

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 46 Number 3

NOVEMBER 2008 £1.20

Bulletin

1968 Christmas • Wales and
Industrial Revolution issues



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Royal Mail's Christmas stamps will be on sale from 4 November. The Pantomime stamps were designed by so design, with photography by Peter Thorpe. This issue was previewed here in August.

Availability All items available from Royal Mail Tallents House (address below). Selected items are available at Post Office branches and Post Office philatelic outlets at the main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, Lichfield, London (Eastcheap & Trafalgar Sq), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Princes Risborough, Southampton (High St and Hedge End), Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro and York.

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30-17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/shop

4 November

Issue Christmas stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, stamp books (two versions 1st class, two versions 2nd class), generic sheet, Smilers sheets (four), re-introduction of Madonna & Child 1st & 2nd class stamps and 2006 Christmas airletters

5 November

Withdrawal 2007 Christmas stamps (Angels), miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, generic sheet and stamp books

6 November

Issue Lest we Forget stamps (2006, 2007, 2008) in se-tenant strip, miniature sheet (No 3), presentation pack, stamp cards (2006, 2007 and 2008 designs), generic sheet, medal cover

6 November

Issue Annual collections (Yearbook, Yearpack, Miniature Sheet and Presentation Pack collections)

11 November

Issue Lest we Forget miniature sheet collection (2006-08 issues)

14 November

Issue Commemorative Sheet – Prince of Wales 60th birthday

20 November

Issue Edward VIII & George VI ingot pack No 4

25 November

Issue Cathedrals Silver Stamp Collection: No 1, Lichfield Cathedral

31 December

Withdrawal 2006 Yearbook (standard and de luxe versions) and Yearpack

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Toys at Christmas Richard West looks back 40 years, to the Christmas issue of 1968. Following the children's artwork and religious paintings issues, would toys prove less controversial? **77**

The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.20 each from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group Ltd, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any articles should be sent to the Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail Letters, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Westerham Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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Stamp scene News and upcoming events: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted

Thematica shows end The news that Thematica stamp shows have reached the end of the line has been met with sadness by most philatelists who collect by theme. The rising costs associated with a venue in central London means that the event is no longer viable. We will therefore not see the usual Thematica 2 being held this month, so be sure to remove it from your diary.

Now for the good news – the Friends of Thematica is pleased to advise that in 2009 the thematic philately competitions, previously held as part of Thematica, will be held at Midpex.

Midpex 2009 will be at the Xcel Leisure Centre, Mitchell Avenue, Canley, Coventry CV4 8DY, 10.00-17.00 on Saturday 11 July 2009. All four of the competitions will be staged, namely John Fosbery Thematic Trophy, British Thematic Association Trophy, Inter-Federation Award (Healey and Wise Salver), and the Barclays Cup Youth Competition, kindly sponsored by Rushstamps (Retail) Ltd. More details about all four competitions will be published in due course. Midpex is a long-established event, previously staged at Tile Hill, near Coventry, and takes place every two years. The Friends of Thematica is seeking a suitable venue for its competitions in alternate years •

Picture Postcard Show At the 2008 show, held at the Royal Horticultural Society Hall at the end of August, visitors were transported back 100 years in the main displays showing life in a number of towns and cities of Edwardian Britain and featuring the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition and London Olympic Games. Postcards, depicting just about every aspect of life, are a marvellous historical resource for local, social, and family historians; in 1908 people used them in vast numbers to send urgent messages, and pass on family news. The numerous collectors who supplied exhibits of their home towns and favourite themes are to be congratulated on contributing to a fine display, and it was pleasing to see visitors looking at and enjoying their efforts. Don Knight and Bill Tonkin provided the displays on the Franco-British Exhibition, and *Bulletin* contributor Bob Wilcock the exhibit on the 1908 Olympics. The *Bulletin* editor, John Holman, was intrigued to see that a gold medal winner was one Fred Holman – no direct relation as far as he knows. The dealers' stands were kept busy by collectors seeking that elusive item to add to their collections. The layout of the exhibition – both the displays and stands – was such that it never seemed too crowded, and made for a pleasant visit; I only wish the same could be said about all exhibitions. The Postcard Traders Association should be proud of their 2008 show.

For more on the Franco-British Exhibition and 1908 Olympics see Bob Wilcock's article in the May *Bulletin*; also Bob's feature on the 1948 Olympics issue and Richard West's interview with him about his collection and new book, and the Society of Olympic Collectors in our August issue •



Digital stamps In my Bulletin Publication of 2006, *British Stamp Printers*, I predicted that: 'It will surely not be too long before digital printing has a greater impact on the world of stamp production following Australia's fast-track printing of the Sydney 2000 Olympics sheets. This process also rather scarily presents an opportunity to make each stamp printed quite literally unique, perhaps individually numbered, tariff coded or bearing hidden security features. Digital printing has been used by Britain on Smilers photo labels, but not on actual stamps as yet.'

For what I believe is the first time outside of an Australian printed issue, a European postal administration has this May produced a totally digitally printed set of stamps on a postal-related theme. Bosnia and Herzegovina (Serb Post) had a company called Grafo Papir, based in Banja Luka, print 10,000 die-cut stamps of each of the four 0.70KM values in self-adhesive sheets of 20. These attractive and well-printed stamps feature a modern yellow post van, a modern yellow wall letter box, a handstamp device and a postal trumpet (actually a posthorn with a squeezable rubber bulb on the end instead of a mouth-piece). They are termed 'Personalized Postal Stamps', but there is no indication that they are currently offering a Smilers-type service on their website.

Enquiries: Visit www.filatelija.rs.ba and change the language to English by clicking on the Union Flag at top right, then choose 'Year 2008' from the left-hand menu and the 'Personalized Postal Stamp' issue for illustrations and further details •

Serb Post's digitally-printed stamps.

Publications received The previously mentioned *Themescene* continues to be a valuable publication for those who collect by this discipline. The September issue has its regular columns, plus special features that include Whales, USA postage currency, Andorra's postal history and secrets of a saucy seaside postcard. It is more important than ever that as many thematic collectors as possible join the British Thematic Association, and at just £1 per month for UK adult subscriptions it is hardly expensive. Junior membership for collectors under 18 years old is even cheaper at just £5 a year. An ideal Christmas present that keeps on giving! •

The *GB Journal* and *The GBPS Newsletter* for September/October 2008 contain, published by the Great Britain Philatelic Society, contain much of interest to collectors of all eras of British philately, as usual. Articles include a new Prince Consort Essay discovery, inland late fees of the 1840s, returned letter wrappers, reports on society events, pages from a competition entry, and much more besides •

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GBPS enquiries Peter Tanner, Highstandings, 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross SL9 7EN. Annual UK membership is £25. email peter@ltanner.freeserve.co.uk or visit www.gbbs.org.uk

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Rush Express 61 Rushstamps' latest pricelist comprises 112 pages with many price changes over earlier editions. It features Great Britain, the Channel Islands and Isle of Man, covering almost every aspect of collecting British stamps. They quote prices for individual stamps and sets in all grades and conditions, FDCs, presentation packs, booklets, plus strike mail, locals, Cinderella items, etc. Copies can be downloaded from www.rushstamps.co.uk together with *Rush Telegraph 42*, published three or four times a year, which includes GB and worldwide special offers and recent additions to their stock; these are sent out regularly to subscribers. Copies are also available from Rushstamps (Retail) Ltd, at the address opposite •

Roll of Distinguished Philatelists The Roll was established in 1921 by the Philatelic Congress of GB with the approval of King George V who was the first signatory. Invitation to sign the Roll is the premier philatelic honour. Nominations can be made by specialist societies affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies, affiliated county federations, and by philatelic societies by submitting nominations via their county or national federations. For further details and nomination form contact the Honorary Secretary of the Board to Election to the RDP, 134 Berkeley Avenue, Chessham HP5 2RT. Nominations for 2009 signatories must be received by 31 December 2008. The 2008 signatories were noted here in July, page 328 •

Royal Mail news New issues and products

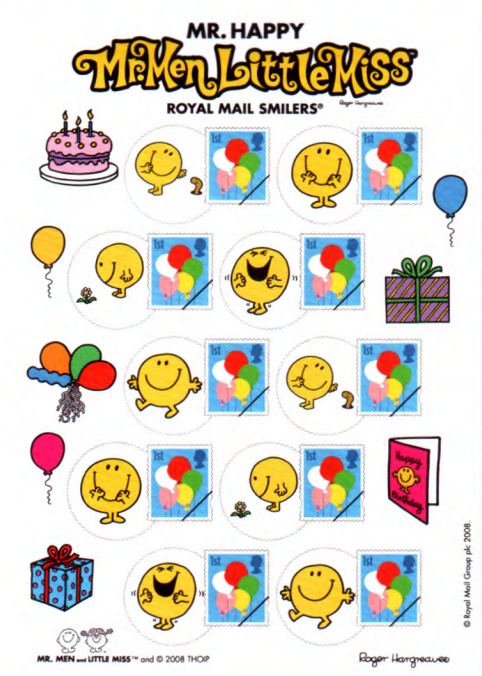
• Christmas posting dates • BPMA news



Special issues This month's special issues comprise the annual Christmas stamps (4 November), and three Poppy stamps and a miniature sheet entitled *Lest We Forget*, to mark the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War (6 November). These issues were previewed here in August.

