

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

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Bulletin

Countdown to London 2012
• Crown Jewels • King Carol



**Special issue on
27 July – just a year
before the Games**

OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES: SPORT THEMES AND TIPS FOR COLLECTORS

Issues and withdrawals



Cover: this artist's impression of the London Stadium forms the background to the Sports of London 2012 Stamp Sheet, released on 27 July

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27 July

Issue *London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games III*
Stamps, Commemorative Sheet, Stamp Book No.5, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Stamp and Postcard Sets – Athletics Field and Gymnastics, Countdown Coin Covers

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
Sports of London 2012 Stamp Sheet
Stamp and Pin Badge Packs
Stamp and Coin Packs

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
Sports Cover Collection: Wrestling and Handball.
Olympic and Paralympic Gold Medal Winners Collection: Chris Boardman, Charlotte Cooper, Duncan Goodhew, Eric Liddell

28 July

Issue Philanippon Smilers® Exhibition Sheet

1 August

Issue Thomas the Tank Engine™ Medal Cover

18 August

Withdrawal Stamp Books with printer's name – 12 x 2nd Class and 6 x 1st Class

23 August

Issue Crown Jewels Stamps, First Day Cover, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Coin Cover

Issue Classic Locomotives of England Stamp Book, 4 x 1st definitives, 2 x English Railway Stamps

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Postbox and inbox



Time for trees

2011 has been declared as the 'International Year of Forests' by the United Nations – hence the theme of this year's Europa stamps is Forests. PostEurop currently has a green and shady website at www.posteurop.org/europa2011, where you can vote for your favourite Europa stamp on this year's theme. The voting is already well underway and is open until 7 August.

The 1st Class Spider Monkey stamp on the WWF Miniature Sheet (shown below) is the Royal Mail candidate; the background illustration of the whole sheet is the lush Amazon rainforest.

Last year's designated Europa theme was Children's Literature, but the Royal Mail Winnie-the-



Pooh Europa stamp was issued too late in the year to take part in the online poll. The Hungarian miniature sheet (shown above) was voted the favourite of 2010.



One of many

May I let you know, as a new subscriber, that I have found the *Bulletin* to be very informative and well suited to my collecting needs. Also, beautifully printed on excellent paper – and what wonderful value. Keep up the fantastic work. I am looking forward to receiving future issues.

Anne Eccles, Stockton-on-Tees

Thank you very much Anne Eccles, and welcome to *Bulletin*. We are always particularly pleased to hear from a happy new subscriber and we hope your subscription brings you years of pleasure and philatelic adventuring.

Old money switch

Regarding the photo from R Simmance, depicting decimal and 'old money' stamps making up the 2nd class tariff of 8p in 1970 (May *Bulletin* Postbox). Surely it is the 4d sepia, and not the decimal ½p as stated, which resulted in underpayment in December 1970. It seems the $3\frac{1}{2}p + \frac{1}{2}p = 4p$ was valid for postage, depriving the Royal Mail of 4p!

Christopher Waite, Ebford

Thank you very much for clearing up the maths to match the photograph!

Apology The photograph that is the subject of Mr Waite's letter, above, was sent in by J Edwards and not R Simmance as was mistakenly stated on page 258 of May *Bulletin*. Apologies to J Edwards and R Simmance.

Keep the mail coming...

The Editor of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive philatelic delights as a thank-you. The sender of the 'First Class letter' award will also receive the *Bulletin* binder. Please note that Royal Mail cannot reply to all correspondence and reserves the right to edit for length. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. Or email bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com





Morris & Co, Iceland, CS Lewis, Tolkien and more

The Morris & Co stamps issued on 5 May are beautiful. And any mention of William Morris's career as a designer of fine textiles provokes personal memories for me of another of his interests, mentioned briefly in Pat Stannard's article in the *May Bulletin* – his love of Iceland and its sagas.

My mother Mary Morton had J R R Tolkien as the external examiner for her MA in English at Sheffield University in 1931, and went on to Oxford to study for a B Litt on the subject of 'Icelandic influences on the writings of William Morris'. Her tutor was C S Lewis and she also used to meet Tolkien again at Oxford.

When Mary later read in *The Times* Diary of 9 April 1969 that C S Lewis would never tutor women, she riposted in a letter: 'He tutored me and other women at time at Oxford. I knew him

before he became known as a Christian apologist, literary historian and prolific writer of science fiction and children's book. I found Lewis both jovial and remote, with a notable tendency in off-duty moments to poke fun at the womens' colleges. I was not prepared to stand for this!'

Such intellectual vibrancy produced an excellent thesis on William Morris and Iceland. It is now lodged at Sheffield University and I would venture that it might well have had some influence on C S Lewis's more unusual writings later in his career.

John Carruthers, Chester

We enjoy the fact that many of our special stamps can resonate with such deeply significant personal memories for individual collectors.

While we do not have space to print the fascinating obituary John Carruthers wrote for his mother 12 years ago and kindly enclosed with his letter, we would like to thank him for the many interesting discussion points inspired in the *Bulletin* offices by his correspondence – including shared insights into the subject of women's emancipation in the early 20th century and into the lives of C S Lewis, William Morris and J R R Tolkien.

Above and right: Royal Mail stamps celebrating the works of the three great minds linked in John Carruthers' letter: Aslan the lion from the *Mystical Realms* issue, the CS Lewis character from 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'; 2004's tribute to 'The Lord of the Rings' by J R R Tolkien and this year's special issue Morris & Co Presentation Pack



What's new? New Classic Locomotives stamp book • Exhibition Sheet • Latest collectibles



Classic Locomotives of England Stamp Book goes on sale on 23 August. As shown above, the book contains four 1st Class Machins and two 1st Class Classic Locomotive stamps taken from the Miniature Sheet that was originally issued on 1 February of this year. The book is printed by Walsall Security Printers in gravure and the stamps are self-adhesive (whereas the original Miniature Sheet was litho-printed by Cartor Security Printing and gummed).

The special 1st Class stamps feature a black and white photograph, taken in 1951, of a Newbury-bound locomotive steaming along the track at East Garton. The train in the photograph is the British Railways Dean Goods Locomotive

Number 2532, the type of sturdy Victorian goods train that saw a great deal of use during World War I and World War II. By the 1950s the Dean Goods Locomotives had been relegated to light duties, such as hauling passenger trains on rural branch lines •

Perfectly scaled The tenth model in the Royal Mail Pillar Box Collection is issued next month, on 9 August. It is the EH1R Type B Double Aperture Pillar Box, dating from 1899. Each miniature pillar box in the series is crafted from pewter at scale of 1:19 and presented in an illustrated storage tube (150mm x 55mm diameter) which carries details of the featured post box.

The latest release in the Royal Mail Model Van Collection appeared in May – the Commerical Morris J-type Mailvan is produced at a scale of 1:43 in a limited edition of 5,000. The GPO bought its first J-type in 1950 and added security modifications necessary for mailvans. Some drivers complained that having the engine alongside the driving seat made the vehicle stuffy, so the windscreen was changed to open outwards and improve ventilation.

