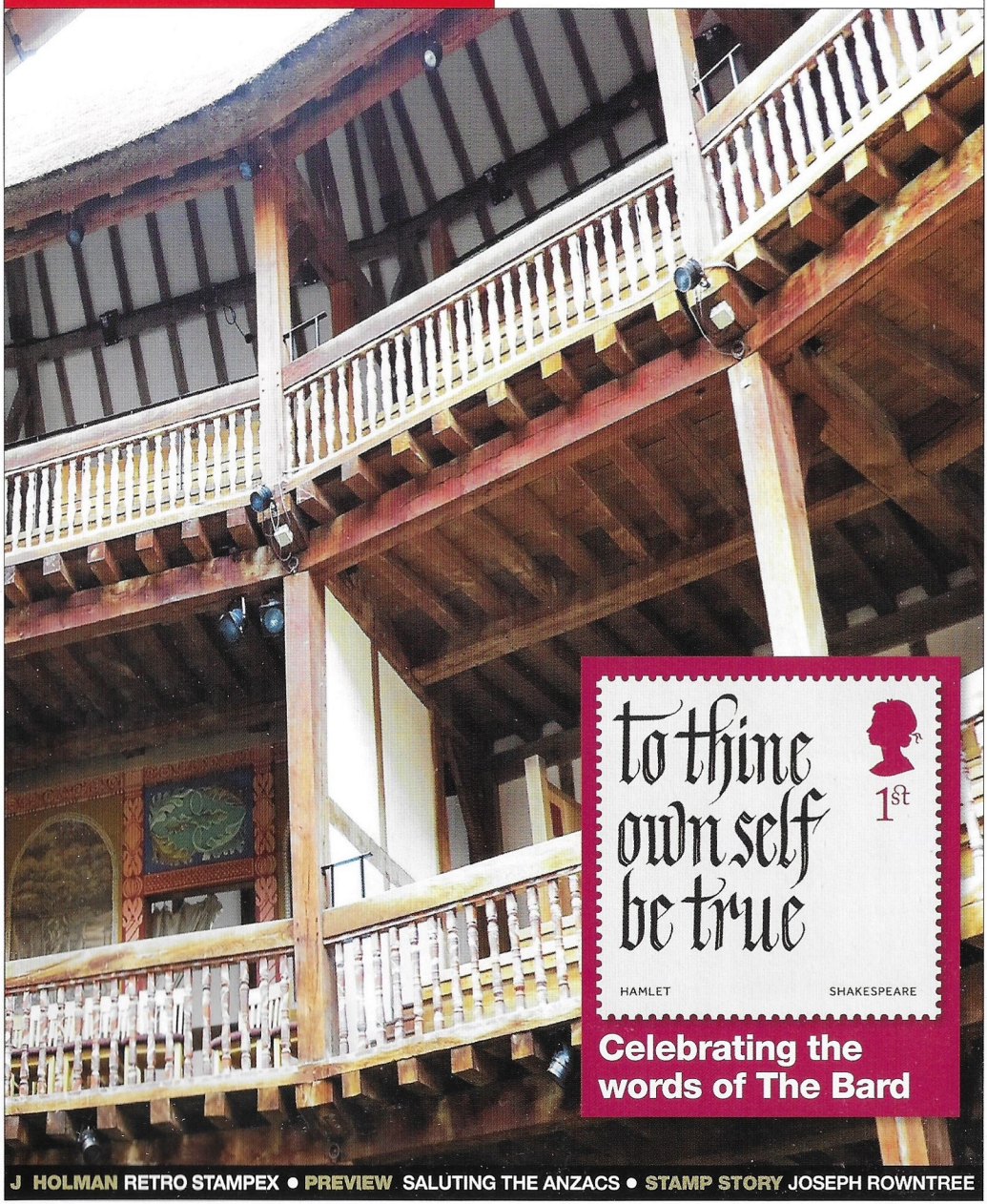
BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 7 | MARCH 2016 | £1.95

Special Stamp preview: The Queen's 90th Birthday



J HOLMAN RETRO STAMPEX • PREVIEW SALUTING THE ANZACS • STAMP STORY JOSEPH ROWNTREE



March stamp tributes Royal Mail Editor William Doherty on two inspiring new issues

HEROES REAL AND IMAGINARY MAKE MARCH an epic month for collectors. The British Humanitarians issue features people who have demonstrated the power of human kindness on a scale that demands superhuman amounts of courage and vision. And comic strip stars The Broons and Oor Wullie appear on two colourful Commemorative Stamp Sheets, reflecting their heroic status among generations of Scots.

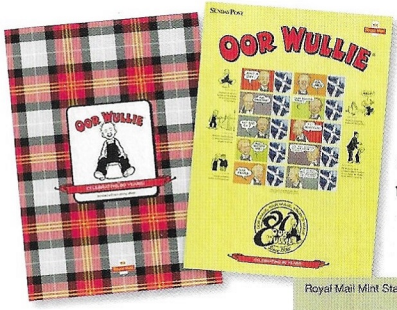
In the Humanitarians set, out on 15 March, collectors will love the crisp, powerful, original black and white photography that serves up stunning portraits (including one by Lord Snowdon) of our kindly heroes. But you might not recognise all the faces. And that is the point. The stamps invite us to celebrate the achievements of six great characters who were motivated by quietly and modestly helping others, not by seeking public acclaim. The Presentation Pack, shown below, offers a fascinating starting point to find out more. A philatelic preview of British Humanitarians appeared on page 164, and on page 212 we focus on just one of them – prepare to be amazed by confectionery magnate and social reformer Joseph Rowntree.

The Commemorative Sheets, released on 8 March, salute the iconic characters from the newspaper cartoon *The Broons* and *Oor Wullie*, who have delighted legions of loyal fans for 80 years. Two sheets of ten St Andrew's flag stamps with illustrated labels are housed in unique folders, designed using a specially commissioned bespoke tartan. With a strong niche appeal on both sides of the Atlantic, they deserve a special mention this month, though full preview details were given on page 168 of last month's *Bulletin*.

In this edition we have what are, for many collectors, the most exciting issues of 2016. So why not turn to pages 196 and 199 for the previews, see what you think, and let us have your views?

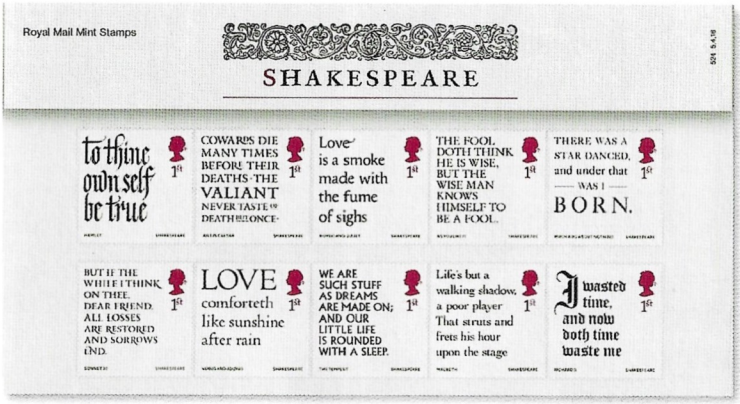
W Doherty

Below: watch out for two new issues this month – British Humanitarians stamps and sheets marking the 80th anniversary of *The Broons* and *Oor Wullie*. To order, visit www.royalmail.com/thebroons, quoting the *Bulletin* media code CDN





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● **Royal Mail Editor** William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw ● Price £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Annual subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address above) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House: £12.25 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of world ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

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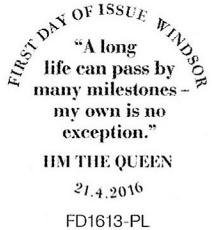
Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB



FD1613-TH



FD1613-NP



FD1613-PL

Birthday celebrations A full and happy life of dedicated duty and service to the nation – there is much to celebrate as The Queen enjoys her 90th birthday. Royal Mail marks this royal milestone with a very special stamp issue next month

FROM A CHEERFUL TODDLER TO WISE SOVEREIGN ELDER, The Queen's career and joyful times with her family are recorded on six glorious stamps issued next month. A cuddle with her father, side by side with her loyal husband, on one of her walkabouts, meeting Mandela – images of what must surely be memorable moments for Her Majesty, as well as for the nation, grace The Queen's 90th Birthday issue released on 21 April, the date of her birthday.

There is a brand new photograph too, which will feature on the Miniature Sheet stamps and for the moment is something of a secret; while you can see the stamp images on these pages, the Miniature Sheet visuals are to be kept under wraps until April. A Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Souvenir, Press Sheet, Stamp Cards, three Coin Covers and Retail Stamp Book complete this beautiful issue.

Stamp by stamp The issue comes in a mix of values – three First Class stamps and three £1.52 stamps. (The Miniature Sheet comprises four First Class.)

Her Majesty with her father In this charming 1929 portrait, the three-year-old Princess Elizabeth smiles with her father Albert, who would ascend the throne as King George VI in 1936 after the abdication of Edward VIII. First Class.

