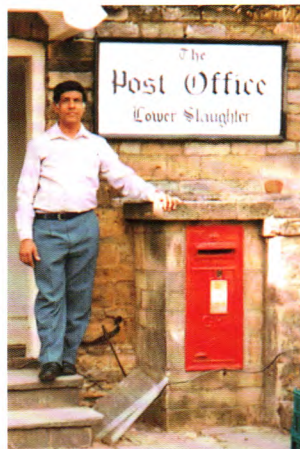


Posting boxes 212

THE FIRST of this month's photographs shows a George V box, painted dark blue, in Moreton just outside Stafford. Although situated in Post Office Lane, it is no longer used for posting letters. The photograph was submitted by Susan Wright of Stafford.

Our second photograph shows another George V box, outside the post office at Lower Slaughter, near Cheltenham, in Gloucestershire. It was photographed by *Bulletin* reader C Nagarajah of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia whilst on holiday in the UK in 1988. Mr Nagarajah is a member of the Malaysian Stamp Advisory Committee.

For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a SAE or IRC to the Membership Secretary, Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES. The Group produces many interesting publications and postcards •



Special prize draw Win £10 Britannia stamp first day cover

WE HAVE 10 of the £10 Britannia stamp first day covers for this month's special prize draw. This FDC is priced at £22 in Stanley Gibbons' *Collect British Stamps*.

To enter, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to Britannia FDC Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 3HQ, to arrive by 28 June •



High Value Definitive Stamp
Royal Mail First Day Cover



Through a Triumphant Arch, see Albion



Royal Mail High Value Definitive Stamp

ite, in Neptune's

n Power

Clemy Throne

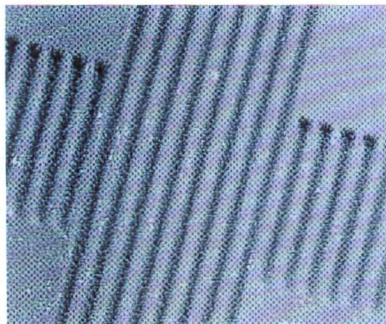
The image of Britannia was first used in Roman coinage over 1,800 years ago (see left) and is almost as ancient as the word itself. The figure is seated, yet still recognisable today as Britannia. After the Roman legions left our shores, she did not reappear until the reign of the first Elizabeth, on the title page of a book by John Dee

on navigation. After the union of Scotland and Eng Britannia was ver in vogue. Charles (then one of his mistresses, Franc Stewart, Duchess Richmond, is m a son. As Samu recorded: 'a pres it is, that he shou choose her late i represent Britan The design on co altered little over next 300 years. In Victorian times a 'Penny Britannia' became part of p culture. The desi was also adapted by political carto up to the Second World War and t The Penny Brita design ceased to

Sponsored competition The winners of the competition sponsored by Omniphil (March Bulletin) were: G Dodwell of Buckinghamshire; M Hurst of Lincolnshire; and K Bowler of British Columbia, Canada.

20 Brandon Street
EDMUNDS
ENG 51T

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



March identify The detail is from the Clown greetings stamp (first issued 1990). The winner was P Welburn, North Yorkshire.

March knowledge Answers: 1) Liz Butler; 2) Spirit & Faith; 3) 1983. The winner was Mrs M Burfield of Cumbria.

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

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

- 1 Who designed the 1989 Birds stamps?
- 2 In which year did Edward Lear cartoons feature on stamps?
- 3 Who writes the Philately on-line feature for the *Bulletin*?

Send your answer (addressed to either the *June Identify* competition or *June Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a scaled envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 12 July will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or first day covers will be awarded in each competition.

The Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

25 May - 4 June Display of Stamps from the Royal Philatelic Collection at Hampton Court Palace, Surrey. Open 09.30-18.00. Admission £10.80 adult (reductions for over 60s, students and children). Free entry to the philatelic exhibition in the Cartoon Gallery. **Enquiries** 020 8781 9500.

1 June Yorkshire Phil Assn annual convention at Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner at the junction of the ring road (A6120) and Leeds and Bradford Road (A647). Exhibition, dealers, refreshments, etc. 09.30-16.30. **Enquiries** A Peel, 01924 505724.

8 June Swinpex 2002 at St Joseph's School, Queens Drive, Swindon, 10.00-16.30. **Enquiries** M White, 01793 783245.

11 June Display 'GB Modern Postal History George VI & Elizabeth II' by Chris Harman at Croydon PS,

United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, 19.00. **Enquiries** F Simpson, 020 8660 3595.

15 June Kent Federation Day at East Malling.

15-16 June Rail/Mail Weekend at Nene Valley Rly, near Peterborough. TPO demonstrations, displays of PO vehicles, railway service stamps and covers, etc. **Enquiries** Nene Valley Railway, 01780 784444.

21-23 June Welsh Philatelic Society Annual Weekend at Maentwrog. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 01772 713917.

29-30 June Thematica at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Near Marble Arch. Open 10.30-17.30 29th, 10.30-17.00 30th. Dealers, displays. Admission free •

Late news

Queen's stamps exhibition Readers are reminded that the exhibition of stamps from the Royal Collection concludes its tour at Hampton Court, 25 May - 4 June. Open 09.30-18.00, enquiries 020 8781 9500. A lavish booklet *The Queen's Stamps* is available at the exhibition, price £4.95. The Forces Post Office have a stand selling souvenir covers. Highlights of the exhibition include the 6 May 1840 cover bearing 10 Penny Blacks, the unique 1910 cover with 2d Tyrian Plum, and the unused 1847 2d Post Office Mauritius. See April *Bulletin* (p231) for further details.