In this *Bulletin* we preview the *Celebrating Wales* miniature sheet, to be issued on 26 February in time for St David's Day, 1 March (see pages 80-81), and the *Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution* issue (pages 82-83) •

Coming off sale The 2007 Christmas Angels stamps will be withdrawn on 5 November; the Madonna & Child stamps remain on sale •



Smilers for Kids This new product, aimed primarily at children under 12, is now available. Smilers for Kids sheets comprise 10 1st class pictorial stamps with corresponding labels in a pack with other material designed to appeal to younger folk. The labels and sheet background show popular children's characters: Mr Happy from Mr Men/Little Miss; Almond Blossom from Flower Fairies; Enid Blyton's Noddy; and Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit.

The Beatrix Potter sheet comprises 10 'New Baby' stamps with two images of Peter Rabbit on the adjoining labels. The sheet is sold in a pack which includes five baby announcement cards, with a place to position a photo; the card is self-seal, so there is no need for an envelope. The Flower Fairies pack includes 10 'Flower' stamps with Flower Fairy 'Almond Blossom' on the attached labels. An image of Almond Blossom, included in the pack, is designed to be cut out, and can be placed in the garden or used to decorate a bedroom. The Flower Fairies stories are particularly popular with 7-11 year old girls.

The Mr Happy sheet comprises 10 'Balloons' stamps and labels showing Mr Happy in different guises. The pack contains a sheet of stickers, a book-mark, a guide to Mr Happy and an illustrated picture onto which the stickers can be attached, enabling children to create their own Mr Men scene.

The Noddy sheet also bears 10 'Balloons' stamps with Noddy on the labels, including two showing him in his little car and in an aeroplane. The pack contains lots of fun active things for children to do, including colouring-in sheets, spot the difference, a maze to navigate, and a Noddy mask to cut out and wear •

Smilers for Kids The packs will be available from selected Post Office post shops and by mail order from Royal Mail Tallents House, priced £7.95 each. The sheets are printed in litho by Cartor.

The Peter Rabbit and Flower Fairies sheets were shown in the September *Bulletin*, page 43.



Christmas Smilers and Generic sheets Christmas Smilers sheets are available for customers wishing to have their own image on the attached labels. These sheets contain 20 or 10 1st class, 20 2nd class, or 10 81p stamps. The sheet backgrounds include backdrops to pantomime productions, theatre curtains and popular pantomime audience responses. Smilers sheet prices are: 1st class £13.50 (£12.50 each for two or more sheets); 2nd class £8.50 (£8 each two or more); and 81p £13.50 (£12.50 two or more). The 1st class stamp will also be available in sheets of 10 at £7.50 each.

This year's colourful Christmas generic sheet (shown in the October *Bulletin*, page 45) contains eight each of the 1st and 2nd class and four 81p Christmas stamps with the adjoining labels showing a pantomime townscape, pantomime characters such as Captain Hook, and pantomime cries including 'He's behind you!', 'Oh no it isn't!' and 'Hiss!'. Price £8.85 •

2011 stamp issues Once again we seek your views on future stamp issues. You will find with this *Bulletin* a form for you to vote for five subjects only from a shortlist drawn up by Royal Mail's Stamps & Philatelic unit for the 2011 issues. Send your completed form in by 28 November for entry in a prize draw to win one of six 2008 Yearbooks – remember to include your name and address. We look forward to receiving your votes, but regret that we cannot enter into correspondence on proposals for stamp issues. The Yearbook winners' names will be published in the *Bulletin* early in 2009 •

Lest We Forget Collection This attractive folder containing the three Poppy stamps (printed se-tenant) and the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Lest We Forget miniature sheets will go on sale on Armistice Day, 11 November. The Poppy stamps strip will be affixed to the folder and cancelled with a special handstamp; the mint miniature sheets are held in transparent mounts. The folder includes a 'Lest We Forget' postcard in the style of the popular First World War embroidered postcards. A photograph of ladies embroidering these cards is one of a number of interesting images shown. There are well-illustrated sections on the postal service 'at the front' and at home, where women took over the jobs of men. Despite the bombing of the Central Telegraph Office in London, the skill and bravery of the staff meant little disruption to this vital service. Letters sent to Royal and Merchant Navy ships were addressed care of 'GPO London', where up-to-date top secret information from the Admiralty ensured mail was forwarded to the waiting ships. The handsomely produced folder is enclosed in a poppy-coloured envelope within a protective sleeve •



Lest We Forget Miniature Sheet Collection

Available from Tallents House, priced £26.95. Limited edition of 5000.

Year Collections The 2008 Yearbook and Yearpack, containing all of the year's special stamps, will go on sale on 6 November, and will remain available until the end of 2010. Both contain all the special stamps of 2008 and the Lest We Forget miniature sheet. The standard version of the Yearbook costs £58, or £95 for the de-luxe, leather-bound version.

The colourful Yearpack (shown right), price £52, includes concise background information about each of the special issues, with technical details of the stamps and illustrations of the alternative 'First Day' postmarks for each issue.

The 2008 Miniature Sheet Year Pack and Presentation Pack Collections will also be available from 6 November, priced £29.99 and £59 respectively •

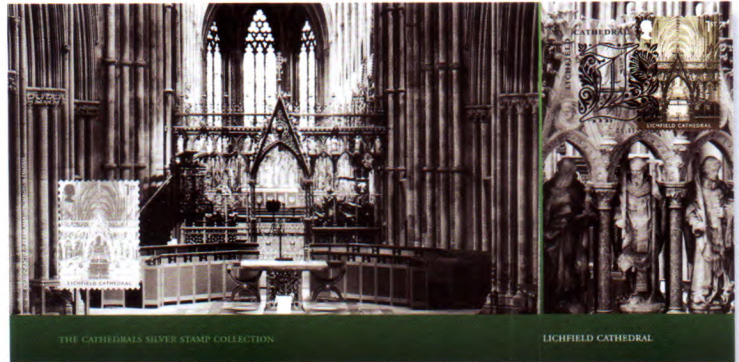


Royal Mail Yearpack 2008

Prince's birthday commemorative sheet To mark the 60th birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales, Royal Mail will issue a commemorative sheet (right) on 14 November. This will bear 10 1st class Wales country stamps (self-adhesive) with labels depicting scenes from the Prince's life, including his christening, investiture, and military service. A folder illustrates further events in his life, including his education, painting, polo, family, the Prince's Trust, and his interest in architecture. The sheet was designed by Sedley Place and printed by Cartor in litho. Price £13.50 (not £14.95 as stated last month), available from Tallents House and selected Post Office outlets. This is the third commemorative sheet, following issues for the Territorial Army and London 1908 Olympic Games Centenary •



The first issue in a new Silver Stamp Collection features the Lichfield Cathedral stamp. On sale 25 November.