Attending the State Opening of Parliament Her Majesty as she is today, Britain's



longest-reigning sovereign. This picture shows Queen Elizabeth leaving Buckingham Palace in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach for the State Opening of Parliament on 27 May 2012. First Class.

Her Majesty with Princess Anne and Prince Charle Alongside her many sovereign duties Queen Elizabeth has brought up a large, busy family. Here, a young mother in 1952, she relaxes at Balmoral with Charles, aged three, and Anne, aged two. First Class.

A royal audience The Queen has always had a knack of pleasing the crowd. Here cheerful well-wishers meet a smiling sovereign on tour in New Zealand ▶

HM The Queen's 90th Birthday – Specifications

Date of issue	21 April
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Kate Stephens
Stamp format	Over Square Landscape. Horizontal se-tenent strips of 3
Stamp size	37mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	30/60
Perforations	14 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



HM The Queen's 90th Birthday	
Presentation Pack	£9.55
Stamps	£6.48
Miniature Sheet	£2.56
Press Sheet	£42.24
Prestige Stamp Book	£15.11
First Day Cover, Stamps	£8.26
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£3.55
Stamp Cards, set of 11	£4.95
Coin Covers	details in later Bulletin

Top: illustrated Presentation Pack

for the Silver Jubilee year of 1977, wearing a ceremonial Maori cloak. £1.52

A state visit to the USA The Queen showed her natural charm on a 1957 trip to the United States, where even the citizens of an avowed republic had to admit that the young royal was captivating company. She is pictured on a successful visit to Virginia. £1.52.

HM The Queen with Nelson Mandela It was an extraordinary occasion by any measure. Nelson Mandela, for decades a prisoner of the apartheid regime, now President of his homeland, visited Britain in 1996. He received a rapturous reception from Britons, and The Queen's welcome was characteristically gracious. Here Her Majesty and Mandela ride through London in a carriage. £1.52.

Also in The Queen's 90th Birthday issue is an illustrated Presentation Pack, designed by Supple Studio, with commentary by Robert Hardman and a poem entitled *The Crown* by Carol Ann Duffy, the Poet Laureate.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers with special postmarks (shown on page 196) should reach Royal Mail by 21 May. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (address on page 224, quoting the *Bulletin* media code CDN), for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. The alternative postmarks have the location WINDSOR.

Details of the Stamp Books and Coin Covers will appear in a future *Bulletin* ●

Acknowledgements: HM The Queen with her father, c.1930 photograph by Marcus Adams ©Camera Press London; HM The Queen attends the State Opening of Parliament, 2012 ©Peter Macdiarmid/Getty Images; HM The Queen with Princess Anne and Prince Charles, 1952 ©Lisa Sheridan/Studio Lisa/ Getty Images; HM The Queen visits New Zealand, 1977 ©Anwar Hussein/Getty Images; HM The Queen with The Duke of Edinburgh, 1957 ©AP/PA Images; HM The Queen with Nelson Mandela, 1996 ©Julian Parker/UK Press via Getty Images. Presentation Pack typography by Mike Pratley.

Definitive news Gooseberry Green is the tasteful tone of a new 2016 Machin definitive issue, accompanied by First Day Covers, Presentation Packs and alternative postmarks. Country definitives are also announced this month.



Left: the new Gooseberry Green Machin stamp on its Tallents HouseFirst Day Cover

Below left : Windsor postmark on First Day Cover

Below: the Tallents House pictorial postmark

Machin definitive stamp A new postal rate will come into effect this month, with one new definitive stamp issued in readiness towards the end of March.
• The £1.05 Gooseberry Green covers the following postal rates: Royal Mail International Standard Letters Europe; Royal Mail International Standard Letters Zone 1; and Royal Mail International Standard Letters Zone 2.

Machin definitive First Day Cover Featuring the Royal Mail coat of arms, the elegant First Day Cover is available with either a Tallents House or Windsor postmark. The cover, created by leading stamp designer Robert Maude, is priced at £1.74. You can order it from the address on page 224 or buy online at www.royalmail.com/definitives2016

A First Day envelope is also available, price 30p, for collectors wishing to create their own covers.





FD 1607-TH

Machin Definitive Stamp – Specifications	
Date of issue	22 March
Number of stamps	One
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	25
Perforations	15 x 14, definitive standard
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

Beginner's guide...

What? Regular UK postage stamps are also known as 'definitives' and 'Machins', after their designer Arnold Machin.

When? The Machin stamp was first issued on 5 June 1967 and since then Machin's timeless, iconic design has featured on more than 200 billion stamps. The Queen herself called the design 'admirable'.

Why collect? Over the years the simple design has incorporated a huge variety of Machin specifications to excite the collector's enduring interest – including numerous colour palettes, printing processes, printers and adhesive methods.

Find out more The Postal Museum has a wealth of information on Machins – visit www.postalheritage.org.uk and search under 'Machins'. Also try the Machins Collectors Club at www.machins.org. Douglas Myall (at www.deegam.com) is a leading Machin expert whose writing for the *Bulletin* includes a booklet about Machins, now available online from info@bpb.london ●



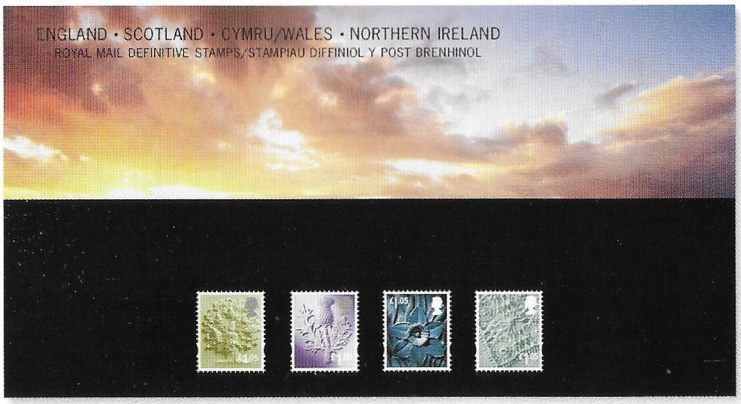
Definitive Stamps Presentation Pack The Presentation Pack, shown above, contains an information card compiled by Douglas Muir, who writes with expert insight into the Machin story. Cost: £1.55.



Country definitive stamps and Presentation Pack The crisply styled country stamps, with their sharp reliefs of national emblems – of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales – are available individually, including the new £1.05 value, as a set of four at £4.20, or in the traditional £4.70 Presentation Pack that includes an illustrated backing card with philatelic details from Douglas Muir.

Country definitive First Day Covers A single Country definitive of the new value and an evocative landscape from the relevant country is carried on four First Day Covers, each containing a special filler card. You can choose the Tallents House postmark or an alternative mark for each of the four capital cities (as shown on facing page). Price: £1.74 or £6.96 for the set of four covers ●

Country Definitive Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	22 March
Number of stamps	Four
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25
Perforations	15 x 14, definitive standard
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	PVA



Left: the traditional Presentation Pack with all four new Country definitives

Below: First Day Covers with a different postmark and scenic illustration for each country represented











FD1608-TH



FD1609-PL



FD1610-NP



FD1611-PH

Postmark order numbers for First Day of Issue definitives, 22 March 2016

	Tallents House	Pictorial	Non-pictorial
UK Machin definitive, £1.05	FD1607-TH	FD1607-PL	FD1607-NP
England Country definitive, £1.05	FD1608-TH	FD1608-PL	FD1608-NP
Scotland Country definitive, £1.05	FD1609-TH	FD1609-PL	FD1609-NP
Wales Country definitive, £1.05	FD1610-TH	FD1610-PL	FD1610-NP
Northern Ireland Country definitive £1.05p	FD1611-TH	FD1611-PL	FD1611-NP



Post & Go Update Martyn Fry reports on new underprints and overprints at home and away



Spring Stampex On 17 February machines A006, A008 and A009 were at the Business Design Centre in Islington for the Spring Stampex launch of the Royal Mail Heritage Transport stamps, marking 500 Years of Royal Mail. This was complemented by a special exhibition overprint on the Machin stamp (both shown left). Also available was a digital printing of the locomotive stamp from the new Royal Mail Heritage set. To help celebrate the launch, Andrew Davidson, the designer of the new stamps, was on the Post & Go stand signing First Day Covers. For more details about the design of the Post & Go Heritage stamps, see page 176 of February *Bulletin*.

Full steam ahead The Travelling Post Office locomotive design from the Royal Mail Heritage set was made available from the STEAM GWR machine at Swindon on 25 February to mark the 175th Anniversary of Swindon Works. It carries the underprint 'Swindon 175' for the remainder of 2016. The locomotive replaces the Machin design.

Perth and beyond Royal Mail Post & Go machines will be at the 87th Scottish Congress at the Dewar's Centre in Perth on 15 and 16 April, along with Jersey's JE01 machine.

Union Flag, Machin and Lion Post & Go designs will be on sale carrying an exhibition overprint. Jersey Crest and Flag designs (shown below) will also be available. Next stop on the exhibition front for Post & Go will be New York 2016 in May.