For details of how to order these items, see page 352 •

Philanippon Exhibition Sheet On 28 July Royal Mail issues a special stamp sheet to mark the Philanippon 2011 World Stamp Exhibition, which is to be held from 28 July to 2 August inclusive at the Pacifico Yokohama Exhibition

Classic Locomotives of England Stamp Book

Number of stamps	4 x 1st Machin 2 x Trains
Special stamp design	Delaney Design Consultants
Special Stamp Format	Landscape
Special Stamp Size	41mm x 30mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printing
Print process	Gravure
Gum	Self-adhesive

Hall in Yokohama. In Japan stamps are known as 'little diplomats' because of the way philately promotes international friendships; this year's theme is 'Stamps Link The World'.

The Royal Mail Exhibition Sheet was conceived as representing elements of Japanese culture, history and art that have achieved worldwide recognition and uses an origami theme to link the images. The origins of origami are unknown, but the name comes from the Japanese 'ori' for 'folding' and 'kami' which means paper. Instructions on origami were traditionally passed on orally, with the oldest known written document on the subject being published in 1797 entitled 'How to Fold one Thousand Cranes'.

The Exhibition Sheet comprises 20 1st Class Smilers® Hello stamps, each alongside different origami models, including an ingenious origami camera, a robot, a pair of decorative dolls, a fish, a pair of Sumo wrestlers, beautiful birds, red leaves, a dragonfly and a *torii* (the traditional decorative Japanese gateway). In planning stages a kimono was included, but it was decided that the dolls had more relevance to the fashion theme, as they represent traditional dolls seen at the popular hinamatsuri festival for girls.

Over 50 postal administrations will be exhibiting at Philanippon. Royal Mail will be represented by the British and Overseas Philatelic Agency and the Japan Philatelic Agency, with a selection of Royal Mail stamps and stamp products being available on their stands.

The Philanippon Exhibition Sheet can be ordered from the Tallents House address on page 322 •

Below: the Philanippon Exhibition sheet features the exhibition logo in both English and Japanese, and items of origami relating to Japanese culture and commerce



Crown Jewels

Next month's special issue marks the 350th anniversary of these historic national treasures

IN 1661, FOR THE CORONATION of Charles II, a completely new set of Crown Jewels was commissioned to replicate those disposed of at the order of Oliver Cromwell. The new Crown Jewels were mostly modelled on the lost medieval originals and played a highly symbolic role at the momentous coronation ceremony that heralded a new chapter in the history of the British monarchy. Today, 350 years later, those same jewels are exhibited at the Tower of London and are viewed every day by visitors from all over the world. They remain the most treasured pieces of the Royal Collection.

What sets the Crown Jewels apart from the royal jewels of other countries is the continuity of their use, chiefly in the Coronation ceremony, which in Britain has changed little in a thousand years.



Above: the Tallents House pictorial postmark depicts the Sovereign's Orb
Below: the Crown Jewels Presentation Pack, written by Anna Keay

Stamp by stamp The two 1st Class stamps show the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross and the St Edward's Crown of gold. Both were made in 1661, and the sceptre was redesigned in 1905 to incorporate the Cullinan I Great Star of Africa, which, at more than 530 carats, is the second largest cut

diamond in the world. During the coronation, the monarch bears the Sceptre with Cross in the right hand. The detail of St Edward's Crown shows the jewelled cross patée. Encrusted with 444 precious stones, this is the crown that monarchs receive when they ascend the throne and is reputed to have been made of gold recovered from the crown of Alfred the Great.

Crown Jewels prices

Set of stamps	£6.00
Presentation Pack 459	£6.50
Stamp Cards (8 in set)	£3.60
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover	£7.68
Restoration of the Monarchy Coin Cover	£15.95

THE CROWN JEWELS





One of the 68p stamps shows the Rod and Sceptre with Doves. The Rod with the dove with closed wings was made for the joint coronation of William and Mary (the only co-regency in British history) in 1689. The second 68p stamp carries an image of a section of the crown made for Mary of Teck when she became Queen Consort at the coronation of King George V in 1911. Since Queen Mary's death in 1953, her consort crown has remained unworn and it is rarely seen.

The two 76p stamps feature the Sovereign's Orb and the Jewelled Sword of Offering. The golden Orb weighs 42 ounces and symbolises the monarch's role as Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. The Monarch holds the Orb in the left hand as he or she leaves Westminster Abbey. The Jewelled Sword of Offering was made for the Coronation of King George IV in 1821. It is presented to the Sovereign during the Coronation by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Finally, there are two £1.10 stamps. The first gives a close-up of the Imperial State Crown, which was made in 1937 for King George VI and incorporates several world-famous stones, including the Black Prince's Ruby and the Cullinan II diamond known as the Lesser Star of Africa. It is worn at the annual State Opening of Parliament and after the conclusion of the Coronation ceremony when the monarch leaves Westminster Abbey. The second £1.10 stamp shows the Coronation Spoon, used to anoint the monarch with holy oil in the Coronation ceremony. Dating from the 12th century, this Spoon is the oldest item of the regalia and the only medieval piece to have escaped destruction by Cromwell •



Above: pictorial postmark with the post code of the Tower of London

Crown Jewels Stamps Specifications

Issue date	23 August
Number of stamps	Eight
Design	Purpose
Illustration	The Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross, St Edward's Crown, Rod and Sceptre with Doves, Queen Mary's Crown, The Sovereign's Orb, Jewelled Sword of Offering, Imperial State Crown and Coronation Spoon
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	37mm x 35mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14 x 14.5
Phosphor	Background screen
Gum	PVA

Stamp Scene from John Holman



Above: the Philanippon stamp set celebrates favourite gaming and children's story characters, and the Year of the Rabbit

The main international buzz this month is the Philanippon International Exhibition at the Pacifico Yokohama Exhibition Hall, in Yokohama, Japan on 28 July to 2 August. Over 100,000 people are expected at the six-day event and more than 2,500 frames of competitive displays will be on show, plus special and invited exhibits. The Court of Honour will feature World Rarities as well as stamps of China, India, Japan, Tasmania, and Thailand. The exhibition commemorates the 140th anniversary of the Japanese postal service and there will be special postmarks each day on the theme 'Summer of Japan' – with illustrations relating to Fashion Day, Food, Animal, Festival, Scenes, and Flower days. In January the Japanese Post Office issued ten colourful 80 yen Philanippon stamps featuring famous Japanese characters, shown above, including Astro Boy, Doraemon, Pokemon, Hello Kitty and Year of the Rabbit designs, with a clear appeal to both younger audiences and middle-aged nostalgics alike. For details of the Royal Mail Exhibition sheet, see page 326 ●

Below: Smilers® stamp and label for recent ABPS exhibition held in Sheffield

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Sheffield
Philatelic
Society
ABPS Sheffield 2011