New collectables The first in a Silver Stamp Collection, following on from the popular Castles Stamp Ingot Collection (2005), will be available from 25 November. The silver stamps reproduce the designs of the Cathedrals stamps issued in May, beginning with the 1st class stamp featuring Lichfield Cathedral. The silver stamp was manufactured in 999 sterling silver using processes pioneered and patented by the Royal Dutch Mint, Utrecht, Netherlands, and is housed in a sealed blister to protect the high quality finish and help prevent tarnishing. Silver stamps are not valid for postage. The collection includes a card with two views of the cathedral and bearing the 1st class Lichfield Cathedral stamp cancelled by a special Lichfield postmark for 25 November. The Cathedrals Silver Stamp Collection No 1 will be available from Tallents House, priced £24.95. Limited edition of 3000. The next in the series will be available in January. Collectors placing a regular order for the collection will receive a booklet about Cathedral stamps and a collection box ●

Submitting covers Readers are reminded that when submitting covers for special handstamps to Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres, the outer cover must bear full postage. Mail posted without payment, marked 'Free-post' (which does not apply to SHCs), or sent in the Royal Mail plastic 'see-through' envelopes used to return covers to collectors, may be subject to delay and refusal. Readers are also reminded that covers/cards submitted for handstamping must bear a return address; Royal Mail reserves the right to return unaddressed items uncanceled. The address can be typed, handwritten (ink or pencil), rubber-stamped, or by using an address label. However 'Post It' notes should not be used for this purpose, as they can easily become detached ●

Collect British Stamps The 2009 (60th) edition of the ever-popular Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps* colour checklist will be published in November, price £9.95. Since it was first published in 1967, approximately 3 million copies of this popular catalogue have been sold. It will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House as well as from Stanley Gibbons, and stamp and book shops ●

Security features for definitive stamps Changes are being made to 1st and 2nd class standard and 'Large' definitive stamps. Future printings (except rolls) will all be self-adhesive, and will feature four small semi-circular slits within the stamp which prevent the removal of stamps from envelopes. In addition each will be printed with an iridescent ink featuring a security pattern on the darker background colour around the Queen's head. The stamps will be printed in gravure by De La Rue, now in sheets of 50 instead of the current 200 (standard) and 100 (Large). The change will also affect books (6 × 1st, 12 × 1st and 12 × 2nd standard, 4 × 1st and 4 × 2nd Large), business sheets and stamp rolls (500 & 1000 1st and 2nd class standard). The new stamps are expected to be issued on 17 February 2009. First day services will be provided as these are regarded as new stamps ●

British Postal Museum & Archive Readers are reminded that in addition to its regular opening times (Monday to Wednesday and Friday 10.00-17.00, Thursday 10.00-19.00), the BPMA is also open on Saturday 6 December (10.00-17.00). Two talks will be given at the BPMA in November: 'Changing Faces of Post Office Architecture' by Julian Stray (6 November, 19.00), and 'GPO Film Unit' by Patrick Russell of the British Film Institute (27 November, 19.00). Both talks are free, but booking is required.

A BPMA exhibition 'Last Post: Remembering the First World War', marking the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War, will be held at the Churchill Museum & Cabinet War Rooms, London SW1, 6 November 2008 to 14 February 2009. The exhibition explores the Post Office's contribution to the war effort, sending thousands of workers to fight on the front line, keeping soldiers in touch with home, and operating censorship to help catch spies and control the dissemination of military information. On display will be important material from the BPMA and Imperial War Museum collections, including the VC awarded to Post Office Rifleman Sergeant Alfred Knight, for his bravery at the battle of Wurst Farm Ridge.

The BPMA contains the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives ●

The BPMA Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL (near Mount Pleasant). To book tickets for talks or for further information telephone 020 7239 2570 or email info@postalheritage.org.uk

Posting dates for Christmas The latest posting dates for airmail letters for delivery by Christmas are: 5 December for South and Central America, Caribbean, Africa, Middle East, Far East, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand; 10 December for Japan, the USA, Canada and Eastern Europe; 12 December for Western Europe; 15 December for UK parcels; 18 December for UK 2nd class mail; and 20 December for UK 1st class mail ●

Prize draw Win a 2008 Pack Collection

WE HAVE two of the new 2008 Presentation Pack Collection for our prizes this month. To enter, simply send your name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: 2008 Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ by 28 November ●

Design Classics New prestige stamp book

The prestige book goes on sale on 13 January, with the 10 Design Classics stamps, shown in the September *Bulletin* on pages 14-15.

Please note that the caption to the Mini stamp (at bottom right below) will read simply 'Mini', not 'Mk II Austin Mini'.

IN THE *British Design Classics* prestige book, journalist Jim Davies provides intriguing details of the subjects of the Design Classics stamps. We learn that the Mini car resulted from the fuel crisis of 1956 and plummeting car sales; Mary Quant named the mini-skirt after her favourite car; and Allen Lane sent an office junior to London Zoo to sketch a suitable bird for the Penguin Books logo. Whilst French and British engineers worked harmoniously on Concorde, their ministerial superiors squabbled over the spelling of the aircraft's name; and, for all his efforts on the iconic London Underground map, Harry Beck received just five guineas •

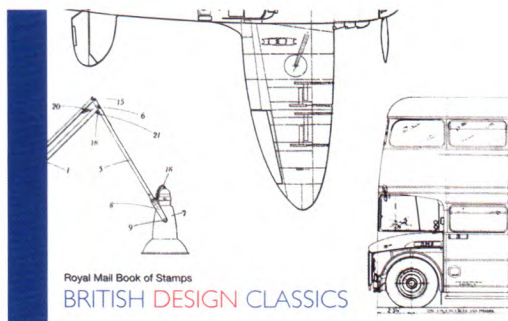
Design Classics PSB The book will contain four panes:

Pane 1 4 × 16p and 4 × 50p definitives with central label showing crown from telephone kiosk

Pane 2 4 × Design Classics stamps: Spitfire, Mini, 2 × Routemaster Bus

Pane 3 6 × Design Classics stamps: Underground map, telephone kiosk, Penguin books, Anglepoise lamp, chair and mini skirt

Pane 4 2 × Design Classics Concorde stamp and 2 × 1st class Concorde stamp from 2002 Airliners issue



40 years ago, it was toys for Christmas

The 1968 Christmas issue, by Richard West

NOVEMBER IS traditionally the month when Royal Mail issues its annual Christmas stamps. It is also virtually certain that not everyone will approve of the designs. And so it has been, since the very first British Christmas stamps back in 1966. At that time Tony Benn was the Postmaster General, and it was he who not only felt it right to have special stamps for the Christmas post each year, but that those first stamps should be designed by children. The designs resulted in many complaints, such that the following year, Edward Short, the new Postmaster General, favoured religious paintings instead. Still not everyone was satisfied, with many uncertain as to whether paintings are suitable for reproduction on stamps.

Edward Short was still in the chair when work started on the Christmas issue of 1968. Friction that had been developing between the PMG and the stamp advisory committee of the Council of Industrial Design had reached a head under Mr Short, who disbanded the committee, favouring instead that the Post Office should appoint its own Stamp Advisory Committee. The new committee met for the first time in February 1968, and one of its first tasks was to evaluate the designs which had already been received for the Christmas stamps. Some of these had come from designers commissioned by the Post Office, but many others were unsolicited – Benn had encouraged the public to propose ideas for both subject matter and designs.

The artists invited by the Post Office who submitted designs were Mary Grierson, Geoffrey Trenaman, Clive Abbott, Arnold Machin and J Norris Wood, while the invitation was also extended to Harrison and Sons and to Bradbury, Wilkinson to submit designs. It was the practice in those days for the Post Office to approach not only individual artists but also the stamp printing companies. Unsolicited designs came from T Devereux, T H Barrett, Keith Hensby, H St John Harrison, A R Hundleby, and S Doubtfire.

However, the committee favoured the set from an established designer, Rosalind Dease. Rosalind was not, in fact, commissioned by the Post Office. She was married at that time to David Gentleman, and had worked with him on a number of successful designs for 1965, including the Churchill, Commonwealth Arts Festival and Battle of Britain issues. Harrison and Sons, at the time printing the majority of British stamps, invited Rosalind to prepare ideas on its behalf.