Royal Air Force The RAF museums at Hendon and Cosford have joined the growing number of sites with dedicated Post & Go machines. The two sites carry the 'Royal Air Force' identifier, printed on Union Flag and Machin designs •

Send your questions about Post & Go to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.





Stamp Scene John Holman keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

UK diary dates

11-12 March Southern England Stamp Show, Farnborough, Hants. See below for details.

17 March Royal Philatelic Society London display: Ireland by Des Quail, John Sussex and Peter Wood. RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, 1pm. Non-members welcome by prior arrangement: call 020 7486 1044.

18 March Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Admission free. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

19 March WESTBEX Stamp & Postcard Fair, hosted by Thatcham & District Philatelic Society, Kennet School, Stoney Lane, Thatcham RG19 4LL, 10am to 4pm. 22 dealers, country meeting of National Philatelic Society. Enquiries: G Stewart, 01635 866942.

19 March GB Philatelic Society meeting: Edward VII by David Milsted, 11am, Ireland – British Connection by John Sussex, 2.15pm, at Grosvenor Auctions, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LT. Enquiries: P Tanner, 01753 887755.



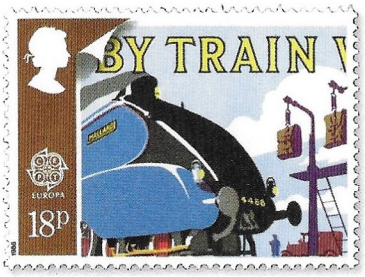
8 April Strand Stamp Fair: see 18 March for details.

9 April Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair, Belmont Hall, Wellington Centre, Telford TF1 1LU, 10am to 3pm. Free entry, good range of stalls. Enquiries: B Hemmings, 01694 720192.

15-16 April Scottish Philatelic Congress, Dewars Centre, Perth. Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm.

16 April Kent Federation Spring Rally, Mascalls Academy, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6LT.

16 April GB Philatelic Society meeting: First Low Value Surface Printed Postage Stamps by Bob Galland (11am), Travelling Post Offices of GB by Clive Jones (2.15pm), at Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. Enquiries: P Tanner, 01753 887755.



23 April Spring Stamp Essex, 10.30am to 4pm, County Upper School, Beetons Way, Bury St Edmunds IP32 6RF2. Details at www.stampessex.org.uk ●

Exhibitions

The Southern England Stamp Show, billed as the biggest and best two-day stamp show in the region, will be held at the Farnborough Leisure Centre, Westmead, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7LD on 11 and 12 March. It is open Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. There is free admission, programme and raffle tickets, nearly 60 dealers covering most aspects of philately, and extensive parking nearby. See www.southernenglandstampshow.com for further information.

The Scottish Philatelic Congress will be held at Dewars Centre, Perth on 15 and 16 April, and has been organised by the Caledonian Philatelic Society to celebrate its 110th anniversary. The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at the Belfry Hotel, Cambridge from 21 to 24 July.



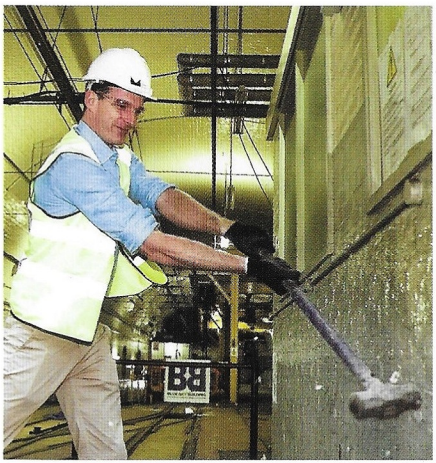
Major international exhibitions will be held in 2016 in New York from 28 May to 4 June and in Taipei (pictured right), Taiwan from 21 to 26 October ● ▶

The Postal Museum

The Postal Museum (formerly the British Postal Museum & Archive), currently located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on the second Saturday of each month (10am to 5pm). A temporary exhibition, Unstitching the Uniform, is on show until 30 June. The long-running Post Office in the Community exhibition can be seen at the Blists Hill Victorian Town, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire (www.blistshill.org – see the *Bulletin* May 2012) and a temporary exhibition, Pop it in the Post: Your World at the End of the Street, is on show at Havering Museum, 19-21 High Street, Romford, Essex until 26 March.

Some 25 online exhibitions can be seen on the Postal Museum website (www.postalheritage.org.uk), including Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes.

Tours of the Postal Museum Archive at Freeling House take place on 6 April and 1 June, and of the Museum Store at Debden, Essex on 2 March, 6 April, 4 May and 1 and 6 June (see the *Bulletin* August 2013 for a feature on the Debden Store). For details of all events see the Postal Museum website, contact The Postal Museum on 020 7239 2570, or email info@postalheritage.org.uk, for a copy of its events guide and to book for tours or talks.



Above: at the recent Mail Rail 'ground-breaking' ceremony, hosted by the Postal Museum, Dan Snow wields a symbolic sledgehammer (see page 179 for project details)

The Friends of The Postal Museum publish *Cross Post* magazine and arrange behind-the-scenes visits to stamp printers and other places of interest. At the Friends' AGM on 1 December, Chairman Brian Sole presented a cheque to Chris Taft, the Head of Collections, for the final instalment of a £5,000 donation to buy a secure display cabinet for the new Postal Museum. After the AGM, staff from the former BPMA gave an excellent presentation about the development plans for the new museum and the spectacular creative design concept for the Mail Rail experience (shown in development, left). Julian Stray presented his research on the Post Office in 1890, contrasting the celebration of 50 years of the Penny Post with the substantial staff unrest over pay and conditions at that time.

Friends activities proposed for 2016 include a visit to the College of Arms, Apsley House and to the London Transport Museum to see the poster collection ●

Stamp-related exhibitions

Stamps marking the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare go on sale in April. A display, By Me William Shakespeare: A Life in Writing, at the Inigo Rooms, Somerset House (East Wing), London WC2 until 29 May will include Shakespeare's will. The British Library's Shakespeare in Ten Acts exhibition opens on 15 April and includes the only surviving play script in The Bard's hand, two of only six authentic Shakespeare signatures and the rare First Folio edition, along with film, paintings, photographs, costumes and props. Visit www.shakespeare400.org for details of anniversary exhibitions, performances, talks and more.

The Queen's 90th birthday will be commemorated by special stamps on 21 April. On the same day an exhibition, Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style from The Queen's Wardrobe, opens at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. Similar exhibitions will be held at Buckingham Palace in August and at Windsor Castle in September. A Shakespeare and the Royal Library display is now on show at Windsor Castle until 1 January 2017. See the Royal Collection Trust website (www.royalcollection.org.uk) for details.

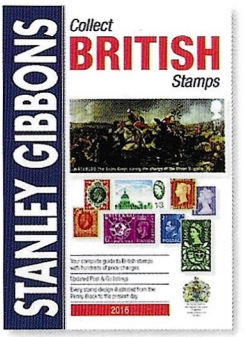


Stamps celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter go on sale in July. The Romance & Realism exhibition at the Beatrix Potter Gallery, Hawkshead from 12 March to 30 October (daily 11am to 4.30pm) includes original watercolours by Potter. Another exhibition, at Wordsworth House in Cockermouth, opens the same day and runs until 30 June (daily except Friday, 11am to 4pm). Visit www.lakesculture.co.uk for more information.

Special stamps out on 2 September mark the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London, famously reported by Samuel Pepys in his diary. An exhibition, Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire, Revolution, is on at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, south-east London until 28 March (daily 10am to 5pm). There is an admission charge: book tickets on 020 8858 4422. The Fire! Fire! exhibition at the Museum of London runs from 23 July until April 2017. Visit www.museumoflondon.org for details and to book tickets.

Royal Mail issued stamps commemorating Charlotte Brontë in 1980 and 2005. An exhibition marking the bicentenary of her birth is on at the National Portrait Gallery, London until 14 August. It includes drawings, letters and journals. Admission free, open daily 10am to 6pm, Thursday and Friday until 9pm. Enquiries: 020 7306 0055 ●

Reading and reference



The 2016 edition of Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps* is now available. Published for nearly 50 years, *Collect British Stamps* is a main source of reference for collectors of basic British stamps – definitive and country stamps, specials, postage dues, and now Post & Go issues. Listings include stamps with different watermarks and gauges of perforation, gummed and self-adhesive, but not shades, changes to gum composition, or watermark inverted or sideways varieties. Even so, *Collect British Stamps* amounts to a hefty 312 pages, over a third taken up by stamps issued since 2000. The chronological listing can make life difficult for collectors of Machin definitives as listings are widespread throughout the volume. The consolidated listing of Machins in the *GB Concise Catalogue* might also be considered for Collect British Stamps.

The *Commemorative Design Index* of stamps issued 1953 to 2015 is useful for quick reference, especially for thematic collectors, and the introductory pages will repay reading, in particular with reference to catalogue prices. Although very common stamps are given the minimum catalogue price of 10p, it is stated that the lowest price charged for individual stamps or sets from Stanley Gibbons is £1. Some self-adhesive stamps are difficult to soak off envelopes and one wonders if the catalogue price for used examples refers to used on piece – perhaps this could be clarified in a future edition.