4543781-sm15



Fairs ahead The Strand Stamp Fair, held in London since 1969, will be at the Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 (near Russell Square tube station) on 3 August and 7 September. About 20 to 30 dealers attend. The next York Stamp & Coin Fair (over 150 dealers) is held at the Grandstand, York Racecourse on 15 July (11am to 6pm) and 16 July (10am to 5pm). See www.stampshows.net for further details ●

The ninth ABPS National Stamp and Postcard Exhibition was held in Sheffield on 6 and 7 May 201, organised by the Sheffield Philatelic Society and sponsored by Stanley Gibbons and Corbitt, Grosvenor and Spink auction houses. The exhibition included an eight-frame display from the Royal Philatelic

Collection, which featured Penny Black and George V material in its GB section, John Crowther of the Society of Olympic Collectors provided a display 'The Olympic Summer Games from 1896 to 1948', while Philip Robinson's included GB line-engraved stamps and Frank Walton's Sheffield squared-circle postmarks. Part of the exhibition was the ABPS National Competitions which included some good GB material, particularly postal history in the Inter-Federation Exhibits: Additional Halfpenny Mail Tax, GB Victorian Letter Card, London Numbers in Maltese Cross, Postage GB to France 1855-70, Victorian illustrated envelopes, Royal Navy Operational Submarine Flotillas in World War 2, and Stobs Camp ('Scotland's Aldershot').

There were five displays of GB stamps in the exhibits by individual collectors, covering Line-Engraved Issues (David Crocker), Elizabeth II Photogravure stamp errors and varieties (John Marks), Study of Marginal Markings of the 1d lilac (Brian Hitchcock), and Regional stamps and Jersey 1943 ½d pictorial issue (Donald Radley). Postal history displays covered Spoon Cancels (Graham Booth), and Handstamps applied to Channel Islands-France mail 1773-1843 (Richard Flemming). John Davies provided a fine display of material from the 1890 Penny Postage Jubilee celebrations.

For visitors interested in exhibition souvenirs, there was a Smilers® sheet and an exhibition cover which was postmarked locally •

Stanley Gibbons Richard Watkins has returned to Stanley Gibbons as Head of Auctions. Richard worked in the GB department at SG and became MD of the stamps section of the company before moving to Spink and subsequently to Grosvenor auctions. We wish him well in his new role •

Auction news Spink's 'Collector's Series' auction in London on 5 and 6 May included some fine GB material. A £5 orange (corner letters CH) with neat Crewe handstamp of 1902 made £2,300 (estimate £2,300-2,500) and a Victorian £1 green (KB) with top margin achieved £2,000 (£1,200-1,500). An Edward VII 2s 6d slate-purple on chalky paper, lower right sheet corner example went for £150 (£120-150), and a £1 Postal Union Congress stamp, top right corner single unmounted mint for £450 (£500-600). A collection of Wildings in two stockbooks, including graphites, phosphor-graphites and watermark varieties, went for £420 (£200-250). For details of future auctions contact Spink on 020 7563 4000 or see website www.spink.com •

New publications Stanley Gibbons has published 'Ralph Allen of Bath: Postal Pioneer', a revised edition of the booklet, by Sally Davis, published by the Bath Postal Museum in 1985. The 48-page booklet tells not only the story of Allen's postal reforms but of his life and philanthropic works – he was involved with the Mineral Water Hospital in Bath and the Magdalen Hospital in London. He met many of the important people of the time including the poet Alexander Pope, novelist Henry Fielding (Squire Allworthy in 'Tom Jones' was based on Allen), and PM Pitt the Elder. The book is available from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood BH24 3SH (phone 01425 472363), price £3.95 •



Birthday tribute

Margaret Morris, one of the UK's best-known and most respected philatelists, celebrates her 80th birthday this month. She is a champion of thematic collecting. Her work at the University Observatory in Glasgow encouraged her in the formation of her acclaimed Astronomy collection. She signed the Book of Scottish Philatelists in 1975, the (US) Roll of Distinguished Topical Philatelists in 1997, and in 2001 received the ABPS Congress Medal for outstanding voluntary service to British philately at national level. Margaret still travels extensively giving talks to philatelic societies. We send congratulations on her special birthday.

A world-class theme

Long-time sports stamps collector and President of Sports Philatelists International in the US, Mark Maestroni, knows his Games and gives his advice on this topical subject

REMEMBER HERAKLES – or Hercules – the Greek demigod who for the fifth of his 12 labours, mucked out the notoriously filthy stables of King Augeas? Reneging on his deal to turn over one-tenth of his cattle in payment for the task, Augeas suffered the wrath of Herakles, who promptly waged war on the miserly king and sacked the city of Elis. Out of gratitude to Zeus for his victory, our hero founded the Olympic Games on the site of his conquest.

However, building an Olympic stamp collection need not be another Herculean labour. Rather, it really can be fun. You can be just as traditional as you wish or throw caution to the wind and push the philatelic boat out with a focussed theme. As with all thematic collections, it's a good idea to frame the limits of your collection to suit your taste, time and budget.

Where to start? If you are traditionalist who likes having a well laid out path to follow, then you may enjoy developing a chronological collection. Olympic philately can be divided into four periods. The classical period begins with the First Games of the Modern Era in Athens in 1896 and continues to the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. If you want to pursue these early issues, particularly from the 1896 and 1906 Games, mint stamps can make a big hole in your budget. But many stamps in acceptable condition exist for reasonable prices. Added to the mix are the many intriguing Olympic postmarks and machine cancellations from the 1920s and 1930s.

During the years of World War II Olympiads XII and XIII were cancelled, so the next philatelic period – what might best be called the post-War years – begins with the 1948 London Games and continues to around 1960. It is easy to build a collection based on this period, as fewer than 50 sets of stamps were issued. First day covers and some additional postmarks and cancellations will add further interest.

By 1960, many postal administrations were issuing special stamps every four years, having realised that there was money to be made. Suddenly, scores of countries were churning out multiple sets of stamps, with the Middle East leading the way. This plethora of issues continued through the 1970s, so beware collecting for completeness in this era – it can be a daunting task.

The modern age 1984 was something of a watershed year for the Olympic Games, when Los Angeles showed that it was possible to hold such a massive sporting event without the host city going bankrupt. The key was corporate sponsorship. The



Two of the twelve Olympics stamps from Greece, 1896





Hand-coloured first day covers, such as Rayer's downhill skier for the 1960 Squaw Valley Olympic Winter Games can provide colour and interest to a collection

International Olympic Committee instigated procedures for approval of stamp issues that used the now tightly controlled Olympic branding (the Olympic Rings and word 'Olympic'). While we still have a flood of new issues every four years, it is a but a trickle compared with the deluge of new issues in the 1970s.

