

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

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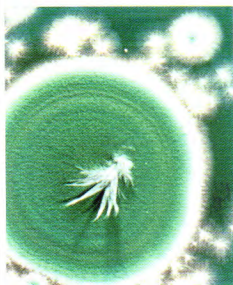
Bulletin

Hunter Davies • Handstamps
• Medical-science thematics



WIN SIGNED BOOKS, PHILATELIC CLASSICS, NEW ISSUES AND MORE

Issues and withdrawals



Cover The 1928 discovery of penicillin, attributed to Scottish scientist and Nobel laureate Alexander Fleming, is celebrated in 16 September's issue. Wellcome Images

Royal Mail Talents House

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08 July	Issue British Grand Prix Commemorative Sheet
14 July	Issue Kings & Queens Prestige Medal Collection No 4
20 July	Withdrawal Journey to the Moon Commemorative Sheet
27 July	Issue Olympic & Paralympic Games II Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Countdown Commemorative Sheet, Stamp Book, Countdown Coin Cover
02 August	Withdrawal Thaipex 2009 Expo Exhibition sheet
10 August	Issue Florence Nightingale Coin Cover ● London Eye Commemorative Sheet
17 August	Withdrawal Postboxes Miniature Sheet, Stamp Cards, generic sheet, Presentation Pack, Press Sheets
19 August	Issue Great British Railways stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards ● Retail Books 12 x 2nd, 6 x 1st Stamp Books with copy change: printer's name removed
31 August	Withdrawal Fire and Rescue stamps, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

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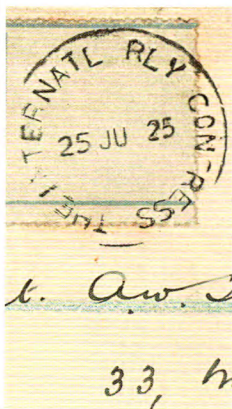
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The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Redwood, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA • **Editor** Karin Ward, email royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net • **Price** £1.20 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • © Redwood Publishing 2010. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editor • **Printed** in Great Britain by St Ives Westerham • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England & Wales no 4138203 registered office 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Postbag We answer a selection of readers' questions

Overseas confusion

The illustration of a definitive pack on page 233 of the April issue of the *Bulletin* threw me into a panic! There were apparently five overseas stamps that I've missed – Europe up to 40g (green), worldwide up to 40g (purple), worldwide postcard with a grey Queen's head, Europe up to 40g (blue), worldwide up to 40g (red). I believe it's the case that the only new overseas stamps were as illustrated on page 232?

Mr A Rayfield, Leicester

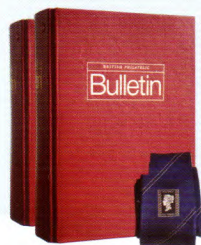


Dear Mr Rayfield,
Only two NVIs were new at the last tariff – as shown right, the Europe up to 20g (green) and worldwide up to 20g (purple). The following already existed: worldwide postcard stamp (grey), Europe up to 40g (blue), and worldwide up to 40g (red).

Page 233 carried an image of an early mock-up of the Definitive Pack that went on sale 8 May, and it contained an error in the text of the visuals for the new Europe and worldwide stamps. I hope this clears things up.

Philip Parker of Royal Mail Stamps & Philatelic

Mr Rayfield receives a set of *Bulletin* binders and a Penny Black tie



Precision in practice

I am a collector of FDCs and commemorative covers relating to engineering. Many of them have special handstamps – can you advise me on how I can find out when and where the handstamps are issued?

Darrell Drury, Doué la Fontaine, France

Dear Mr Drury,
Please turn to page 338 for our guide to handstamps, which will point you in the right direction.

A passion reborn

I recently went to the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition in Islington. I have just turned 50 and I am looking at re-starting my stamp collection, which I stopped developing when I got married 25 years ago. I bought all of the stamps and miniature sheets that were on the Royal Mail stand and saw *Bulletin* at a friend's house.