The 2015 Penny Black sheet with added Europhilex inscription is not mentioned, though a similar sheet for the 2010 exhibition is noted (but not given a catalogue ▸

number) and priced. The price of the Penny Black sheet is given as £2.75, which is presumably an error as the face value of the sheet is £2.52. *Collect British Stamps* is available from Royal Mail Tallents House, from the Stanley Gibbons shop, 399 Strand, London WC2, and by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Donnington Priory, Oxford Road, Newbury RG14 2JE (or call 01425 472363). Price is £14.95 ●

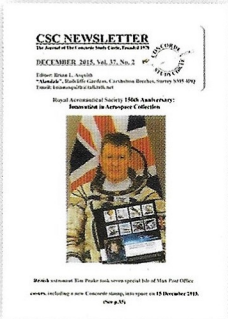
Society news



The December 2015 issue of *Stamp Lover*, journal of the National Philatelic Society (NPS), includes reports of recent displays of exhibition material and Gibraltar postal history, an article on collecting philatelic cards, comprehensive reviews of new catalogues, a useful checklist of articles in the British stamp magazines (including the *Bulletin*) from January to June 2015, a look at new issues from Bahamas, Canada, Hungary, Pitcairn and elsewhere, and a two-page listing of forthcoming local stamp fairs. The NPS, founded in 1899, has published *Stamp Lover* since 1908. For Society details contact Peter Mellor: 01582 762284 or npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk.

The December 2015 issue of *Eastern Angle*, the magazine of the East Anglian Postal History Society, includes features on the postal history of St Neots and St Osyth and reports of recent surcharge marks and labels. The main content comprises a lengthy round-up of news of recent changes to Post Office services in East Anglia based on national and local press reports, and includes photographs of many of the post offices mentioned. A summary of office closures, relocations and reopenings is provided by Ken Smith. The Society covers the counties of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, and the former Huntingdonshire. For details contact John Copeland on 01277 218128 or visit www.eaphsc.webs.com. The Society next meets at the Red Gables Resource Centre, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket on 2 April at 2pm.

The December 2015 issue of the *Concorde Study Circle Newsletter* proves that there is still great interest in Concorde long after it was withdrawn from service. The *Newsletter* reports on new Concorde stamps from Mozambique, Niger, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands and Togo, French personalised stamps showing Concorde, numerous Concorde postcards and other memorabilia. There is a special report on the Isle of Man's recent Royal Aeronautical Society issue which includes a Concorde stamp, and the carriage into space of a limited number of Isle of Man FDCs by Major Tim Peake. The *Newsletter* is always an interesting read, nicely produced with numerous colour illustrations. For details of the Study Circle contact Brian Asquith: Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches SM5 4PQ or brianasquith@talktalk.net.



The Forces Postal History Society (FPHS) has awarded the Harry Cope Memorial Award for Literature for 2015 jointly to Colin Tarbeart, author of *British West African Mail Packets to 1900 (Rates, Routes and Ships, Out and Home)*, and Nick Colley and Ian Muchall, editors of *Censorship in the Royal Air Force 1918-1956* (2nd edition). The FPHS is the foremost society for those interested in the study and the collecting of postal history relating to armed forces of all countries of the world (including the UN) and in particular British forces. For FPHS information visit www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk ●

New from the islands

Jersey Post will issue The Royal Legacy of Queen Victoria – King George V issue on 9 March, followed by Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday stamps on 21 April and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge – 5th Wedding Anniversary set on 29 April. The six-stamp King George V set is also accompanied by a Miniature Sheet and Presentation Pack. The six stamps map out a timeline of the reign of George V, Queen Victoria's second eldest grandson and famously a keen philatelist, and features portraits from the National Portrait Gallery. The final picture, *His Majesty King George V (1865-1936)*, which also appears on the Miniature Sheet, was painted by Jersey artist John Saint-Helier Lander in 1934. Commissioned to hang in Victoria College on the island, the portrait was unveiled in 1936 by George's son and heir Edward, Prince of Wales. Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, www.jerseystamps.com. Jersey has also issued a new Post & Go design – see page 202.

The Isle of Man Post Office's latest issues are royal celebration stamps marking the 90th birthday of The Queen, released on 6 February, the Battle of the Somme set (part three of the Isle of Man's First World War centenary series) and Battle of Jutland stamps, both issued on 17 February. The eight-stamp birthday issue comprises portraits by legendary royal photographer Arthur Edwards, who has taken pictures of the Royal Family in more than 100 countries for *The Sun* newspaper. See www.iomstamps.com or phone 01624 698430 to order.

Guernsey's next issues will be in May: Europa Think Green on 17 May and History of the British Monarchy from Alderney on 25 May. Enquiries: www.guernseystamps.com, 01481 716486 ●

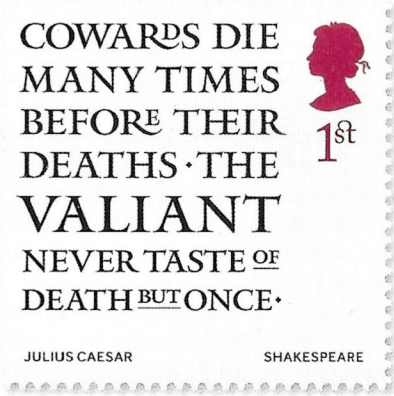


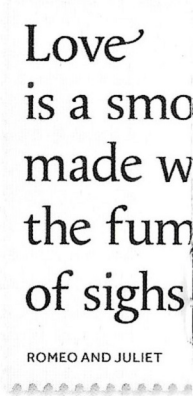
Below: this First World War centenary series from the Isle of Man was issued on 17 February, during Spring Stampex

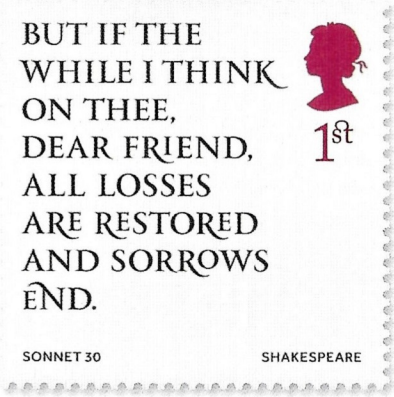


Left: these King George VI stamps are issued on 9 March, in The Royal Legacy of Queen Victoria series from Jersey Post