And there's a completely different avenue to be explored in collecting philatelic souvenirs of the Olympic Winter Games. My personal favourite, and not just because I'm Californian, is the 1960 Squaw Valley Olympics. Though there are only 27 different stamps issued worldwide for this snow and ice extravaganza, there are plenty of interesting items to add to your collection. Some are philatelic: publicity cancellations, special postmarks, and slogan machine cancels. Others are pure fun, such as the unusual silver-coated postcards made in Germany, US cards picturing various events, tickets, and colourful daily programmes.

Honing your theme You may be in a quandary if you enjoy both Olympic Winter Games as well as the Olympic and Paralympic Games, but still wish to place limits on what you collect. Here are a couple of possible solutions. Collecting material from the host nation is one rewarding route. Host nation postal administrations can usually be counted on for a varied ►



Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games
2500 Peachtree Street, N.E.
P.O. Box 1998
Atlanta, GA 30302
Making History in Atlanta



Machine franking that promotes some aspect of the Olympic Games add spice to a collection. This official Olympic Organising Committee cover carries a slogan promoting the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival



Australia Post created the modern Olympic Medallist stamps. At the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games Australian Cathy Freeman won the gold medal in the 400 metres. She was also the final Torchbearer, lighting the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony

stamp design from a non-participating nation, collecting from participating countries is a relatively painless means of drawing a line in the sand.

A theme within a theme Are you ready to let your imagination run wild? Try developing an Olympic collection based on a further theme, so the image on the stamp takes precedence over the reason for its issue. There are a many possibilities. Looking past all the pomp and circumstance, the Olympic Games are really all about the athletes. So why not form a collection around the medallists?

The Dominican Republic was the first country to portray Olympic medallists, on sets of stamps that they issued following the 1956

Melbourne Games of the XVI Olympiad. In addition to winners at these first 'Down Under' Games, summer and winter Olympians from previous years were also honoured. Australia's second

Games, hosted by Sydney in 2000, saw the introduction of a new type of Olympic medallist stamp. To quote Australia Post, the goal was 'to celebrate each gold

medal won by an Australian individual or team during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games with a stamp, available for sale from 12 noon the day after the medal is won'. And believe it or not, this goal was achieved – 16 times, commemorating 16 Australian medallists on stamps printed overnight! Since then, other nations have caught on to this popular philatelic souvenir. Personally, I find it impossible to resist adding these to my collection.



The Dominican Republic was the first country to honour Olympic medal winners. Shirley Strickland won a gold medal in the 80-metre hurdles at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games

Inspired by the day job For most of us, stamp collecting is a pastime and a distraction from the daily grind. But don't let this stop you from building a collection related to your job. As an architect in 'real life', I naturally gravitated to Olympic Architecture as a sub-collection, attracted by the many stamps, souvenir sheets and postal stationery depicting such marvels of innovation in engineering and design as Beijing's 2008 'Bird's Nest' Olympic Stadium. My favourite Olympic architect is Spain's Santiago Calatrava, who designed the Athens 2004 Olympic Sports Complex as well as facilities for the 1992 Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona (see right).

Olympic collectors, more often than not, tend to be big sports fans as well. There are currently 29 official summer sports and 15 winter ones and if you are a fan of any of them or have ever taken part in one of the sports yourself, then you have an ideal theme for a collection. One of my collections is Men's Gymnastics, which I also exhibit.

Another distinctly Olympic theme is the Torch Relay. This can be a fascinating area for a specialised collection that reaches back in time to the Berlin Games of 1936. Using stamps and postmarks, one can trace that very first Torch Relay from Athens through the Balkans and central Europe all the way to Berlin. These days the Olympic Torch Relay has become a global event, with postmarks commemorating important stops along the way. Beginning with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the relay will be run only in Greece (where the torch is lit from the rays of the sun at Ancient Olympia) and the host country.

Every detail counts Whether or not your collection follows the traditional or thematic paths, don't overlook the many possible philatelic elements available. Find out if there are booklets of stamps or coils in addition to the sheet stamp, and look out for artwork, essays and proofs in addition to the finished stamps. As collectors, we all know that half the fun is in the hunt, so track down those elusive postmarks and cancellations. Pay attention to the dates if you want to commemorate the day a medallist won his gold. And remember to ferret out those Olympic committee or sponsor covers that can help tell your story.

Whatever collection you choose to assemble in honour of our hero Herakles, you're likely to create a dozen different sub-collections on the way. The goal is, after all, to have fun. And this theme certainly offers a sporting chance of years of enjoyment •

Mark Maestroni has been an Olympic collector since the 1980 Lake Placid Olympic Winter Games. For more on Olympic and sports philately visit the SPI Society website: www.sportstamps.org



The Montjuïc Communications Tower, designed by noted Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, was erected specifically for the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games



HERRN THALES KESSISSOGLOU
BRIEFMARKENHANDLUNG
5, CHARILAU TRICOUPI STRASSE
ATHEN (GRICHENLAND)

London's hat-trick

Next summer the Olympic Games will be held in London for a record-breaking third time.

Kathryn Saville looks into our Olympic history and associated philatelic heritage



Above: publicity for the 1908 Games, showing the White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush

IN 2005 MANY PEOPLE were confident London would win the bid to host the Games of the XXX Olympiad in 2012 – and their optimism was well founded. It was considered to be time London was chosen to host the Games, rather than stepping in to help, as had been the case with the last two Games hosted in our capital.

The IV Olympiad It was Mount Vesuvius, the renowned Italian volcano, that set the cat among the pigeons in 1906. The Games of the IV Olympiad were the third to be hosted outside Athens and were scheduled to take place in Rome, but the eruption of Vesuvius on 7 April 1906 meant that the Italian Government had to redirect funds away from the Olympics. The Games were moved to London on 19 November 1906 and the events took place between 27 April 1908 and 31 October 1908, with 22 nations participating in 110 events. The British team easily topped the medal count, finishing with three times as many medals as second-place United States. To build a stadium and organise the sports in that time frame was a remarkable feat and this was the first stadium to be purpose-built for the Games. It included an outdoor pool within the running track – previously swimming events had been held in open water.

The British Olympic Association, which had only been formed in 1905, came to an agreement with the organisers of the Franco-British Exhibition to build an arena for most of the sports at the Exhibition site at Shepherd's Bush, which became known as White City. No stamps were prepared and the only postmarks loosely associated were those of the Franco-British Exhibition, which ran alongside the Games. The best remembered event was the

The 1948 Olympic Games stamps are all highly symbolic designs: the 2½d stamp, by Percy Metcalfe, featured a Globe set within a laurel wreath frame. The 3d, by Abram Games, showed his image 'Speed', earning him the nickname 'Olympic Games'. The 6d, by Stanley Scott, depicted King George VI's head superimposed on the Olympic Rings. The 1s, by Edmund Dulac, was of 'Winged Victory' with the Olympic Rings over a Globe showing Great Britain, Europe and part of North America.