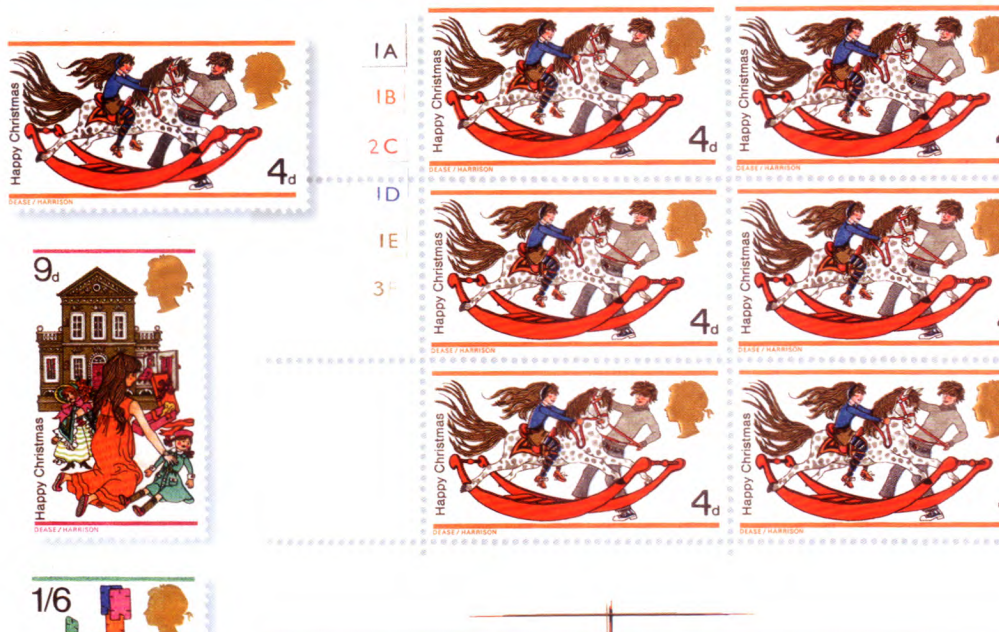
The theme of her designs was children playing with their toys. Inevitably the Post Office received several complaints that the stamps did not convey the true meaning of Christmas. The toys were meticulously researched by Rosalind – the rocking horse is typical of those popular in the 1880s; the dolls represent an English wax doll of about 1820 and a 19th-century rag doll; the doll's house is an early Georgian example; and the train set is based on one popular in America in the late 1800s. The girl featured on the 4d and 9d stamp was based on Rosalind's own daughter, Fenella Jane; the boy was a figment of her imagination. ►



CHRISTMAS 1968



Unaccepted stamp designs for the Christmas stamps of 1968 by John Norris Wood (top) and Bradbury Wilkinson & Co.



Above: the issued designs. A horizontal design was chosen for the 4d value because the Post Office knew that many, when addressing Christmas cards, start the address fairly high up on the envelope.

The three stamps had values of 4d, 9d and 1s6d. Interestingly, the 1st and 2nd class system of posting had been introduced in September and, as the Post Office felt that the majority of Christmas cards would be sent at the 2nd class rate of 4d, decided not to issue a 1st class, 5d, Christmas stamp.

On all three values the Queen's head was printed embossed in gold. This could only be achieved on a sheet-fed printing press, the Rembrandt press in use at the time, and so this was used for printing the entire run of the 9d and 1s6d values. However, while the Rembrandt press was used initially to print the 4d value, it is possible this proved too slow for the large quantity of stamps required of this denomination. Therefore, part of the production of the 4d value was undertaken on a Thrissell reel-fed press, capable of printing up to five colours at one time. Consequently, the sheets of 4d stamps that had been printed with five colours on the Thrissell were then transferred to the Rembrandt press for the gold embossing.

There are various ways of distinguishing 4d stamps printed on the two presses. The best method is to view cylinder blocks: stamps from the Rembrandt press start with cylinder number 1A; those from the Thrissell start with 2A. Stamps from the Rembrandt machine have the left-hand sheet margin perforated; those from the Thrissell press have the top sheet margin perforated. On the Rembrandt stamps the top of the Queen's head is level with the top of the boy's head, while the boy's pullover is uniform in its grey colour. On the Thrissell printing the Queen's head is generally lower than on Rembrandt printings, but as the head was gold embossed as a separate operation, this is not always the case. However, on the Thrissell printings the grey of the boy's pullover has a more uneven appearance.



All three values can be found with the embossing omitted. Also all three values are known with the phosphor missing: there was one phosphor band on the 4d for the 2nd class rate, and two bands on the other values. A few missing colours are known, but by this time the printers were becoming more proficient at handling multicoloured stamps.

As had become standard practice by this time, the three stamps were available within a presentation pack. The packs were produced with the text in English, or in German primarily for sale through the Post Office's philatelic agents in Germany. This was the second presentation pack containing a special issue (the first was the 1968 Paintings set) to be produced as a German edition.

The Post Office produced a first day envelope, also designed by Rosalind Dease, the design being of a doll's house. In addition to the 'first day of issue' handstamps provided by the Post Office, an appropriate privately-sponsored handstamp for the day of issue, 25 November, was inscribed Selfridges Christmas toy fair.

In addition to the stamps, there were two pictorial airletters produced that year. One, designed by Geoffrey Trenaman, showed an airship with Father Christmas as a passenger, while the 9d 'printed' stamp featured three Christmas trees. The second was designed by Peter Gauld, showing an angel in flight, with the stamp depicting the Star of Bethlehem.

The complaints about the stamps were such that for Christmas 1969 the Post Office decided to adopt a religious theme. The results, by Fritz Wegner, proved to be among the most popular Christmas sets of the past 40 years – but that is another story ●

Acknowledgements

*Stamp Histories of the British
Postal Museum & Archive
.....
Stanley Gibbons catalogue*

Celebrating Wales The final Country sheet

DATHLU CYMRU • CELEBRATING WALES



The miniature sheet is 123 × 70mm, the two 78p stamps are 60 × 24mm; shown here at actual size.

DATHLU CYMRU – CELEBRATING WALES A new miniature sheet goes on sale on 26 February – the last in the ‘Four Countries of the UK’ series. The sheet bears two definitive-size 1st class stamps – the existing 1st class Wales stamp showing the Welsh dragon, and a new one depicting the Red Dragon flag – and two large-size 81p stamps featuring a representation of St David and the National Assembly for Wales building in Cardiff.

The sheet was designed by Silk Pearce and printed in litho by De La Rue Security Print. The 1st class stamp illustrations are by Peter Crowther Associates (Dragon flag) and Toby & Gideon Petersen (dragon forged in Welsh steel). On the 81p stamps, the St David illustration is by Clare Melinsky (designer of the Saints Andrew, George, and Patrick stamps on the earlier ‘Celebrating’ stamps), and the photograph of the Assembly building is from The Photolibrary Wales. The sheet background features Harlech Castle.

The presentation pack, with bilingual text, features images of St David's Cathedral; a stained glass window of St David (Dewi Sant) at St Woolo's Cathedral, Newport; actor Richard Burton; a Welsh rugby union supporter; and a Red Dragon statue in France commemorating the 38th Welsh Division's attack on Mametz Wood during the Battle of the Somme.

Celebrating Wales Prices

Miniature sheet	£2.34
Presentation pack	£2.65
Stamp cards (set of five)	£2.00
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£2.99
Serviced FDC (overseas customers)	£2.49

The First Day Cover envelope features Welsh coastal scenery. Orders for serviced covers, with a Tallents House or bilingual St David's first day postmark, must be received at Tallents House by the day of issue. Collectors may send their own covers on the day of issue to Tallents House (FD0907), or for the St David's postmark (FD0908) to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres. Details of sponsored postmarks will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.



The presentation pack (above) was written by Huw Pryce and printed by Walsall Security Printers. The first day cover (right) features Welsh coastal scenery.

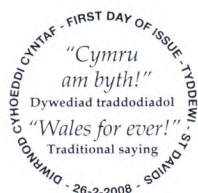
Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Dyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 8PB

WALES GENERIC & SMILERS SHEETS A generic sheet entitled *Cymru Wych-Glorious Wales* was issued on 1 March 2007 and is still available. It contains 20 Wales 1st class country stamps (showing a metallic dragon) and adjoining labels featuring scenes in the Principality. The stamp and labels are printed in litho on self-adhesive paper. Similar sheets were issued for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and United Kingdom; all are still available, priced £7.75 each. To order Smilers versions of the sheets (except Glorious UK), with your own image printed on the labels, phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas), or pick up a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch. See the Smilers website at www.royalmail.com/smilers to place an order using digital photos •

Wales on stamps As well as the regional/country stamps issued since 1958, Wales has featured on many special stamps, featuring castles (Caernarfon, Harlech), scenery (Snowdonia, Stackpole Head, Llanelli Coast) buildings and bridges (St David's Cathedral, Menai Bridge, Aberyswyth University, Welsh Stucco); people (Owain Glyndwr); culture (Eisteddfod, Royal Welsh Show); animals (Welsh Pony, Welsh Springer Spaniel, Welsh Black Bull, Welsh Mountain Sheep); history (Welsh Bible), Industrial Archaeology (Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Brecknock & Abergavenny Canal) and railways (Welsh Highland, Talyllyn). A Wales prestige book was issued in 1992, and a miniature sheet marked the opening of the new building of the National Assembly for Wales (Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru) in March 2006.