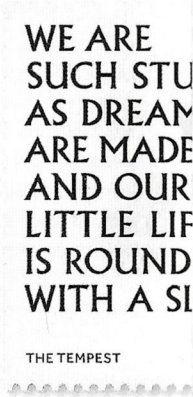








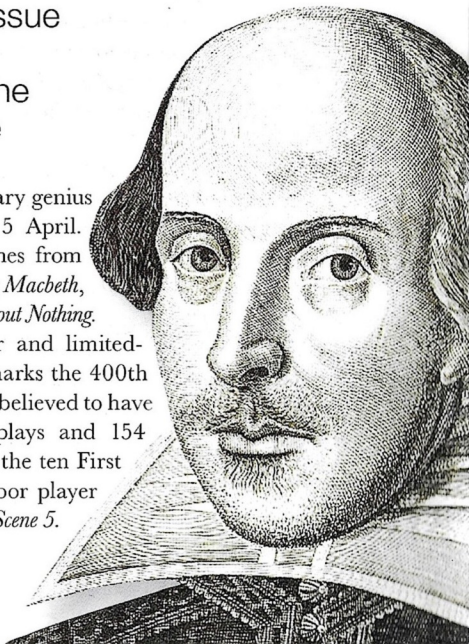


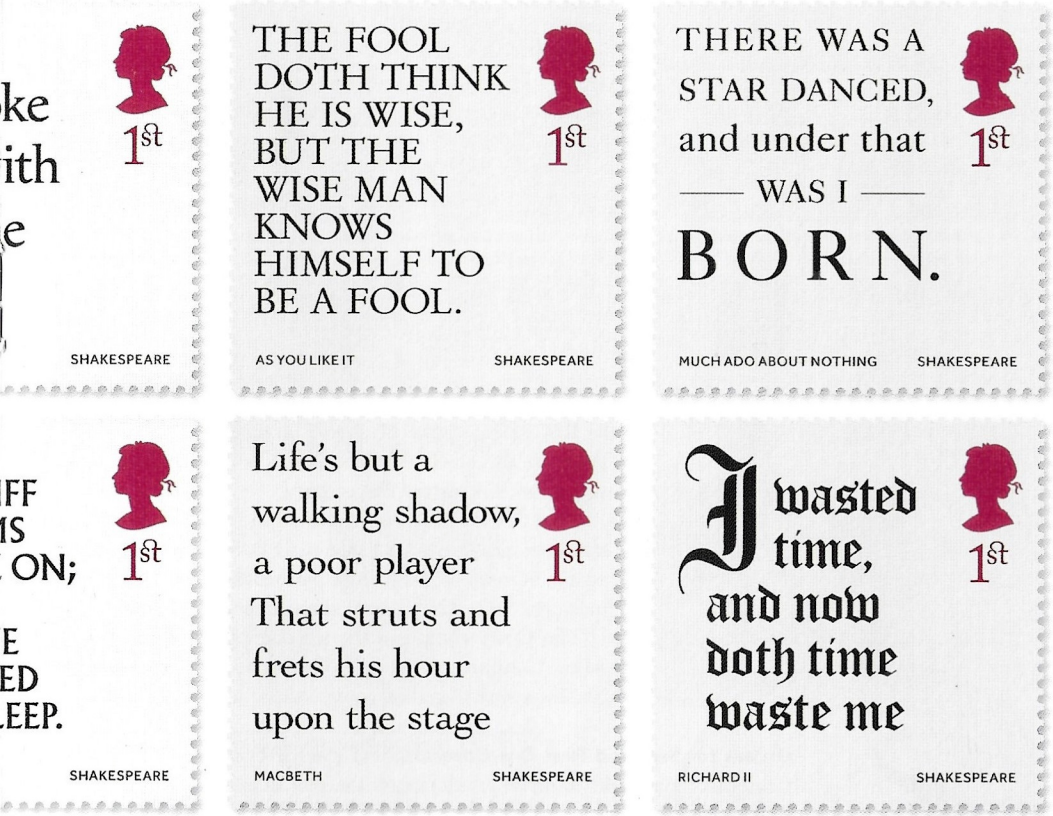


Words of the Bard A new special issue pays tribute to William Shakespeare – playwright, poet, actor and arguably the greatest writer in the English language

Literary legend The wise words of the world's greatest literary genius are celebrated by the Shakespeare stamp issue out on 5 April. Featured on the stamps are sharp, thought-provoking lines from some of William Shakespeare's most famous plays, including *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar*, *As You Like It* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

A Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Stamp Souvenir and limited-edition Coin Cover accompany the stamp issue, which marks the 400th anniversary of The Bard's death aged 52 on 23 April 1616, believed to have been in Stratford-upon-Avon. Shakespeare wrote 37 plays and 154 sonnets. Excerpts from some of those plays appearing on the ten First Class stamps include: 'Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player That struts and frets his hour upon the stage.' *Macbeth, Act 5, Scene 5.*





'Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs.' *Romeo and Juliet, Act 1, Scene 1.*
'Cowards die many times before their deaths. The valiant never taste of death but once.' *Julius Caesar, Act 2, Scene 2.*
'The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.' *As You Like It, Act 5, Scene 1.*
'I wasted time, and now doth time waste me.' *Richard II, Act 5, Scene 5.*

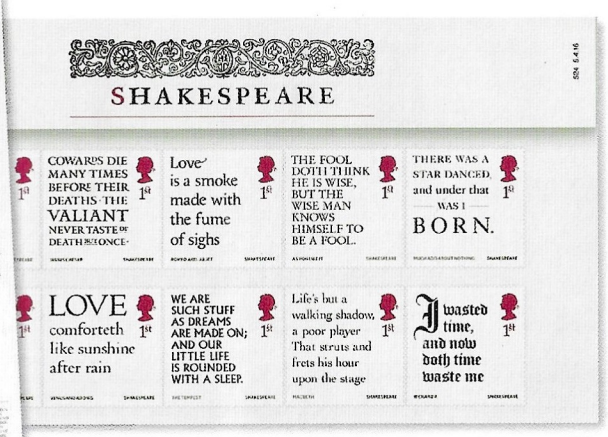
Above: the Shakespeare issue stamps are a literary tour of some of the playwright's great lines from his finest creations

Also in the issue is a crisply written Presentation Pack in which Sir Jonathan Bate, the leading Shakespeare scholar and former fellow of ▶

Shakespeare 2016 Special Stamp issue
Stamp set
Presentation Pack
First Day Cover Stamps
Stamp Souvenir
Stamp Cards (set of 10)
Coin Cover

Shakespeare Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	5 April
Number of stamps	Ten
Stamp design	The Chase
Stamp format	Square
	Two se-tenant strips of five
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA





the RSC, explores the playwright's private and literary life. There are also timelines of his life and notable editions of his works from 1593 to the 21st century.

In the Coin Cover inside envelope and insert Sir Jonathan examines Shakespeare's legacy and how his work inspires people even today. Stills from performances of The Bard's masterpieces around the world also appear.

The Cover comprises the ten stamps and three Royal Mint Commemorative £2 Crown Coins, representing Shakespeare's tragedies, comedies and historical plays.



FD1612-SHAKESPEARE 400

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers should reach Royal Mail by 5 April. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (address on page 224, quoting the *Bulletin* code CDN) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark, which bears the words 'In my mind's eye' from *Hamlet*. The alternative postmarks have the location Stratford-upon-Avon, famously Shakespeare's birthplace and now home, of course, to the RSC. The pictorial version has the line 'What's past is prologue' from *The Tempest* •



FD1612-TH



FD1612-TH RED



Stamp images © Royal Mail Group



Shakespeare Coin Cover – Specifications

Denomination	£2
Alloy	Inner: cupro-nickel/outer: nickel-brass
Production standard	Brilliant uncirculated
Weight	12g
Diameter	28.4mm
Shape	Round
Edge	Milled



FD1612-PL



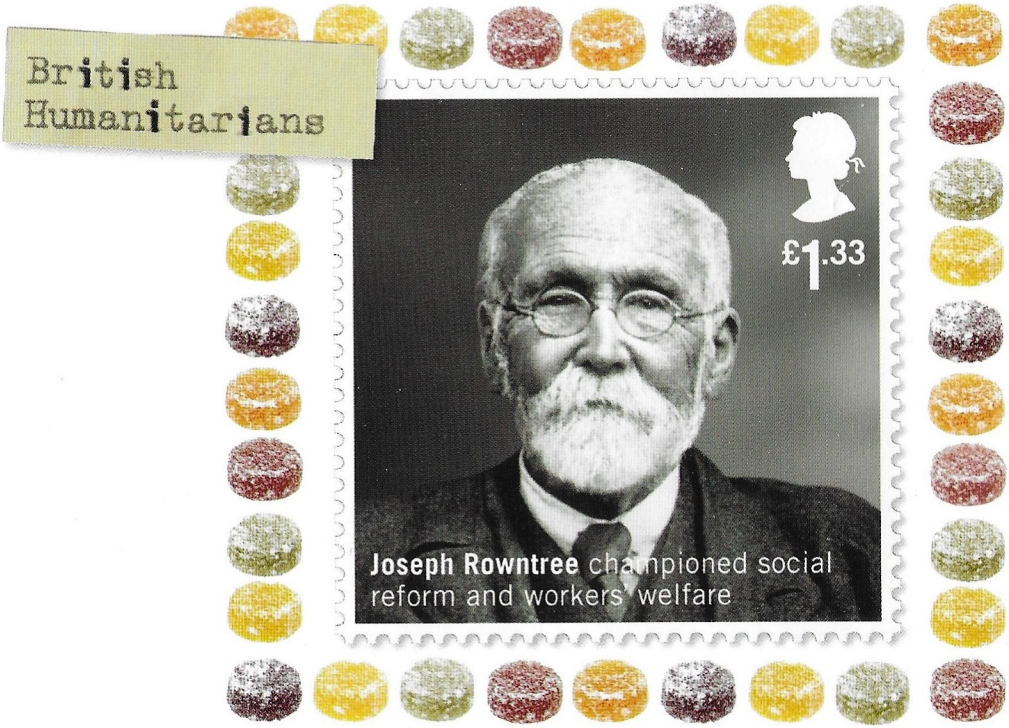
FD1612-PL RED



FD1612-NP

Above: the Shakespeare Coin Cover and the stamp issue's alternative pictorial and non-pictorial marks

Opposite page: the Presentation Pack, First Day Cover, Coin Cover handstamp and Tallents House postmarks



Friends and fruit gums

The work of Joseph Rowntree has bestowed a legacy of loyalty in the city of York and beyond