Marathon, because the first man to finish, Italian Dorando Pietri, was disqualified for being illegally assisted across the finishing line by well-meaning officials. The gold medal went to American Johnny Hayes who was second over the line, but the glory went to Pietri. The next day Queen Alexandra presented him with a gilded silver cup as compensation for being disqualified from the race. This was also the year that the Organising Committee established the distance of the Marathon at 42km 195m – the last 195 metres were added to ensure the race finished below the royal box and this has been the official Marathon distance ever since.

The XIV Olympiad The Summer Olympics of 1944 were due to be held in London, having been awarded in 1939. But World War II stopped all that. In lieu of the Olympics, a small celebratory sporting competition was held in Lausanne, at IOC headquarters. The 1948 Games were the first for 12 years. In spite of enormous difficulties caused by shortage of materials, rationing of food, clothing and other essentials, and a short lead-time, London rose to the challenge. A temporary track was laid at Wembley Stadium, which had been built for the British Empire Exhibition of 1924. Many of the buildings created for the Empire Exhibition were adapted for press, radio and television, while the athletes were housed in school buildings and in service camps in Uxbridge and Richmond Park. Starting blocks were introduced for athletes in sprint races, and the 1948 London Games were the first to be shown on television, although very few people actually owned a set.

Fifty-nine nations competed in 136 events between 29 July 1948 and 14 August 1948 (Germany, Japan and Russia didn't attend). And British athletes finished twelfth in the medal count with 23 medals.

A set of four stamps was issued on the first day of the Games (shown below left), produced by Messrs Harrison and Sons Ltd in photogravure. First Day covers were serviced with the stamps cancelled by a special machine postmark showing the Olympic Rings and town die worded OLYMPIC GAMES WEMBLEY/GT. BRITAIN. Other covers, including registered mail, were cancelled with WEMBLEY/MIDDLESEX datestamps, some with the M of MIDDLESEX inverted. Some 24 million 6d stamps were sold, 32 million each of the 3d and 1s, and over 155 million of the basic letter rate 2½d.

The stamps were also overprinted for use in the British Post Offices in Bahrain, Kuwait, Muscat, Morocco and Tangiers. An Air Letter was printed and this was not only an Olympic but a British first. A special machine postmark 'Olympic Games Wembley Gt. Brit' with the Olympic Rings in the design was in use for the period of the Games and a postage meter impression was in use by the Stadium booking office from December 1947.

And now we look forward to next year, when the Games will once again be hosted by London after a gap of 64 years. Turn over to see the stamps series created in the build-up to 2012... •



Above: 1948 publicity poster for the second London Olympic Games



Below: 2008 Commemorative Sheet celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 1908 Olympic Games

The journey to 2012

2009

A collector's overview of the three special issues in the three-year run-up to the London 2012 Games

THE PHILATELIC COUNTDOWN to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games began in October 2009 with the unveiling of ten 1st Class stamps, the first of three sets comprising a total of 30 stamps to mark the 30th Olympiad. Each stamp champions one of the 29 sports to be played at the Games next year, with Athletics portrayed on two stamps to represent both track and field events. And each stamp has been created by a different contemporary artist or designer. On the following pages you'll find year-by-year details of the three issues.

Setting the style in 2009 On 22 October 2009 Royal Mail began the philatelic countdown to the Games by releasing the first set of ten stamps, with the sub-set title of 'The Journey to 2012'. The stamps were issued in two se-tenant strips of five 1st Class stamps, each rendered in a distinctly individual style by ten different



Above: the Presentation Pack carries the ten stamps with an information sheet by Ian Cole

Olympic and Paralympic Games 1, 2009 The Journey to 2012 Prices

Set of stamps	£4.60
Presentation Pack	£5.10
Stamp Cards (10 in set)	£4.50
Countdown Coin Cover	£17.50
Commemorative Sheet: The Journey Begins	£13.95



contemporary artists, thus setting the format and high artistic standard to be echoed in the subsequent sets of 2010 and 2011.

Ian Cole, former News Sports Editor of the *Daily Mail*, compiled the information sheets that accompany the other stamp products in the issue. The illustrated Presentation Pack is loaded with information about the ten sports on the stamps. Inside the Coin Cover, which carries a brilliant uncirculated countdown coin alongside the stamps, are details of how London won the bid and the initial preparation for the Games. And the first Commemorative Sheet 'The Journey Begins' (shown right), which contains all ten stamps with se-tenant labels, also includes information about each of the sports, medals to be won and venues. ►

Above: 2009 stamps portray Canoe Slalom, Paralympic Games Archery, Athletics – Track, Aquatics, Paralympic Games Boccia, Judo, Paralympic Games Equestrian, Badminton, Weightlifting and Basketball

Olympic and Paralympic Games 1, 2009 The Journey to 2012 Stamps Specifications

Issue date	22 October 2009
Number of stamps	Ten
Stamp design	Studio David Hillman
Illustration	Canoe Slalom: John Royle; Archery: George Hardie; Track: Nathalie Guinamard; Diving: Julian Opie; Boccia: David Doyle; Judo: Paul Slater; Equestrian: Andrew Davidson; Badminton: David Holmes; Weightlifting: Guy Billout; Basketball: Huntley Muir
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



2010

THE SECOND SET of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games stamps was issued last year, as shown below, with all ten stamps available in a Presentation Pack entitled 'On Track For 2012'. A corresponding Commemorative Sheet, 'One Aim', carries all ten stamps and its illustrated folder contains interviews by Richard Rae with sportspeople including Paralympic Goalball players Anna and Michael Sharkey.

Four booklets containing stamps from the series were also issued in 2010 and are still available. Books 1 and 2 carry four stamps from the 2009 special issue and Books 3 and 4 feature four stamps issued in 2010 (see right). Similarly, of four Stamp and Postcard Packs issued in 2010, two feature 2009 stamps and two those from 2010. Also available, with Judo and Equestrian stamps, are single-event Stamp and Postcard Packs and Stamp and Booklet Packs. ▶



The Olympic and Paralympic Games 2, 2010 On Track For 2012 Prices

Set of stamps	£4.60
Presentation Pack	£5.10
Stamp Books 1 to 4	£2.76 each
Stamp Cards (10 in set)	£4.50
Countdown Coin Cover	£17.50
Commemorative Sheet, One Aim	£13.95
Stamp and Postcard Mixed Packs:	£7.50
Athletics – Track, Equestrian (both from 2009 issue).	
Rowing, Boxing	
Stamp and Postcard Packs (Single Event):	£7.50
Equestrian, Judo	
Stamp and Booklet Sports Packs :	
Equestrian, Judo	£7.50

Olympic and Paralympic Games 2 On Track For 2012 Stamps Specifications

Issue date	27 July, 2010
Number of stamps	Ten
Stamp design	Studio David Hillman
Illustration	Sailing by Lara Harwood; Athletics – Field by Anthony Pike; Volleyball by Ben Dalling; Wheelchair Rugby by Matthew Hollings; Wrestling by Daniel Stolle; Wheelchair Tennis by David McConochie; Fencing by Lyndon Hayes; Gymnastics by Kathy Wyatt; Triathlon by Adam Simpson; Handball by David Cutter
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over