I've bought two stamp magazines which contain lists of dealers. However, as a 'new' collector I am overwhelmed with all this information. How do I proceed to rekindle my interest in stamps and possibly meet other like minded people, possibly in the Sussex area where I live?

Michael P Worth, Rottingdean

Dear Mr Worth,
Welcome back to the world of stamps! The best place to find out about local societies and events is on the Association of British Philatelic Society's website (www.abps.org.uk). You will find plenty of like-minded souls, who will be able to share their experiences, help you to prioritise your collecting needs and give you philatelic tips. Hopefully the pages of the *Bulletin* will help too. Good luck!

Surprise us and we'll surprise you!

Karin Ward, Editor of the *Bulletin*, welcomes your letters and has a topical selection of philatelic delights to give as a thank-you to readers whose letters are published on this page. Please note, however, that Royal Mail can't reply to all letters and reserves the

right to edit these entries. Please include an email address if possible. Send your letters to: The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Redwood Publishing, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA or email royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net.

What's new? Issues, products and events



Pictured left to right: John Dawson, Barbara Southard and Rosemary Brett at King's Cross, London



Evacuees reunited for WWII stamps The 60p stamp from the Britain Alone issue, which was featured in April 2010 *Bulletin*, shows an iconic wartime photograph of three young children taken as they were evacuated from the London Blitz during WWII. The Dawson siblings – John, Barbara and Rosemary – all now in their 70s, returned to King's Cross in London to restage the original image in the station from which they departed for the safety of the countryside in 1940. Barbara's memories of the moment are vague. She says: 'I honestly can't remember going to King's Cross. All I can remember is mum putting us on a bus and saying, "Babs, you sit in the middle and look after Rose and John. I'm going upstairs with Tommy. I'll bang my foot on the floor so you know I'm there." I was listening for her foot, but I knew in my heart of hearts she wasn't there. But I didn't want to cry in front of Rosemary and John because I knew I had to look after them.' Seventy years on she's delighted to appear with her brother and sister on the 60p stamp. Quoted in the *Daily Mail* recently and now a great Grandmother, Barbara says: 'I've been going to royal occasions since I was a little girl, so sharing a stage with the Queen is really wonderful.' ●

Grand Prix commemorative sheet A commemorative sheet marking the British Grand Prix – held at Silverstone from 7-11 July – will go on sale on 8 July (£13.50). The striking sheet features 10 Union Jack stamps with a label attached featuring the 10 British World Champions. It includes an interview with commentating legend Murray Walker, of whom Clive James once said 'in his quieter moments it sounds like his trousers are on fire.' ●





One lucky collector Congratulations to Mr Adrian Boggust from Cambridge who won a complete set of ‘Seahorses’ stamps in the Royal Mail stand’s prize draw at London 2010. *Bulletin’s* editor Karin Ward presented Mr Boggust with his prize at the Guildhall Art Gallery, whose current exhibition *Empire Mail: George V and the GPO* provided a fitting setting for the hand-over. Mr Boggust is delighted with his prize. ‘It’s almost unbelievable,’ he says, ‘it completes one of my philatelic dreams. When I started collecting seriously in the early 1960s I found a £1 green seahorse for £10. Then, I only earned £5 a week so it was beyond my means. I’ve always had a soft spot for the seahorses and it’s quite amazing that I now have my own set.’ Congratulations to the eight runners up – Mr F Bouwers, Surrey; Mr A Mann, London; Mr P Dubery, Enfield; Mr J Mondae, Slough; Mr E Samson, USA; Ms S Bates, London; Mr D MacDonald; West Sussex; Mr M Bailey, Romford – who have each won an unused 10 shilling blue ‘Seahorses stamp’ ●

Coins and medal covers The fourth in the series of six Prestige Medal Covers includes all seven House of Stuart stamps together with a specially struck medal from the Royal Mint. It went on sale on 15 June, priced at £44.95 ●