See also *Bulletin* articles on Wales and Welsh stamps and postal history in the January 1992 and May 1999 issues. Glenn Morgan reported on a lecture about the design of the Countries miniature sheets in August 2008 •



Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution A

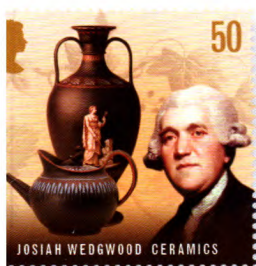


EIGHT STAMPS honouring leading figures in Britain's Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries go on sale at Post Office branches and Royal Mail Tallents House on 17 March. The stamps comprise four se-tenant pairs of 1st class, 50p, 56p, and 72p stamps depicting: Matthew Boulton, manufacturer and engineer, and James Watt, developer of the steam engine (1st); Richard Arkwright, textile manufacturer and the inventor of the 'Spinning Jenny', and Josiah Wedgwood, founder of the famous ceramics firm (50p); George Stephenson, railway engineer, famed for the Stockton & Darlington Railway, and Henry Maudslay, inventor of the lathe (56p); and James Brindley, canal engineer, and John McAdam, the famous road builder (72p). The stamps were designed by Webb & Webb, and printed by Joh Enschedé in litho.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark) or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Steam Mills, Cinderford postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0909' or 'FD0910'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Steam Mills postmark.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe, £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to: British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. ►

special issue honouring eight innovative men



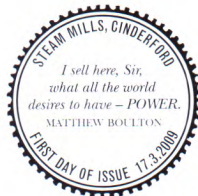
From left: Matthew Boulton, manufacturer and engineer, and James Watt, developer of the steam engine (1st class); Richard Arkwright, the textile manufacturer and the inventor of the 'Spinning Jenny', and Josiah Wedgwood, founder of the ceramics firm (50p).



George Stephenson, railway engineer, famed for the Stockton & Darlington Railway, and Henry Maudsley, the inventor of the lathe (56p); James Brindley, canal engineer, and the famous road builder John Meadham (72p).

Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution Prices

Set of stamps	£4.28
Presentation pack	£4.80
First day cover envelope	£0.30
Serviced first day cover (UK customers)	£5.51
Serviced first day cover (overseas customers)	£4.69
Stamp cards set	£3.20



The dawn of practical science in the 17th century, which helped to trigger the philosophical movement known as the Enlightenment, fostered the spread of practical ideas, inventions and engineering. Coal provided the power to drive the Industrial Revolution, which led to the development of powered machinery, resulting in mass production. Before long whole families were being drawn from the fields to the towns and cities, to seek their fortunes in the new manufactories there.

near: Founded in the mid 17thc, the Lunar Society of Birmingham presented lively philosophical and scientific debates. Its celebrated members included Matthew Boulton, Erasmus Darwin, James Watt and Josiah Wedgwood.



IN THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY, TWO IDEAS based in the West Country took their separate ideas north to the coal-bearing valleys of the Midlands, and changed the world for ever by laying the foundations of the Industrial Revolution.



cent: The world's first cast-iron bridge was built in 1779 across the River Sever in Coalbrookdale, Shropshire.

centre of iron production in Britain, if not the world.

With the demand for iron increasing the demand for coal, miners were forced to tunnel deeper and deeper, which caused the mines to fill with water. The problem of flooding gradually worsened, until the water could no

At the time, the Baptist Mills brass works in Bristol (under what is now Junction 3 of the M52), Abraham Darby discovered a new and better way of

PIONEERS OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail First Day Cover

Royal Mail, Talents House, 11, South, John, Glasgow, Edinburgh, 10412-000

with Birmingham entrepreneur and manufacturer Matthew Boulton, and produced his first steam engine. In 1776, Boulton's proud boast that "I sell here, Sir, what all the world desires to have - POWER" proved remarkably prescient, for over the next 20 years, steam-

James Watt's combined Steam engine, by adding a separate condenser, to Thomas Newcomen's



Industrial Revolution on stamps A number of stamps feature our industrial past. The Forth Rail Bridge on the 6d stamp marking the opening of the Forth Road Bridge in 1964 was the first to feature the great engineering works of Victorian era. The four Social Reformers stamps of 1976 remind us of the hardships of life during the Industrial Revolution – the 10p stamp featuring cotton mill machinery. Textile mills – Salts Mill, in Saltaire, Yorkshire and New Mills, Derbyshire, feature on stamps of the Workers' Tale and Above & Beyond sets in the Millennium series. Stamps of 1975 and 1980 marked the 150th anniversaries of two pioneer railways (Stockton & Darlington and Liverpool & Manchester), and issues in 1985, 1994, 1999 (Travellers' Tale 43p) and 2004 recall the great days of steam. The engineering genius of Isambard Kingdom Brunel was honoured by six stamps in 2006 showing his Great Western Railway, Clifton suspension bridge and *Great Eastern* paddle steamer. The final stamp in the 1980 Liverpool & Manchester set and the 17½p Mrs Gaskell stamp of the same year, and the 26p stamp of the Inventor's Tale set in the Millennium series all show smoking chimneys, ever associated with the northern industrial cities. A set of four stamps and a miniature sheet in 1989 featured important sites in Britain's Industrial Archaeology, and two of the 2007 World of Invention stamps are relevant to the Industrial Revolution theme, depicting an iron bridge (commemorating Thomas Telford) and a steam locomotive and railway tracks. A stamp issued in 1990 featured the impressive Templeton Carpet Factory in Glasgow, and four stamps in 1993 marked Britain's Inland Waterways (the canals) which played an important role in moving goods and materials in the early days of the Industrial Revolution, before the railways and improved road transport.

A most interesting article 'Our Industrial Archaeology', by the late Barbara Last, was published in the *Bulletin* in July 1989 ●

Rockall: a reader's voyage by Tony Smith

ROCKALL
14 MAY 2008
LAT 57°36'N LONG 13°41'W

THOSE familiar with the shipping forecast will know that sea area Rockall experiences some of the most violent weather in the United Kingdom. Reputed to be the loneliest speck of rock in the world, Rockall is a barren, conical 70-foot geological outlier of north America lying 224 miles west of the Outer Hebrides. Up until our expedition this year, fewer people had landed on Rockall than had stepped on the Moon.

The object of our adventure was to sail around Rockall and, if possible, to set up a temporary radio station. One of our party even hoped to spend a night there. Despite our unfortunate summer weather this year, we were extremely fortunate to have had an excellent window of opportunity in mid-May and reached Rockall in bright sunshine, although a 15-foot swell made it obvious that plans for a night stay and radio station were impracticable. However, with the aid of a kayak and a wet suit, several members of our party managed to hang on to the apron of kelp, slither across the guano and reach the summit. Appropriately, a piece of Harris tweed and a saltire were left as evidence of our occupation for the RAF Nimrod which flew over us in the evening. As a keen philatelist (and *Bulletin* reader since its inception) I was able to produce a cachet and memento for our crew – possibly the first postal operation that Rockall has seen •

My covers collection by Martin Robinson



This cover was postmarked SOUTHAMPTON / PAQUEBOT on 2 January 1969 with a PAQUEBOT / POSTED AT SEA machine die, and bears a boxed cachet in red: 'QE2 / Posted on board / Acceptance / trials'. Inside is a note (below) written on QE2 notepaper, saying: 'David: Just to get the special stamp – it will never be used again.'

QE2 acceptance trials A news item in the national press on 5 January 2008 announced that the QE2 was setting sail on her last world cruise, with 1800 people on board. Those paying the top price for this 103-night cruise, taking in thirty ports of call, would be parting with £114,919 each. She would be making her 802nd Atlantic crossing, accompanied by the latest addition to the Cunard fleet, *Queen Victoria*, on her first. It has been a long goodbye to the 40-year old ship, which ceased her traditional transatlantic role in 2005 and, after a final cruise in November 2008, she will be retired, starting a new life as a floating hotel, museum and entertainment facility at the Palm Jumeirah in Dubai.

The contract was signed with the John Brown shipyard on Clydebank in December 1964, the keel was laid in July 1965, and Her Majesty the Queen launched the new 70,000-tonne ship on 20 September 1967, using the same gold scissors used by her mother and her grandmother to launch the *Queen Elizabeth* and *Queen Mary* respectively. Because of early problems and extended trials it was not until late in April 1969 that she entered service with a preview cruise, followed by the first crossing to New York departing from Southampton on 2 May. She became probably the best-known ship in the world, and one of her proudest moments was when she was requisitioned as a troopship in May 1982, carrying more than 3000 service personnel to the Falklands, and returning safely a month later. Her other adventures included running aground near Cape Cod in 1992 and damaging her hull, and being hit by a 95ft wave caused by a hurricane in 1995 •



Cunard RMS Queen Elizabeth 2

David
Just to get the
special stamp – it will never
be used again
d.h.