Olympic and Paralympic Games Stamp Books

Book 1: Number of stamps	4 x 1st Machin
(Sports Stamps from 2009 issue)	1 x 1st Judo

Book 2: Number of stamps	4 x 1st Machin
(Sports Stamps from 2009 issue)	1 x 1st Athletics – Track
	1 x 1st Basketball

Book 3: Number of stamps 4 x 1st Machin
(Sports Stamps from 2010 issue) 1 x 1st Paralympic Rowing

Book 4: Number of stamps	4 x 1st Machin
(Sports Stamps from 2010 issue)	1 x 1st Football
	1 x 1st BMX Cycling

Design Studio David Hillman

Special Stamp Format	35mm x 35mm
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Printer Walsall Security Printing

Print process	Gravure
---------------	---------

Gum	Self-adhesive
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THE OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES
LONDON 2012



If you look closely at the rider's hands and the nape of the saddle, you will see white space – no marks at all. This is because the simplification of the image is one of Andrew Davidson's trademarks, and it also helps the engraving work better in the confines of a stamp.

How to take up

If you have a disability with the Riding for the Disabled Association, which organises competitions at all levels, you can find your local centre at www.rda.org.uk.

If you are able-bodied, British Dressage will **www.britishdressage.co.uk** most able-bodied Dressage in the UK and ensure well organised, win-

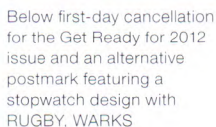
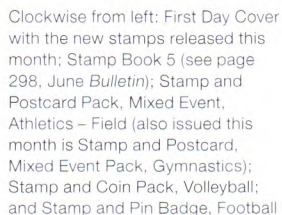
If you're not sure what to do, contact your local Dressage or just walk like a horse. You could try it all! Contact The Pony Club or see the British Riding Club of the British Horse Society (www.bhs.org.uk) for clubs and competitions.



2011

WITH JUST ONE YEAR to go to the Opening Ceremony of the Games, on 27 July the third set of Royal Mail London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games stamps and Stamp Book no 5 are released (see page 296 of last month's *Bulletin* for details). Among the associated philatelic products is a special Commemorative Sheet 'High Hopes' (below right), which includes information on the ten sports featured on the latest stamp issue, as well as interviews by Richard Rae with 2008 bronze-medal-winning Olympic gymnast Louis Smith and Britain's number-one female wheelchair tennis player Lucy Shuker. A highly collectable Composite Sheet features all 30 stamps (below left), and additional souvenir products include series of Stamp and Postcard Packs, Stamp and Coin Packs, and Stamp and Pin Badge sets •







The playboy collector

Richard Sirot discovers a king with a remarkable enthusiasm for philately – and women

LEADERS OF STATES are in the perfect position to pursue 'the hobby of Kings' and amass fine philatelic examples from all over the world, having unique access to their own country's stamps with the added bonus of gifts from other world leaders. President Sarkozy of France, for example, prides himself on a fine collection and claims stamp collecting as one of his great hobbies.

Colourful beginnings

King Carol II (Romanian for Charles) was another powerful figure with a superb philatelic collection, considered the best in the world during his lifetime. The eldest son of Ferdinand I and Queen Marie – a granddaughter of Queen Victoria – he was born on 15 October 1893 at Castle Peleç near

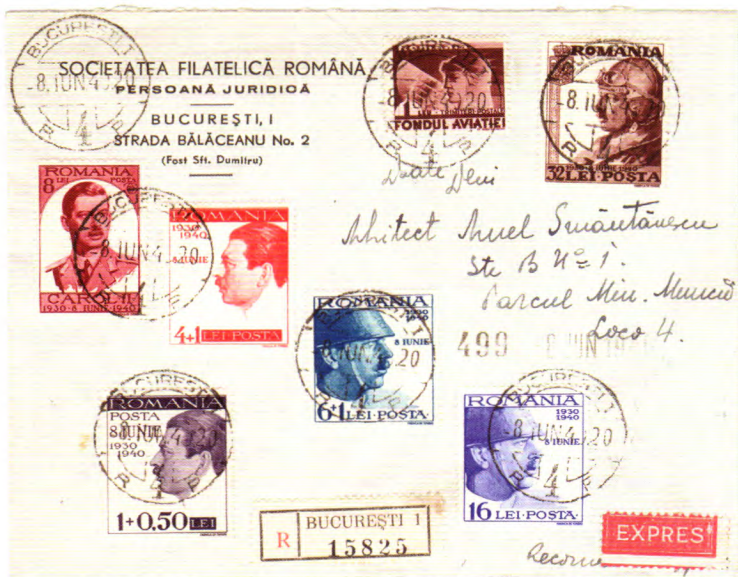
Above: the Tre Skilling Banco, once part of Carol's collection, is believed to be the most valuable stamp in the world

Sinai in the Carpathian Mountains, then the summer residence of the Romanian Royal family. The town of Sinai was a haunt of the rich and famous, with part of its appeal being the famous casino. Gambling would play a large part in the future King's life; during his reign as monarch, from the 8 June 1930 until 6 September 1940, he was often referred to as 'The Playboy King' and renowned for his lavish lifestyle and excessive spending. Nevertheless, at the time of World War I he was a respected army officer, despite his private life reading like a Mills & Boon novel.

Carol was a childhood friend of Joanne Marie Valentina Lambrino, also known as 'Zizi', and as they grew up, friendship turned into love. Prince Carol wanted to marry her but, when he announced his intentions at home, was met with opposition from his family. Zizi was not considered a suitable match. Carol was plainly told that he could not marry her because Romanian law demanded that an heir to the throne could only marry royalty from another country. Nevertheless he stuck to his guns and planned a secret marriage outside Romania.

With the help of an army officer friend, Henri Serdici de Golobardo, the young lovers Carol and Zizi crossed the border into an area of Russia that was under German occupation. The exploit was fraught with difficulties. At the border the young Prince was recognised by a vigilant German officer who only allowed them to proceed after the Prince had convinced him that he was coming into Russia *incognito* for the secret marriage of Serdici. Then, the day before the marriage ceremony, Zizi contracted food poisoning and became so ill she had to be supported in a standing position in order to say her vows.

On the couple's return to Romania the Prince was 'banished' to a monastery. It wasn't exactly a prison but his living conditions were far more ►



Left: Postcard with various stamps issued between 1934 and 1940 showing portraits of the King



austere than those of the alternative house arrest. The King and Queen went to great lengths to ensure that their son was separated from Zizi, even though she was carrying his child – though this did not prevent the Prince from temporarily taking on a mistress. At one stage the Prince threatened to give up his right of succession to the throne in order to spend his life with Zizi. Eventually the marriage was annulled by the tribunal of Ilfov at the end of 1918, although Carol never ignored his son.