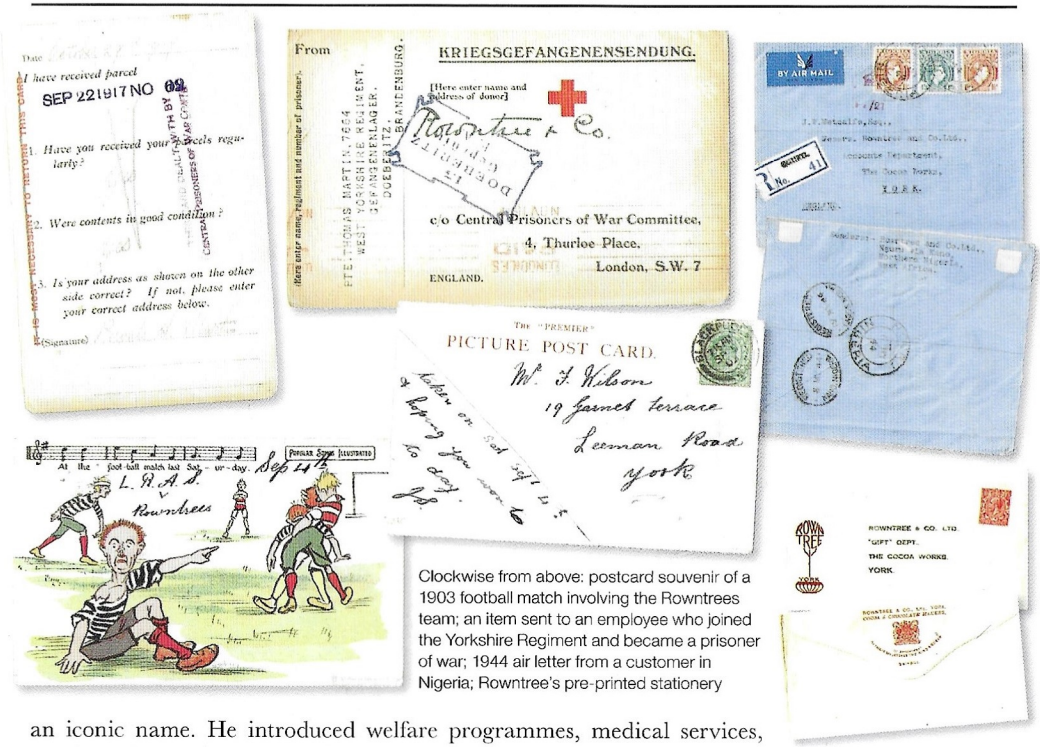
It is a sweet story by any standard. The man whose world-famous confectionary company brought you Fruit Pastilles and Kit Kats also supported the poor, protected workers and backed social reform. His inspiration began on a childhood visit to an Ireland devastated by the potato famine, where he witnessed the traumatic effects of poverty. That visit, coupled with his Quaker beliefs, sparked a lifelong passion for helping the disadvantaged.

Rowntree launched an extraordinary variety of philanthropic schemes alongside his astute commercial strategies that made York-based Rowntree's

British Humanitarians stamps are issued on 5 March



Postal history items courtesy of the Rowntree Trusts



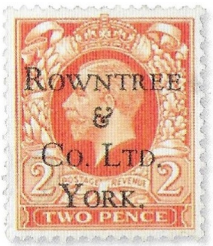
Clockwise from above: postcard souvenir of a 1903 football match involving the Rowntrees team; an item sent to an employee who joined the Yorkshire Regiment and became a prisoner of war; 1944 air letter from a customer in Nigeria; Rowntree's pre-printed stationery

an iconic name. He introduced welfare programmes, medical services, pension schemes and sickness benefits for his employees. In 1902 he built a 'garden village', New Earswick, on 123 acres of land near the original Earswick outside York. Rents were fixed to protect workers who lived in them. Every house had fruit trees and space to grow vegetables.

The name of Rowntree is best known across the world as a byword for sweet treats. Rowntree's has sold Fruit Pastilles since 1881, and their success was responsible for the company's early fortunes. Other iconic indulgences followed – Smarties in 1881 (originally called Chocolate Beans), Aero and Kit Kat in 1935, After Eight in 1962, Jelly Tots in 1965, the Yorkie bar in 1976.

While Rowntree's would continue to make a fortune with its sugary delights, Rowntree himself sweetened the bitter pill of capitalism with socio-economic generosity. He promoted social reform, striving to give working class families access to learning, welfare and decent housing. He ploughed half of his considerable fortune into establishing trusts to support this work. They included the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to carry out social research and support adult education, and the Joseph Rowntree Village Trust to construct good-quality yet but affordable accommodation for the working classes. The Rowntree trusts still operate today, seeking fairness in an unfair world.

Rowntree's commitment to his employees was reflected in their commitment to him. At his funeral in 1925, 2,000 people lined the streets of York to pay their respects •



Above: Rowntree's factory building in York included a post room where this official overprint was used

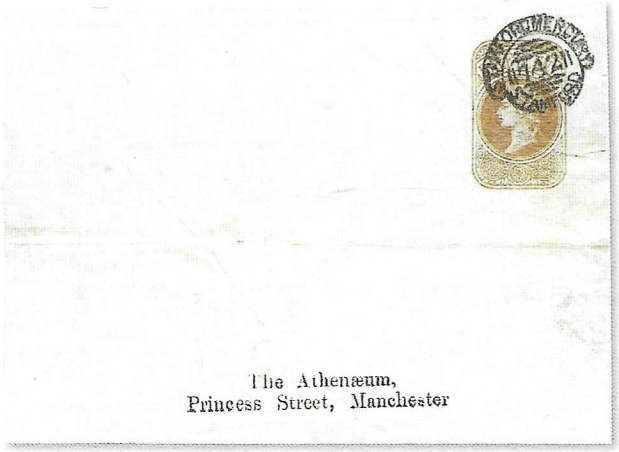


Fig 1

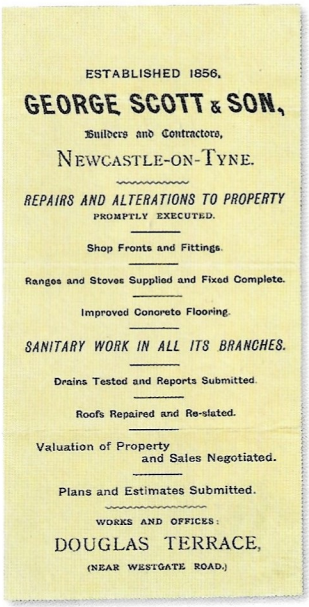


Fig 3

N is for... newspaper wrappers

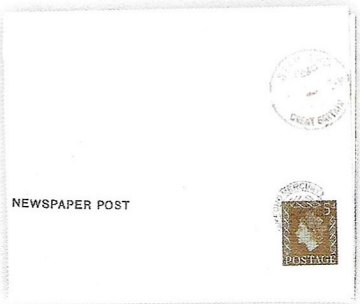


Fig 2

Newspaper wrappers were used to send more than just the news – items carried included everything from adverts to designs for a vicar's garden gate

THE INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY newspaper wrappers was touched upon earlier in this series (as part of the Halfpenny Post feature in August *Bulletin*, Volume 52). They were one of the most common items of postal stationery, but were the ones that were the most torn up and discarded. They had achieved their purpose of delivering a newspaper or other printed papers and by the late 1930s they were no longer needed. It is a wonder any have survived.

The posting of newspapers by stationers and the public gradually diminished in the period between both world wars, and the Post Office did not issue newspaper wrappers once King George VI came to the throne. But they were still used in large quantities by stationers and newsagents who had their own wrappers stamped to order. Some, such as W H Smith, had a huge range of values prepared, ready to post all kinds and sizes of papers around the world.

Some users had their wrappers precancelled so there was no delay at the sorting office in catching the last post. This stemmed from the days when the tax stamp gave newspapers free postage and it did not need to be cancelled. When the regulations were changed in 1870 and postage had to be paid on all

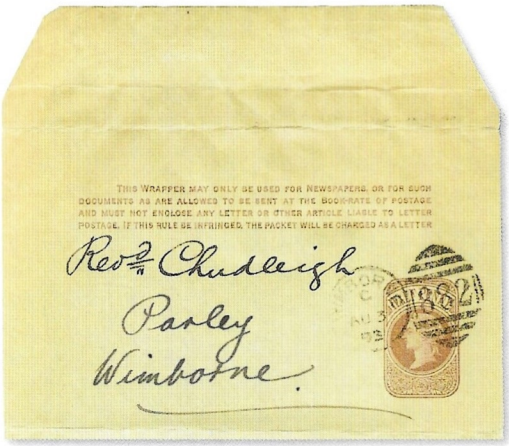


Fig 4



Fig 5

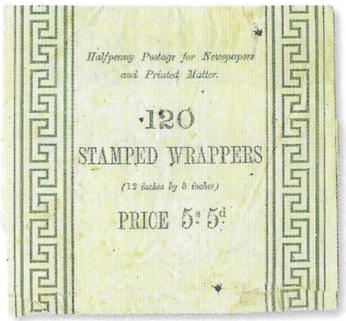


Fig 7

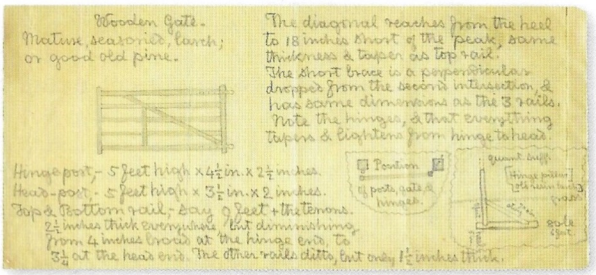


Fig 6

newspapers, cancelling the wrappers delayed their dispatch. This issue was overcome by precancelling them. The date on the newspaper was sufficient evidence to show the date of posting.

Of course wrappers did not just contain newspapers. They could carry any printed matter so long as the correct postage was paid according to the weight of the contents. Items carried included price lists, invoices and reports.