Philately online Another sideline collection, by Ron Negus



Newspaper Wrappers



Newspaper wrapper, Russia 2x green overprinted 1/2 in red, with additional fratching 2 x 1/2 orange with blue overprint 1/2 in; Russian Post Office in China, postmarked Kienhou (Shanghai) on 30.08.1905.

IT IS ALWAYS of interest when collectors take the trouble to set up a website to explain the background to their own specific area of the hobby. One such person is Jan Kosniowski, who has been collecting newspaper wrappers for some years. Jan is trying to establish a study circle to explore this byway of philatelic knowledge in depth and to produce a catalogue of them. This website (see address above) is an example that describes the scope of this particular area, which may be considered as a subset of postal stationery collecting. In fact, the Postal Stationery Society (see the *Bulletin* review in February 2004) has included the subject in some articles in its own magazine from time to time.

Mr Kosniowski's introduction on his website gives a good overview of the topic. In it he explains that newspaper wrappers are probably one of the least popular items collected by philatelists. In years past it was often found that collectors cut the imprinted stamps from the wrappers, but modern practice is to collect them complete. Due to the older approach, some wrappers are now very scarce in uncut condition and can command significant prices at auction.

He points out that there are many varieties of wrapper to be found, and that some of these have never been comprehensively listed in any catalogue. Whilst the famous Higgins & Gage World Postal Stationery Catalogue does include some, it is now very much out of date. His site contains a page listing books and catalogues concerning wrappers (from his own personal library) which includes titles published from 1893 to 2002.

www.stampdomain.com/newswrapper The site described here is part of the wider Stamp Domain website, which provides a portal to many philatelic subjects, including auctions, societies and study groups, thematics, etc.

Like stamps, wrappers can be found with different watermarks, different shades, with errors of printing and exist as both proofs and specimens. Another useful page on the site gives the dates of first issues of newspaper wrappers from various countries around the world.

In addition to these two reference listings, the site has a further 28 pages each devoted to an individual series of wrappers from selected countries. These are illustrated with high quality scans of the actual wrappers, and contain notes about their particular significance.

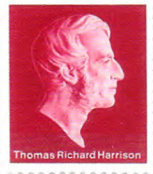
For Great Britain there are 8 separate pages included. Three of these relate to 'Printed to Private Order' wrappers, sponsored by individual publishers or magazines. Another page provides information on the postmarks employed by the Edinburgh Newspaper Branch. Two more pages are devoted to W H Smith markings on newspaper wrappers, and another page considers cut-outs used on wrappers. A final page asks for help with identification of a Victorian postmark that has been seen used on wrappers, but whose origin is unknown.

Stamped to Order wrappers were in use from 1855. The stamping was done at Somerset House on paper supplied by the customer. A notice giving details of the service available was issued on 8 October 1855, and one of the pages devoted to 'Printed to Private Order' wrappers reproduces this important document. The same page also gives an alphabetical listing of these private productions that have been seen by Mr Kosniowski, beginning with the *Alliance News and Temperance Reformer* and finishing with the *Women's Suffrage Journal* and the *Yorkshire Post*.

The whole site is well worth a visit to introduce yet another fascinating byway of collecting •

Brian Janes: a career in stamp printing

An interview with Glenn H Morgan



From left: Brian Janes; Walsall publicity label; a De La Rue self-adhesive training label; and a publicity label depicting Thomas Richard Harrison.

Glenn Morgan's questions are set in italics, followed by Brian Janes' replies.

I RECENTLY had the opportunity of meeting up with Brian Janes, who had retired at the end of 2006 from Walsall Security Printing. Many readers will be familiar with Brian's name, as he has always been a good friend to collectors and was at all times willing to share his considerable knowledge, so long as it did not infringe on the security or confidentiality requirements that surround the production of postage stamps, of course.

Where were you born, Brian? In Watford, which was, and continued to be, a major centre for printing for many years.

What was your first job after leaving school? I left school in 1963 and was living in Croxley Green close to Watford. My family had a history in printing and so I followed the family trend into the industry. I chose to attend the prestigious printing college in Watford on a full-time course for two years instead of immediately getting a job and studying in the evenings.

As part of that course, I contacted De La Rue and Harrison and Sons for details about security printing and the latter proved to be the most helpful, supplying lots of information. So, when I had concluded the course and it came time to get a job it seemed logical to write to Harrison and Sons to see whether there were any vacancies. The rest is history! I moved to the High Wycombe area to live once I started at the factory.

My first role was cutting-out wet proofs of the stamps and mounting them onto the presentation cards that were submitted to client postal administrations for approval or amendment. We had hundreds of stamp designs underway at any one time in those days.

I progressed through the ranks and became Production Manager, then Departmental Manager with a staff of 50 ladies in the finishing section. I then spent some years as Works Manager before becoming Works Director, taking over from John Orford, managing the Royal Mail contract in a semi-technical role. It was the practice that the person dealing with the Royal Mail work came from the production side of the business, and I was only the fourth person to hold that role in over 50 years of the position.

How long did you stay with each company, and what were your eventual positions?

I was employed for 36 years by Harrison and Sons (from where I reached the level of Works Director, as I have just mentioned), then spent almost five years at De La Rue (following their purchase of Harrison and Sons) and finally worked for five years with Walsall Security Printers (in the role of Special Accounts Manager) with responsibility for the relationship with the Dutch TNT Post and, of course, the British stamp printing contract.

What are the most profound changes that you witnessed in the printing of stamps?

I guess it would be the automation of all aspects of production processes – from the mechanical engraving of gravure cylinders, the black art of perforating, through to the mechanisation of many aspects of the finishing operations. Perforating has seen huge developments in mass production, from the sheet rise and fall perforating through to the current APS or grinding technique. This is sometimes referred to as Swedish perforating, after the Swedish Chief Engineer at Harrison and Sons who pioneered the technique starting in the late 1960s. There was a short spell of rotary male and female perforating in the Jumelle press developed by Kampf, but the rotary technique of consistently matching 40,000 pins with 40,000 holes proved prohibitively expensive, and more advanced grinding techniques were developed.

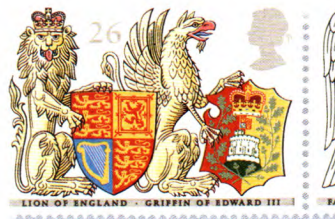


The black art of perforating: 'SOS' in Morse Code, in the Rescue at Sea perforations.

How many stamp issues do you reckon that you were involved with down the years?

This is impossible to answer, but it must run into thousands. In my early days at Harrison and Sons, I was managing around 200 stamp issues at any one time. That was in the days when all the artwork proofing was done by hand without the computerised aids so familiar today.

What was your favourite stamp issue that you worked on? Generally, my favourite stamp choice would have to be any that incorporated recess printing, for there is no finer method of printing. If I may, I would actually wish to nominate two sets as my favourites, both for different reasons.



The Queen's Beasts of 1998 was the last issue produced mainly by Harrison before the DLR takeover, and the tight line-for-line register between the litho and intaglio printing was extremely difficult and reflects the high levels of skills present in the factory at that time. It was a fitting tribute to the technical and innovative ability of Harrison and Sons over the years. ►

Intaglio printing by Harrison & Sons: Castles high values, 1984 Mail Coaches, and one of Brian Janes' favourites, the 1988 Queen's Beasts issue.

My second favourite issue is the Beatles stamps issued last year, for the challenge that they offered the printer. They utilised totally new computer technology in relation to the die-cut simulated free-form perforations used.