An arranged marriage

Prince Carol then went on to marry Princess Helena of Greece in Athens in 1921 and they had a son called Michael. The marriage did not appear to be a particularly happy one. Helena did not share the Prince's interest in philately or other hobbies, and he was often away on foreign business trips, during which he took the opportunity to add to his stamp collection and enjoy the company of women. However, despite his many transgressions in that respect, it would be unfair to define Prince Carol as a mere playboy. Showing a keen interest in education and the culture of his country, he helped form the Romanian version of the Boy Scout Movement and also a Sports Federation. He greatly valued the traditions of village life and set up the Royal Cultural Foundation, which led to his launching a publishing company that provided educational books for the peasantry and translations of foreign literary works. He also founded the Romanian Philharmonic Orchestra.

Renouncing the throne

Unfortunately King Carol's roving eye was destined to take him away from his beloved Romania when his attentions turned to one Elena 'Magda' Lupescu. Their affair naturally rocked his marriage to Helena and the situation was further complicated by the fact that Magda had previously been married to an army officer. The King was forced to renounce his right to the throne in December of 1925 and he went into exile in France. During his exile period Carol visited England in April 1928, but left the following month, due in part to negative publicity from the UK press reports of the scandal he had caused back in Romania.

It was at this low point in his life that Carol wrote to his mother asking her to have his beloved stamp collection sent on to him. She refused to comply



with his request, telling him that his albums were so valuable they should be shared between his siblings. Carol's marriage was officially dissolved in June 1928 and two years later he returned to Romania, where, after the necessary political machinations, he was given back the crown. King Carol II was home again.

His reign – between 1930 and 1940 – saw a time of great political unrest, exacerbated by the fact that his country had many Nazi sympathisers, even in his own government. Carol also had the two great world powers of Germany and Russia exerting opposing influences, but did not trust either of them. In addition to these burdens, Romania was suffering an economic crisis. In 1938 King Carol II received a warm welcome from King George VI when he made a state visit to the UK in an attempt to maintain a harmonious relationship. In the same month he was also a guest of Hitler but was not reported to have formed a friendship with him.

Life in exile

In 1940 the King was betrayed by his Prime Minister Antonescu and forced to hand over his crown to Prince Michael (his son by Helena). Later Antonescu, with German support, gained total control of the country as a military dictator. In early September 1940 the King left his beloved Romania along with the ever-faithful Magda and a few close friends. They travelled with servants and five dogs on a special train, loaded with vast amounts of baggage – this time including his precious stamp collection. Surviving an attempt on Carol's life on the first part of the journey, he and his retinue went on to stay at various places in Europe, then stayed in Cuba for a brief period before moving on to settle in Mexico. In 1944 the party moved to Brazil, primarily because of Magda's ill health.

By 1945 Romania had become more or less a satellite of Russia and Michael, despite his best efforts, became a puppet leader. When Magda became seriously ill with pernicious anaemia in 1947, Carol decided to 'make an honest woman of her'. The couple were married quietly in a small private ceremony in their hotel bedroom. Although she recovered, it was decided on medical advice that they should move to Europe and they settled in Portugal. In 1949, to dispel a spate of rumours that they were about to divorce, they had a further religious marriage – just in case anyone thought their Brazilian one ►

Above: this series of Romanian postcards from 2003 celebrate the King and his collection. From left to right, a card showing the Carol in profile, card reproducing the 1857 Western Australia 4d error with inverted swan, card featuring the King in uniform and one celebrating the pair of tête bêche Bulls Heads



Above: the young Prince Carol was involved in the beginnings of the Romanian Boy Scout movement

was not valid. Meanwhile, King Michael was under continued pressure from Stalin and he finally abdicated and left Romania for good in January 1948.

To maintain his favoured lifestyle, Carol would occasionally sell parts of his stamp collection. By 1949 his health was failing but it was not until 1953 that he became seriously ill. On Good Friday 3 April he was examined by a doctor who failed to diagnose any serious problem, but Carol died soon afterwards, at just 59 years of age. Magda was then 53; they had been together for

28 years. King Carol II had sacrificed a great deal for Magda – she was obviously grief-stricken, but nevertheless survived him by 25 years.

Inside King Carol's collection

King Carol was a very enthusiastic stamp collector. As well as making private purchases, he travelled widely and bought stamps at auction and exhibitions, including the London Exhibition of 1950. When the Philatelic Exhibition EFRIO was held in Romania in 1932, with the King as patron, it was considered a great honour that he exhibited some of his own collection.

Not least among his fine philatelic specimens was the 1857 Swedish Tre Skilling Banco (shown on page 344). Carol purchased it from HR Harmer auctioneers in 1937, for the sum of £5,000 – an absolute fortune in its day. In recent years this stamp has attracted much publicity and a little controversy. Although a few disagree, it is generally believed to be the most valuable stamp (not stamp item) in the world.

Among the other notable items from Carol's collection are several rare stamps from his own country. These include an 1858 pair of the Porto Gazete issue with a broken line under letter 'A' in 'PAR'; an 1858 pair of tête beche Bulls heads (shown on previous page); an 1865 pair of Prince Cuza, 20 par, colour red on azure paper; an 1866 block of four King Carol I, 5 par, colour black on blue paper and cancelled; an 1872 block of 4 King Carol I.50 bani 'without beard', cancelled; and a Western Australia 4d error, with swan inverted.

A complex man, King Carol II made a great contribution to the culture of Romania and to the world of philately. His grandson, Prince Paul of Hohenzollern-Romania, has wondered, 'Was Carol a mad romantic or a ruthless hypocrite? Could he have been both at the same time?' Personally I like to think of him as an impulsive romantic and, for me, anyone who loves stamps can't be all bad •

The author wishes to extend special thanks to Leonard Pascanu of The Romanian Philatelic Federation for his help and permission to use his photographs. Also to Ms Cristina-Narcisa Nita of The Romanian Embassy in London.

Below: King Carol visits the Philatelic Exhibition EFRIO in Bucharest in 1932



My stamp of significance

Brian Sole FRPSL, President of the Kingston Upon Thames and District Philatelic Society remembers a very special issue

'MY FAVOURITE STAMP is the GB £1 stamp issued on 26 April 1948, when I was still at school. It commemorated the Royal Silver Wedding of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

'Although I could afford the 2½d stamp, issued on the same day and with the same portrait from a photograph by Dorothy Wilding, there was no way I could spend £1 on a postage stamp. And so it became an object of envy; a stamp I longed to add to my collection. As luck would have it, the stamp was also overprinted for use in Bahrain, Kuwait, Morocco Agencies and Tangier. I recall purchasing an overprinted mint stamp at about half the price of the normal GB stamp, long before I finally obtained the £1 GB Silver Wedding stamp.