Some people went even further and a wrapper illustrated here shows it being used to design a gate for a driveway for a Reverand Chudleigh at Wimborne in Dorset. Others advertised on wrappers – a cheap and effective way to sell products. Some even advertised on the inside of newspaper wrappers, though few could have been seen before the wrapper was destroyed.

After more than 100 years of use, prestamped newspaper wrappers came to an end when the stamp to order facility was withdrawn in 1973. Today our magazines are wrapped in plastic and paid by PPI impressions ●

Next in Colin Baker's A to Z of Postal Stationery: O is for Official Stationery Envelopes. Colin is a member of the Postal Stationery Society. He welcomes your enquiries about this article and about the Society by email at pss.secretary@gmail.com

Fig 1 A Victorian wrapper precancelled for the *Stamford Mercury* newspaper

Fig 2 A QEII wrapper precancelled for the *Stamford Mercury*

Fig 3 An advertisement on the inside of a wrapper

Fig 4 A wrapper used to submit a gate design to local vicar the Rev Chudleigh

Fig 5 An advert on the wrapper flap, where it is most likely to be seen

Fig 6 Front of the gate design wrapper seen in Fig 4

Fig 7 A bundle band for 120 newspaper wrappers

This Month in History

In January John Holman wrote about Stampex 1956, the first National Stamp Exhibition with a new, more catchy title. Fast forward ten years to a sporty Stampex at Westminster

THE 1966 STAMPEX, held at Central Hall Westminster from 18 to 26 March, had sport very much as its theme since England was of course hosting the World Cup that year. The exhibition was to have been opened by the Postmaster General Tony Benn, but he was busy campaigning for the General Election taking place on 31 March so the exhibition was opened instead by 11-year-old Kenneth Tonkin, the youngest winner of a Stampex award. Some 16,000 collectors visited the exhibition – and there was an admission charge in those days, and no free exhibition catalogue.

The Stampex post office had on sale some of the 1965 commemorative stamps and the recent Robert Burns, Westminster Abbey and new 4d regional (country) stamps. No new stamps were issued at Stampex. Indeed the GPO did little in those days to promote the exhibition – it was not even mentioned in the *Bulletin* at the time.

The special postmark applied to mail posted at the exhibition featured a football – the old leather type – with the inscription 'SPORT WITH STAMPS/ STAMPEX 1966' and date and location 'LONDON S.W.1' in the centre. Two special covers were produced: a DL size with an elaborate sports motif and inscribed 'SPORT WITH STAMPS' but also 'NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION' rather than Stampex!

A larger cover, worded Stampex and depicting the famous dome of the Central Hall, was intended for the Stampex souvenir sheet to be affixed and tied to the cover by a cachet in the shape of a referee's whistle, applied in blue ink. The sheet itself bore no reference to Stampex, and was worded 'BRITAIN'S NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION 18-26 MARCH 1966 / WORLD FOOTBALL CUP WEMBLEY-ENGLAND JULY 1966'. Showing World Cup stamps from Brazil (1959 and 1963), France (1938) and Sweden (1958), the sheet sold at two shillings. Some 30,000 were printed – a quarter of the number produced of the 1962 Stampex sheet which was extensively remaindered. The 1966 sheet exists with unofficial 'ENGLAND CUP WINNERS 1966' overprint.

The World Cup, the Jules Rimet Trophy, was on display at the exhibition and famously stolen on Sunday 20 March when Stampex was closed. The Cup was said to be worth £3,000, though insured for £30,000, but the stamps at Stampex were valued at £3 million! The theft attracted widespread newspaper coverage, mentioning its disappearance from a stamp exhibition and the somewhat lax security. A £15,000 ransom was demanded for return of the Cup, and investigations were led by Scotland Yard's Flying Squad. It was found by a man walking his dog in south-east London on 27 March. The dog, named Pickles, was drawn to a newspaper-



wrapped parcel under a hedge. Pickles became a media celebrity and his owner was invited to the players' celebration dinner after England won the World Cup Final against West Germany on 30 July. The Cup was presented by The Queen to England captain Bobby Moore. Both Moore and the Cup were shown on a Millennium stamp in 1999 and Moore on other stamps in 1996 and 2013. A World Cup generic sheet marking the 40th anniversary of England's win was issued in 2006. This year we mark both the 50th anniversary of England's World Cup success and 60 years of Stampex ●

Above: the two special covers celebrating 1966 Stampex and England's hosting of the World Cup in a legendary year

Heroes of Gallipoli A Commemorative Sheet salutes the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – the Anzac die-hards of the Dardanelles

THE RAW COURAGE and gritty fighting spirit of the Anzacs is celebrated in an inspiring new sheet out on 25 April. The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps Commemorative Sheet tells the extraordinary story of troops from both countries who fought valiantly in the doomed Gallipoli campaign, in Egypt and on the Western Front. It also salutes the female nurses who tended their wounds. The backing card is packed with tales of desperate courage, from bitter fighting at 'Anzac Cove' in the Dardanelles and the eventual evacuation from Gallipoli to the horrors of the Somme and Passchendaele. The Sheet, marking the centenary of the first Anzac Day, comprises ten labels with First Class Poppy stamps.



Amphibious assault Australian troops land near Anzac Cove on the morning of 25 April 1915. The boats with ramps had transported mules of the 26th Indian Mountain Battery.

Deadly weapon A sniping team in an Anzac trench. A British sharpshooter uses a sniper rifle while an Australian comrade 'spots' for him with a periscope.

Life-savers Anzac troops retrieve a wounded comrade from the firing line. Stretcher-bearing was dangerous and exhausting work in the energy-sapping heat of a Gallipoli summer.

Heroes on horses The 10th Australian Light Horse leaves the Canal defence lines on 10 June 1916 to destroy Turkish water supplies in the Wadi um Muksheib, 40 miles south-east of Ismailia, Egypt.

Trench warfare Passchendaele offensive, 28 September 1917: stretcher-bearers of the 45th Australian Infantry Battalion shelter in dug-outs along Anzac Ridge during the Battle of Polygon Wood.

Precarious position The narrow strip of beach at Anzac Cove, with stores and shelters set into the steep Turkish hillside.



Left: stamp labels of the Anzac Commemorative Sheet, issued next month and presented in the pack shown on the opposite page

Tender care Members of the Australian Army Nursing Service at No. 4 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Abbassia, Egypt, in June 1915.

Top brass Anzac commander Lieutenant-General Sir William Birdwood's final visit to Anzac Cove on 19 December 1915. The evacuation (which he had opposed) was completed the following day.

Battle-weary The Somme, August 1916: men of the 2nd Australian Division return from fighting at Pozières. Between 27 July and 6 August, the Division incurred nearly 7,000 casualties.

Gratefully received New Zealanders serving in the Wellington Regiment receive their daily tot of rum at Fleurbaix in June 1916.

You can order the Sheet from the Tallents House address on page 224 or visit www.royalmail.com/specialsheets, quoting the *Bulletin* code CDN •

Anzac – Australian and New Zealand Army Corps Commemorative Sheet Specifications

Date of issue	25 April
Number of stamps	Ten
Pack and sheet design	Up
Words	Philip Dutton
Stamp design	hat-trick design
Sheet format	A4
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

Windsor super Dane Garrod tells the story of a cover marking the 50th anniversary of the first UK Aerial Post flight – from Hendon to Windsor

THE FIRST UK AERIAL POST was flown from Hendon aerodrome to Windsor on 9 September 1911, an event that became more significant as years went by when transportation of mail eventually reached across the world. At the time of the first flight, originally planned to comprise four planes, special commemorative postcards were printed and flown, featuring a drawing of Windsor Castle with an aircraft of the time flying above. This drawing was again used at the celebrated 50th anniversary of the flight in 1961 when the original event was re-enacted with a British European Airways (BEA) helicopter travelling the same route.



Above: in 1961, for a consideration of eleven pence – as indicated on the BEA stamp with a slogan Windsor postmark – the owner of this cover had it carried from Hendon to Windsor on the helicopter that celebrated the the 50th anniversary of Gustav Hamel's historic flight

In the week before the 1911 flight, newspapers were full of anticipatory news concerning the Aerial Post experiment for mail to be carried from Hendon down to Windsor by aeroplane. King George V had given permission for the aeroplanes to land in the grounds of Windsor Castle. Success indeed attended Aerial Post's inauguration but it was thought not likely to become a permanent institution as, of course, postal delivery by aircraft inevitably depended on the presence of decent weather for safe flying operations.

On the afternoon of Saturday 9 September 1911, pilot Gustav Hamel in his Blériot aeroplane conveyed one bag of mail a distance of about 20 miles in just 12½ minutes, his aircraft having the words 'AERIAL MAIL' painted beneath. He was the only aviator of the four scheduled to fly who reached Windsor, because the other three had not ventured out with their machines owing to gusty winds. A Windsor newspaper report of the following Saturday concluded that it was conceivable that one day there would be a flying department of the Post Office!