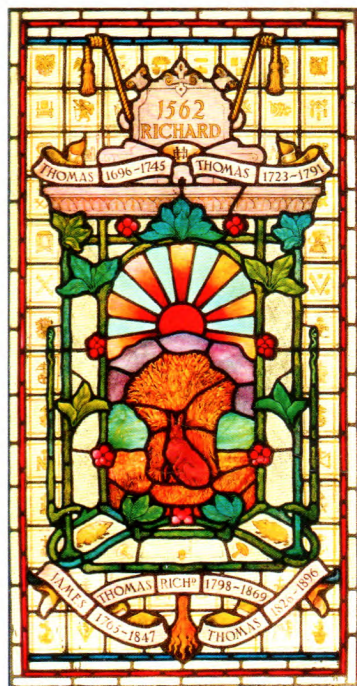


Where do you see the future of stamps going? While plastic card technology may eventually remove the need for banknotes and coins, I believe that there will always be the need for stamps, for they are, at their basic level, a receipt for payment of a service. There will probably be a greater choice available to the customer, and we have seen meter markings and postage paid impressions more and more on our mail, at the expense of traditional stamps. These are now being complemented by PC postage and the Horizon label machines.

What about those detested Horizon labels? These are bound not to be popular with the average stamp collector, because they do not resemble traditional stamps. They do, however, fulfil the criteria of what makes a stamp, and they additionally offer enhanced security protection and improved accounting methods for any postal administration that uses this type of product. The opportunity to have made them more attractive has clearly been missed by Royal Mail, but maybe one day they will incorporate security printing in an attractive design – let's hope so, as it will mean more work for an industry that is being affected by falling demand.

How do you think stamp printing will change in the future? Clearly, digital is the way forward, as with many aspects of our lives. Innovation and uniqueness is also to the fore, and The Beatles stamps would have been unthinkable even a short while back. Probably the other major change will relate to how a stamp (in whatever form it might eventually take) is recognised by the electronic equipment that reads it while a mail item is being processed. The future for stamp printing is, I believe, quite an exciting one.

You must have been saddened when Harrison and Sons ceased to exist. We all were, as it was like one big family. In the late 1970s, the last Harrison left the company, the business having been sold by the family a few years earlier. At that time Harrison and Sons were not only stamp producers but also general commercial printers producing everything from the early colour inserts for newspapers to travel brochures, and designs that eventually became laminates used in kitchens and furniture.



Above: the Harrison 'hare, rye, sun' rebus in stained glass. Above right: Harrison and De La Rue imprints on Machin definitive blocks.



Harrison and Sons The company origins can be traced to Richard Harrison who, in the mid-1500s, was recorded as a Freeman of 'the mystery and art of printing'. The company was founded by James Harrison in London in 1750, and the company's logo changed over the years, but always retained a hare, rye and sun rebus (see left). Harrison and Sons once printed stamps for over 100 countries. Its first British contract was in 1881 producing one-shilling embossed stamps for telegram forms, followed by the major contract in 1911 for definitives, and from 1934 until the 1980s virtually every British stamp came from Harrison and Sons. In 1997, De La Rue purchased Harrison and Sons, and almost overnight centuries of tradition were swept away when the company changed its name to De La Rue Security Print. Machin definitives continued to use the Harrison and Sons imprint due to the expense of changing cylinders, but gradually changed over to a DLR imprint from late 1998.

In the early 1980s a new management team installed by the owners Lonrho refocused the company as a security printer and withdrew from most of the commercial products. All production techniques were now required, including recess printing, and over the next seven or eight years banknotes, bearer bonds, etc were added to the portfolio of products offered to clients. The breaking-up of the Soviet Union was seen as a major opportunity for Harrison and Sons, and lots of new printing contracts followed.

De La Rue must have seen Harrison and Sons as a thorn in their side for after a while they bought out the company. Some say that it was because of the volume of banknote business that DLR was losing to Harrison and Sons, for around 5 per cent of world banknote production had already moved to High Wycombe in quite a short period of time.

What became of the archive of the Harrison and Sons printing history? I do not know. Presumably it was taken over by De La Rue as a company asset.

'Stamp collectors are mad' – discuss. (Laughs.) You cannot expect me to be drawn into that argument. Stamp collectors help to keep printers in employment, so that must be seen as a good thing. ►

Who replaced you at Walsall when you retired and what is their background? My role was filled by Paul Singleton, who once worked at the House of Questa and is a current member of Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee.

How is retirement going, and what non-work related interests are you now involved in? I understand that you are a family man. Yes, I am a family man, and they naturally come first. I have been playing more golf (badly, I might add!) and appreciated the opportunity of having a break and a rest from the pressures of work after almost half a century in employment. I have now settled down into a daily routine and am enjoying my new-found sense of freedom. Some of the ex-Harrison and Sons staff still meet up every so often, which I always look forward to.

Thank you for your time and observations. I have enjoyed talking to you and listening to your reminiscences about a role to which you clearly were well suited, and for which you were obviously passionate about. You are most welcome ●

Text © Glenn Morgan & Brian Janes 2008

Commemorative covers New this month



CDS Covers Direct FDC (edition of 30) for the Olympic Flag Handover miniature sheet issue. Appropriately cancelled with a Stratford, London E15 counter date stamp (CDS), achieved by sending covers by Special Delivery. **Price** Signed by Dame Kelly Holmes, £15 ●



Buckingham Covers Four FDCs featuring the Queen Elizabeth 2, to mark her final voyages before retirement to Dubai as a floating hotel. All the covers were carried onboard on the last journeys. **Prices** £14.95 each; or signed by the Captain £22.95. Postage £1.65 ●



Cotswold & Stuart Covers Two covers for the RAF Uniforms issue, cancelled with Yorkshire Air Museum postmark, with kind permission. **Prices** £8.50; a limited number of covers were flown from RAF Linton-on-Ouse and signed by the pilot, price £15 in aid of The Wings Appeal. Postage £1 UK ●



GB Covers FDC (edition of 40) produced for the RAF Uniforms stamp issue, featuring the memorial to fallen RAF aircrew at Plymouth Hoe, and some RAF aircrew badges. **Price** FDC cancelled with special Air Street, London W1 handstamp, each signed and numbered £15. Postage £1.50 ●



Civil Defence Association Limited edition FDC for the launch of *Come if ye Dare*, a book about Civil Defence George Cross recipients. Explanatory insert included. **Price** Signed by Ken Mosedale, nephew of GC winner William Mosedale, £9.50 including UK postage. Remittances to Civil Defence Association ●



M Tanner FDC (25 numbered) for closing of the Olympics, featuring gold medal winners, medals and closing fireworks. Olympic Flag Handover sheet is cancelled by a pictorial 24 August Bird's Nest/London Eye handstamp. **Prices** £15.99; postage £1.50; postcards 60p plus postage if ordered separately; maxicards same design as FDC with Bird's Nest stamp, or different with London Eye stamp for 1908, 1948 & 2012 Games £9 each plus postage ●



Benham 'Armistice 1918' FDC, bearing the final *Lest we Forget* miniature sheet and '11th hour, 11th day, 11th month' cachet, repeated in the handstamp for The Mall, London SW1. Media code BPE08011A, product code BLCS 413A. **Price** £11.50; postage £2.50 ●



Summer Isles Four local stamps, issued 7 August, feature a map of Tanera Mor, the main island. **Prices** Mint set £1.97; miniature sheet £2.40; FDC with four stamps cancelled with a bi-coloured datestamp £4; FDC with 1PS (£1 stamp) plus earlier £1PS stamp sent by 'Inter-Island' service and posted at Achiltibuie, Ross-shire, £5; postage £1.03 UK, £2.09 Europe, £2.83 rest of world ●



Nene Valley Railway Sheet of nine 25p railway letter stamps, depicting a mail bag exchange apparatus, a TPO carriage interior, restoration work, etc. Issued 21 July. **Prices** Sheet £2.25; serviced FDC with three stamps tied with NVR TPO Museum & Workshop handstamp, and Royal Mail 1st class definitive cancelled with NVR TPO datestamp, £4.95; postage 50p ●



Colin Campbell FDC for the 70th anniversary of the *Maia*/*Mercury* flight and *Mercury*'s flight from Dundee to Walvis Bay near Cape Town – at 6045 miles, the longest non-stop flight ever made by a seaplane. Sponsored by Dundee City Council. **Price** £2.50; postage 50p ●

Orders and enquiries

The Benham Group Unit K Concept Court, Shearway Business Park, Folkestone CT19 4RG. Telephone 08708 500 654. Online orders: www.benham.co.uk

Buckingham Covers Warren House, Shearway Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4BF. Telephone 01303 278137. Fax 01303 279429. Website www.buckinghamcovers.com

CDS Covers Direct 148 Hayes Chase, west Wickham BR4 0JE. Telephone 020 8776 0820. Website www.cdscoversdirect.com

Colin G Campbell 11 Denoon Terrace, Dundee DD2 2EL. e-mail campbell933@btinternet.com

Civil Defence Association T Essex-Lopresti, 24 Paxton Close, Matlock DE4 3TD. Telephone 01629 55738. e-mail aedissel@btinternet.com

Cotswold and Stuart Covers PO Box 100, York YO26 9SS. Telephone 08707 423962. e-mail em@postmark.co.uk

GB Covers 102 Regal Way, Kenton, Harrow HA3 0RY. e-mail derek@gbcovers.co.uk

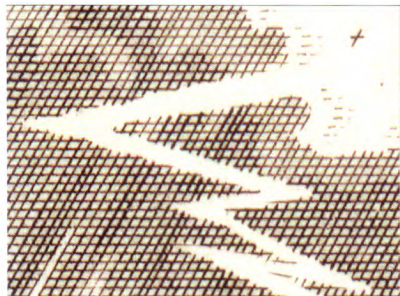
Nene Valley Railway (Stamps) Wansford Station, Stibington, Peterborough PE8 6LR. Telephone 01780 784444.