Why did I like it so much? I appreciated its simplicity. The words 'postage & revenue' had been removed, leaving just '£1 1923-1948'. The border around the portrait was plain with the crown centralised, but not on the King's head. It was reminiscent of the plain, uncluttered, definitive issues of King Edward VIII and, in later years, the iconic Machin portrait on the GB definitive stamps in Queen Elizabeth II's reign •



This photograph by Dorothy Wilding was adapted for the Royal Silver Wedding stamps from one taken in 1937, which led to her being the first woman awarded a Royal Warrant – as the official photographer to a King and Queen at their coronation. Wilding's portraits of King George VI were also used on currency and bank notes. Her most famous work was the portrait of Elizabeth II used for definitives between 1953 and 1967, known as the Wilding series



Commemorative covers and sheets

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Cover producers wishing to
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and an image of the cover.
Announcements are published
on a first-come-first-served
basis or around a theme, at
the discretion of the editor.
Please send submissions
for October Bulletin to the
address on page 323 to arrive
by 30 August.



The Centenary of the launch of the Titanic is celebrated in this mint stamp sheet from Buckingham Covers, featuring ten stamps and labels. Limited numbers are available signed by Dr Robert Ballard, who discovered the wreck.

Price signed £39.95, unsigned £26.95, both inc p&p. A coin cover is also available ●

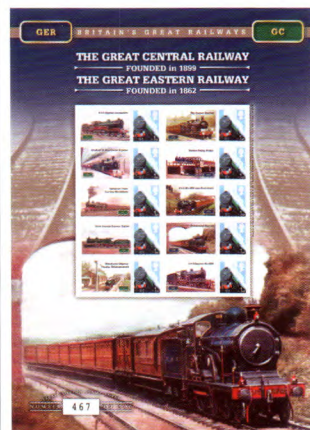


Bletchley Park A tribute to the Tunny Room at the National Museum of Computing and the people who intercepted and decoded Lorenz-enciphered messages of the German High Command in World War II – this cover carries a map showing the Nazi routes of attack and black and white wartime photos of the Tunny Room. The Tunny Machine is shown alongside an England 1st Class stamp. **Price** £12.50 plus £1.50 UK p&p ●

Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 1 August 2011. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 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. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent service 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) to 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 Melanie Williams, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

The GC and GER lines. The Great Central Railway and the Great Eastern Railway were founded in 1899 and 1862 respectively and are commemorated in the ninth sheet in Benham's Britain's Great Railways series; ten locomotive Smiler® stamps with labels depicting trains from each company. **Price** £24.95 inc p&p ●



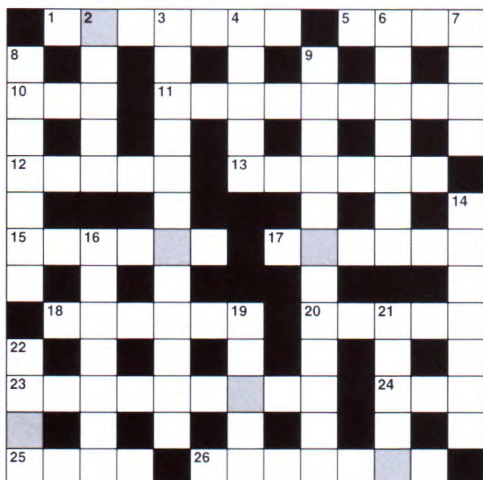
Launch of the Titanic Limited to 25 numbered copies and postmarked 31.5.2011, this cover from M Tanner comes with a filler postcard. The first *Bulletin* reader to order receives a free copy of the 'Titanic Launch' invitation of 31.5.1911 plus original cover/art print. **Price** £18.99 each plus £1.50 worldwide p&p. Fifteen other images are available, showing the building, fitting out, maiden voyage and postal workers on board ●



Prize draws

A cryptic crossword and two stamp teasers

CROSSWORD Complete the puzzle below, then rearrange the letters in the grey squares to form a stamp-related word. Send that word, with your name and address and marked 'July Crossword', to the address below. The first correct entries for the Crossword, Identify and Knowledge drawn after 1 August win items from this month's Olympic and Paralympic special issue.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Ties the rest in knots (7)
- 5 Trick boy around start of competition (4)
- 10 Worker in pantaloons (3)
- 11 Aim to catch little sister making demands (9)
- 12 Animal left in front of Buddhist priest (5)

- 13 I tarry over scarce object (6)
- 15 Be economical in an awkward situation (6)
- 17 He leaves islands to married women (6)
- 18 Trapped by routine in a Turin settlement (2,1,3)
- 20 Avoid girl penning notice (5)
- 23 Doctor reverses into Andorra again the old way (5,4)
- 24 Anger in the choir eventually (3)
- 25 Harness for part of donkey, OK? Eeyore! (4)
- 26 Don't move as putty moves (4,3)

CLUES DOWN

- 2 Crowd scene actor in the next Rambo (5)
- 3 Parthian peer replaced as one likely to succeed (4,8)
- 4 Person waking up on part of stair (5)
- 6 Somewhat angry after Conservative broke the rules (7)
- 7 Dish out pork, we hear? (4)
- 8 Everyone enters exam – most lofty! (7)
- 9 However dye runs, rifle is easy to operate (4 8)
- 14 Terribly rude, he's escorted to his seat (7)
- 16 Male in awful anorak went berserk (3,4)
- 19 Spiv hiding river fish (5)
- 21 Perish dressed in gold – goodbye (5)
- 22 Reportedly victim is to plead (4)

Identify and Knowledge

- 1 *Identify* the stamp from the detail, right, with its name and year of issue.
 - 2 Test your *Knowledge*:
 - a) How many different sports will be played across the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games?
 - b) How many Royal Mail Olympic Games Sports stamps will be available by the end of this month?
 - c) Which was the first country to honour their Olympic Games medallists on stamps?
- Send your answers, marked 'July Identify' and/or 'July Knowledge', to Bulletin Draw, 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.
- Closing date:** 1 August 2011. The first correct entries drawn after the closing date win prizes as described above •



May results *Identify:* the Tennis stamp in the 1977 Racket Sports issue. **Winner** C Roberts, Shrewton, Wilts. *Knowledge:*
 a) The world's first self-adhesive stamp was issued in Tonga in 1963, and could be bought in the UK. b) The Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme was celebrated in a Royal Mail stamp in August 1981. c) E2 Class trains were designed by Lawson Billington. **Winner** Wim Dols, Netherlands.

Crossword: Across: 1 Setback. 5 Afar. 10 Rig. 11 Overtuns. 12 Parch. 13 Dallas. 15 Riders. 17 Stodgy. 18 Drinks. 20 Syria. 23 San Marino. 24 Net. 25 Oxen. 26 Epitaph. *DOWN:* 2 Eager. 3 Brother-in-law. 4 Creed. 6 Forward. 7 Risk. 8 Drapers. 9 Athlete's foot. 14 Tyrants. 16 Derange. 19 Skimp. 21 Run-up. 22 Oslo. *Solution:* imperforate.

Winner A Newman, Aosta, Italy.

82p





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