The item illustrated here was flown from Hendon to Windsor for the 50th anniversary flight on 9 September 1961, for which the sender had to pay an additional eleven pence (11d) beyond the threepence (3d) inland letter rate. This addition, signified by a BEA Airway Letter Service commemorative stamp and an accompanying handstamp, was for the flight, and the violet 3d postage stamp for onward transmission from Windsor, in this case to Battersea in south-west London. Windsor post office added a slogan postmark to the mail that confirmed the 50th anniversary of the first UK Aerial Post •

Please email your questions or comments to info@CoverDetective.london

Correspondence

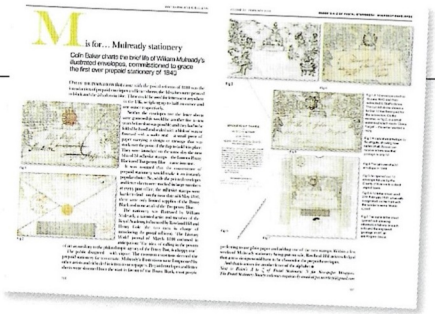
Gathering dates in May

The February issue of the *Bulletin* was a very interesting read, especially Colin Baker's article on the Mulready stationery. However, there are some statements at the end of his third paragraph that I would like to comment on.

Firstly, the issue date of the Mulready stationery and adhesive postage stamps was 1 May 1840, which is when they were first made available to the public at the Stamp Office.

The stationery and stamps were not valid for postage until 6 May 1840, which was the first day of official use. Information on their distribution is difficult to find, and probably the best indication is the number and origin of existing covers. My 1999 book *May Dates* recorded 73 Penny Black covers and 139 Penny Mulreadys used on 6 May 1840.

The numbers of Penny Blacks /Penny Mulready sales recorded on subsequent days were: 7 May 67/80; 8 May 71/53; 9 May 71/44. So, not a particularly clear picture of distribution and availability in the early days of the two different forms of prepaying postage! Secondly,


M is for... Mulready stationery

Colin Baker charts the brief life of William Mulready's illustrated envelopes, commissioned to grace the first ever prepaid stationery of 1840

I believe the Twopence Blue was probably available to the public on 6 May 1840 along with the Penny Black and Mulreadys (though only in London), as I explained in my article, 'When was the First Day of Use of the 2d Blue?', in *GB Journal* (Volume 41, No. 6, November/December 2003, pp126-130).
Mike Jackson, Leicestershire

Thank you for your informative letter and for clarifying that 6 May 1840 was the first day of use. The sales figures you quote clearly show how relatively unpopular the Mulready stationery was, although this did not stop many advertisers from using it.
Colin Baker

Why so cryptic

Could we please have a change from the many cryptic crosswords that seem to be published in the Bulletin. While I appreciate it is a good idea to feature one now and then we seem to have seen quite a lot recently in the magazine. Can we have a quiz occasionally, as before?

Many thanks.
Celia Rhodes, by email



We completely understand, Celia, if you are not a huge crossword fan (though many readers are). With quizzes, it is a matter of space, as they often take up two pages. But never fear, during the year we aim to have one big fat bumper quiz per season, which will have an equally bumper prize. Talking of which, you may want to start swotting up on your specials, as we are planning a 'Shakespeare on stamps' quiz. The prize will be a luxury weekend break that includes tickets for a performance of one of The Bard's brilliant plays.
Kate Shaw, Publishing Editor



Keep the letters coming...

The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive 175th Anniversary of the Penny Red Stamp Book as a token of our thanks. Send your letters to: William Doherty, British Philatelic Bulletin, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.
You can also send emails to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

Just for eggheads Test your wits with our spring-themed puzzles. You could win Special Stamps – and a special Easter gift!

LOUPEY BUNNY How many different Royal Mail stamps can you see in our crazy collage of spring blooms and rabbits? You may need your loupe to spot them! Clue: do not count the rabbits from overseas.

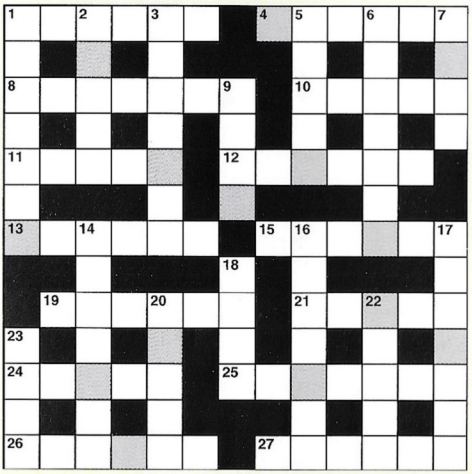


How to enter Send your answers, with your contact details, marked 'March Bunny' and/or 'March Crossword' to Bulletin Prizes, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com. **Closing date** 24 March 2016. **Prizes** The senders of the first five correct entries drawn in each section after the closing date will win the British Humanitarians Presentation Pack. One winner also receives an Easter egg ●

December results *Great British Film Quiz solution* 1a 2b 3a 4c 5a 6a 7a 8c 9b 10a 11c 12c. *Winner* Rev Peter Hanna, with ten runners-up. *Crossword solution* Penny Post. *Winner* Michael Pyle, with four runners-up.

Prize draw rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD Complete the puzzle, then rearrange the letters in the grey squares to name a sweet-talking stamp.



ACROSS

1 Learnt about part of a deer (6)
4 Channel Island sweater (6)
8 Anyway, decorate again (7)
10 Cartridge on top of a tortoise (5)
11 Two-way detection system (5)
12 Company aims to create pattern of tiles (6)
13 Victory attempt frozen out? (6)
15 A maths problem brings complaint (6)
19 Ships in a drama, destroyed (6)
21 Heron circling French river (5)
24 In the middle of the day, silver passed round (5)
25 South Pacific islands seen from a canoe I upset (7)
26 Torn duster was impaired by neglect (6)
27 International body loyal? It's a lie (6)

DOWN

1 Cabin staff boasted of melody, first (7)
2 Backing favourite I'd found to be not so hot (5)
3 Rep more unlikely to be ruler (7)
5 Relaxes in azaleas, escaping (5)
6 European journalist in smart surroundings (7)
7 Some cowardly call (4)
9 Sheep paused at first slope (4)
14 Makes less broad using shaft held between poles (7)
16 Theatre worker to keep flowing (7)
17 Ordinary girl kept in a long time (7)
18 Nothing follows a month in this Irish county (4)
20 Fish standpoint (5)
22 Proprietor in sideshow, nervous (5)
23 It's just a trade show (4)

Coming next month...



STAMP TRIBUTES

- Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday.
- Shakespeare themes

PREVIEWS

- 2016 Exhibition Sheet – heralding the New York World Stamp Show



- First World War 1916 - third in the stirring commemorative stamp series
- Post & Go news – how to get the New York overprint from your armchair
- Animail – are you ready for something wild on your mail this summer?



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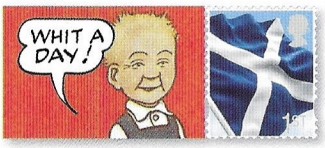
Royal Mail stamp issues and withdrawals

5 March — **Withdrawal** Bridges: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards. Details: Vol 52, page 167.



5 March — **Withdrawal** Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Coin Cover

8 March — **Issue** 80th Anniversary of The Broons: Stamp Sheet and Folder. 80th Anniversary of Oor Wullie: Stamp Sheet and Folder. Preview: page 168.



15 March — **Issue** British Humanitarians: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.33), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (6 in set), Stamp Souvenir. Philatelic Preview: page 164.



22 March — **Issue** 2016 Machin Definitive. 2016 Country Definitive. Preview: page 199.

31 March — **Withdrawal** Lunar New Year of the Sheep: Generic Sheet.

1 April — **Withdrawal** Comedy Greats: Stamps, Stamp Book, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards. Details: Vol 52, pages 201 and 240.

5 April — **Issue** Shakespeare: Stamps (10 x 1st Class, 2 x se-tenant strips of five stamps), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (6 in set), Stamp Souvenir, Coin Cover (3 x £2 coins and 10 1st Class stamps). Preview: page 208.



7 April — **Withdrawal** Stamp Souvenir Shackleton and the *Endurance* Expedition. Details: page 102.

8 April — **Issue** West Ham United Upton Park Tenure Stamps Sheet and Folder

21 April — **Issue** HM The Queen's 90th Birthday: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52, in two se-tenant strips of three), Miniature Sheet (4 x 1st Class), Prestige Stamp Book, Limited-edition Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Stamp Cards (11 in set), 3 x Coin Covers all with Miniature Sheet, Commemorative Document. Stamps Preview: page 196.

25 April — **Issue** Anzac Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class with info backing card).

To order philatelic items, including all those listed above, contact Royal Mail online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or at Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. We would advise you to quote **CDN**, the *Bulletin* media code. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

5 014721 142326 >

Information about Royal Mail products is the latest available at time of going to press. Issue dates shown in advance may be subject to change. Stamps are not shown to scale. Stamp sizes are listed on Royal Mail Preview pages.

Royal Mail

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