Summer Isles Philatelic Bureau West Croftnuisk, Edradyne, Aberfeldy PH15 2JU

M Tanner 180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon CR0 2LA. Fax/Answerphone 020 8684 9757 (credit card orders only)

Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words. The text should briefly describe the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear, and give retail prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis, and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Copy for consideration for the January *Bulletin* should be sent to The Editor (address on p67) by 9 November. Copy for February should arrive by 8 December. Royal Mail cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning announcements in this Covers section.

Competitions Win the 2008 Yearbook in two competitions



August identify The detail is from the 3d Olympic Games stamp of 1948. The winner was J Taylor of South Africa.

August knowledge Answers: 1) David Gentleman; 2) Blue; 3) 1969. The winner was S Nicol of Liverpool.

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 November *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to November *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 What were the colours of the 2d and 6d Machin stamps issued in 1968?
- 2 Who designed the 2008 Christmas Pantomime stamps?
- 3 In which year was a stamp featuring the National Giro symbol issued?

Send your answer (addressed to either November *Identify* competition or November *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 14 December will each receive a 2008 Yearbook. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, FDCs or stamp cards will be awarded in each competition. These competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

Until 23 December 'Timeless & Classic: Elizabeth II, Queen & Icon', BPMA exhibition, Wedgwood Visitor Centre, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent. Weekdays 09.00-17.00, weekends 10.00-17.00. **Enquiries** 01782 282 986 (Wedgwood), 020 7239 2570 (BPMA).

until April 2009 'Lions, Leopards, Unicorns & Dragons' exhibition at BPMA. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

30 October - 1 November Philatex (London International Stamp & Cover Show) at Lawrence Hall, Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, London SW1. Admission free. 110 dealers, **Enquiries** 01793 513431.

31 October Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture 2008: From the Azores to New Zealand by Patrick Maselis, at Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, 17.00. Send SAE for ticket to D F Tett, PO Box 34, Wheathampstead AL4 8JY.

1 November GB Philatelic Society meeting at Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, from 11.00. **Enquiries** P Tanner, 01753 887755.

6 November Lecture 'Changing Faces' of Post Office architecture by Julian Stray at BPMA. **Enquiries** 020 7329 2570 or info@postalheritage.org.uk

15 November Bolton PS All Day Auction at Masonic Hall, Bolton/Radcliffe Road, Bolton. Viewing 09.30, auction 12.15. 1200 lots. **Enquiries** 01204 307252.

22-23 November Collector's Club of GB Show (stamps, coins, FDCs, etc) at East of England Showground, Peterborough. Admission £10 (from 08.30), £6.50 (after 10.30). **Enquiries** 01778 391123.

27 November Lecture The GPO Film Unit by Patrick Russell, at BPMA, 19.00. Free – book places on 020 7239 2570 or e-mail info@postalheritage.org.uk •

Late news



Royal Mail update Post Office Ltd, together with Royal Mail, is introducing a new range of 'Post & Go' machines, manufactured by Wincor Nixdorf, at Post Office branches. The introduction started at The Galleries office in Bristol on 8 October. By 20 November they should be installed at branches in Basingstoke, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Chichester, Derby, Doncaster, Fareham, Grimsby, Guildford, Hastings, Leeds, London (two), Maidenhead, Maidstone, Reading, South Shields, Sunderland and Walsall. The machines issue two types of label – one for immediate use after a letter or package has been weighed, and another type which can be taken away for future use. The first type is not dissimilar to the 'Horizon' labels produced at Post Office counters and introduced in 2002. The second type resembles a conventional stamp and bears the Machin head of The Queen; it can be printed in four versions – 1st class UK standard and Large letters (to 100g), and for basic European and overseas rates. An example is shown above. We hope to give further details of these developments in future issues •

The Smilers for Kids stamps/labels (see the October and November *Bulletins*) are available in sheets of 20 as well as in sheets of 10, in packs with games, stickers etc. Both sheet of 20 and the packs cost £7.95 each, all available from Tallents House. There are four sheets/packs – Mr Men, Noddy, Flower Fairies, and Peter Rabbit •

Following the death of Francis Machin, works of art and belongings of his parents, Arnold and Patricia Machin, were auctioned on 19 September and 1 October. A cast of The Queen, as used on the definitive stamp, sold for £15,700, and an unadopted design for the 2d definitive sold for £1200. Douglas Myall will report further in his 'Mainly Machins' column next month •

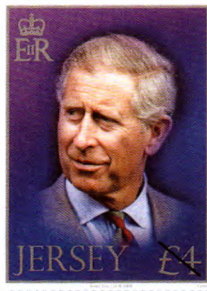
The cylinder numbers and colours for the Lest We Forget stamps (6 November) are: D1 silver D1 cyan (blue) D1 magenta D1 yellow D1 black D1 phosphor. The year '2008' is to be seen in the phosphor bands •

The third of the Scottish labels on the 'Glorious United Kingdom' generic sheet shows the monument in Edinburgh to philosopher Dugald Stewart (1753-1828), not Edinburgh University Cloisters as given in the description on page 365 of our August issue. We regret any confusion •

Please note that the Design Classics stamps (September, pages 14-15) were shown as proofs. The third stamp (the Mini car) will be captioned simply 'Mini', not as shown in the illustration. The Design Classics generic sheet will contain the Mini stamp. A further Design Classics generic sheet, in March, will bear a Concorde stamp •

Exhibiting seminar The NPS and ABPS are arranging a seminar on One-frame displays, at the Royal Philatelic Society London, on 4 December 2008. Dr Alan Huggins will discuss the creating of exhibits, and the judging criteria. Tickets are £5 (£3 NPS members). Places are limited, so applications must be made by 29 November – send a SAE to Christopher Oliver, National Philatelic Society, c/o BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL or visit www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps where a booking form is also available •

Royal birthday stamp Shown here is the £4 stamp to be issued by Jersey on 14 November to mark the 60th birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales •



This new stamp will be issued in sheetlets of four and also in a miniature sheet. Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Postal Headquarters, Jersey JE1 1AB. Telephone 01534 516320. Visit website www.jerseystamps.com

A new range of Smilers sheets for Christmas



Prices

Sheet of 10 x 1st class	£7.50
Sheet of 20 x 1st class or 10 x 81p	£13.50 (£12.50 each for two or more sheets)
Sheet of 20 x 2nd class	£8.50 (£8 each for two or more sheets)
Generic sheet with eight 1st class, eight 2nd class and four 81p Christmas stamps with pre-printed labels	£8.85.
Handling charge:	£1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 elsewhere

The Christmas Generic sheet was shown in last month's *Bulletin*. The 1st class Smiler is shown on page 72 of this issue. For details of the Smilers service see the leaflet/order form in post offices, phone 0845 074 2000 UK (+44 131 316 7489 from overseas), or visit www.royalmail.com/smilers

This Christmas, your own images (yourself, family, pets, house, etc) can be printed onto the labels of four new Christmas Smilers sheets, containing 10 or 20 1st class, 20 2nd class, or 10 81p stamps for overseas mail. Also available is a Generic sheet, containing eight 1st class, eight 2nd class and four 81p Christmas stamps and pre-printed labels.

All sheets contain the Pantomime Christmas stamps, featuring characters from the much-loved pantomimes Cinderella, Aladdin and Snow White.

Smilers stamps are a joy to collect or to use to brighten your Christmas mail.



Royal Mail, Talents House,
21 South Gyle Crescent,
Edinburgh EH12 9PB

Telephone orders:
UK 08457 641 641
overseas +44 131 316 7483

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