The diadem worn by The Queen on the Wilding and Machin definitives is currently on show (until January) in the Royal Treasures exhibition at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. Open daily, 10.00-17.30, admission £6.50 (concessions £5). Enquiries 020 7321 2233 •

Last orange stamp book The 1st class stamp is being changed from flame (orange) to gold, and new books containing gold stamps go on sale on 5 June. A final printing of the book of six with stamps in flame was made by Questa and will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House from 4 July. Cylinders used were Q1 (flame) Q1 (phosphor). This book has the self-adhesive matrix (margin) around the stamps.

The cylinder numbers in the World Cup book (2 × World Cup stamps, 4 × 1st definitives), issued on 21 May, are: w1 deep blue, w1 slate blue, w1 black w1 silver w1 flame (orange) w1 scarlet •

New business sheets New sheets of 100 self-adhesive definitive stamps intended for business customers are in preparation. These will comprise 2nd class (blue) and 1st class (gold) on sheets with the matrix (margin) between stamps stripped away. Collectors may order the sheets, price £27 and £19 respectively, from Royal Mail Tallents House in Edinburgh. The sheets, printed in gravure by Enschedé, will be available from 4 July. The 1st class gold self-adhesive definitive was issued in books of six (printed by Questa and Walsall) and 12 (Walsall), on 5 June •

Postal rate changes In addition to the increases in some overseas rates from 4 July, inland 1st and 2nd class letters weighing over 350g will cost more. The minimum charges for a standard UK parcel and Special Delivery will both increase by 5p to £3.15 and £3.65 respectively •

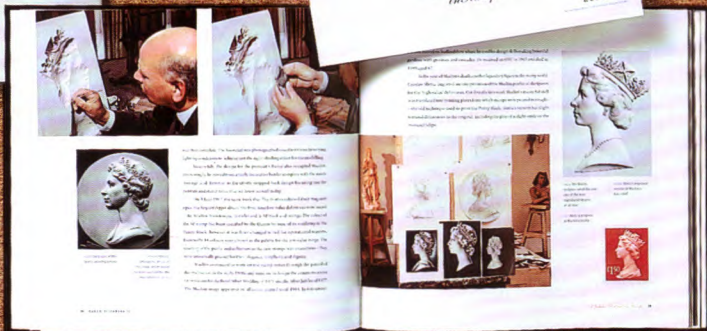
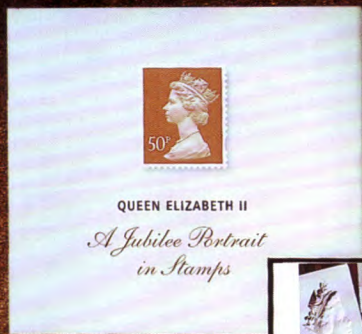
Postage labels Collectors will be aware that postage labels have been available at post offices in the Edinburgh, Southampton, and Watford areas since February. The trial was extended from 9 May to offices in the Portsmouth (PO) postcode area and the High Holborn, WC1 and Albemarle Street, W1 offices in central London •

Purchase Order numbers Specialist collectors will be aware of purchase order numbers (sometimes referred to as warrant numbers) printed in the margins of sheets of definitive and special stamps. This is no longer required for Royal Mail purposes and is being discontinued •

Philatelic census In February we announced a census of our philatelic customers at Post Office branches. Over 40,000 of the census forms were returned to Royal Mail and all entered in a prize draw. The winner of an unused Penny Black was J Mackinnon of Fife; 10 lucky runners-up received good used examples of this stamp: T Harris of Devon; L Budd, Bristol; Miss J Liang, Birmingham; H Williams, Lancashire; R Buxton, Essex; Mrs J Swanson, Aberdeenshire; R Hood, Kent; Miss J Mitchell, Co Londonderry; A McAllister, Devon; and P Irvine, Lancashire •

Bulletin back issues Mr P Greenwood has a run of *Bulletins* from vol 1 to 34 available for disposal to any reader willing to cover costs/expenses. All are in binders, except vols 1-2, there are two sets of vols 3-4 and a number of duplicate copies of other issues. Contact Mr Greenwood at Rose Cottage, Dinedor, Hereford HR2 6PD. A J Smith of 12 Cotefield, Luton LU4 0EQ has a complete run of the *Bulletin* (1963-2002) in binders for the first person willing to collect from his home •

QUEEN ELIZABETH II – A JUBILEE PORTRAIT IN STAMPS



QUEEN ELIZABETH II – *A Jubilee Portrait in Stamps*, is a stunning new book issued to mark the Golden Jubilee Weekend on 1 June. Co-published by Royal Mail and The British Library, it is lavishly illustrated with more than 200 images and explores the Queen's reign from the unique perspective of five decades of definitive and commemorative stamps.

It features every issue of UK 'special stamps' that have marked royal occasions as well as stamps designed by members of the royal family such as the Prince of Wales' watercolour landscapes.

Many stamps from Commonwealth countries are also reproduced. In addition to telling the story of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, the book focuses on the stamps themselves and how they have evolved in the past half century.

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