London SHC Royal Mail,
Mount Pleasant, London
EC1A 1BB

Wales & The West SHC
220-228 Penarth Road,
Cardiff CF11 8TA

**Scotland & Northern
Ireland SHC** Rutherglen DO,
Duchess Place, Rutherglen,
Glasgow, G73 1BT

Northern England SHC
South Shields DO, Keppell
Street, South Shields NE33 1AA

Midland SHC Birmingham
Mail Centre, St Stephens
Street, Birmingham B6 4AA

Handstamps – how to submit covers Readers are reminded that when submitting covers for special handstamps to Royal Mail’s Special Handstamp Centres (SHCs), the outer cover must bear full postage. Mail posted without payment, marked ‘Freepost’ (which does not apply to SHCs) or sent in Royal Mail plastic see-through envelopes used for the return of covers to collectors, may be delayed and refused. Covers and cards submitted must bear a return address – Royal Mail reserves the right to return any unaddressed items uncanceled. Post-it Notes should *not* be used for this purpose because they can easily become detached. The addresses of Royal Mail’s SHCs are shown right. *The British Postmark Bulletin* has more detailed information about special handstamps and Royal Mail’s Special Postmark Service and costs £12.25 (UK and Europe) or £24.95 (rest of world) per year and is available from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9PB. Turn to page 338 for Keith Downing’s history of the handstamp ●

More winners! Congratulations to the winners of the special draw in March’s *Bulletin*. Mr M Smith of Nottingham and J Allport of Guisborough will receive the coin covers ●

Kicking archive discovery The BPMA's vaults recently revealed a fresh and fascinating piece of history. Days before the beginning of the World Cup, archivists discovered unused stamp designs that were created for the 1970 World Cup and have been hiding on the reserve list ever since.

The designs were kept at the ready in the event of England achieving a successive World Cup victory following its win in 1966. It is thought that David Gentleman was commissioned well in advance, following some criticism about the set of stamps marking England's victory on home turf four years earlier – though hugely popular, the 1966 stamps were rather hastily produced. Jennifer Flippance, Exhibition manager for the London 2010 Festival of Stamps said, 'Royal Mail was obviously determined to be more prepared in 1970 which is why it commissioned designer David Gentleman. It's only a shame that England didn't experience the same victory in 1970 and that the stamp designs were filed away and forgotten' ●



BPMA July Events

21 July, 1-1.45pm,
Guildhall Art Gallery,
London EC2P 2EJ
Talk: The Post Office
Underground Railway.
BPMA Curator Chris
Taft discusses the
construction and
rise of the GPO's
Underground Railway.

28 July, 2-3pm,
BPMA, Freeling House,
London WC1X 0DL
A tour of the Royal
Mail Archive. A
behind-the-scenes
look at the collections
covering social, postal
and design history
from 1636 to today.

Listen again

Paul Eimers of Joh
Enschedé Stamps
recently recorded a
talk at the BPMA on
the story of how
stamps from the era of
King George V were
reproduced using the
original method. Listen
to this and other
wonderful podcasts
on your computer
by visiting www.postalheritage.org.uk/podcast. Simply
choose the talk you
want, and play each
using the Listen
Online Player.

John Hedgecoe (1937 – died 7 June 2010) *Bulletin* was saddened to hear of the death of the award-winning photographer, who took the profile shot of the Queen used by Arnold Machin to make a plaster version and then rephotographed for the stamp. The image of Queen Elizabeth II is the world's most reproduced photograph ●

New records online Following a recent upload to the BPMA online catalogue, there is a notable increase in the number and scope of records available for the stamp surfer. Over 300 descriptions of King George V registration sheets are available for the first time and comprise low-value photogravures and overprints. More than 1,500 new descriptions of objects, documents, photographs and philatelic material bring the grand total of searchable catalogue items to 89,240 – all available for viewing now at www.postalheritage.org.uk/catalogue ●

Programme changes Due to circumstances beyond its control, Royal Mail has made some changes to stamp issues later this year. Musicals, originally scheduled for release on 19 August, will now be issued in 2011. Great British Railways will be released on 19 August. Medical Breakthroughs, which was originally planned for a February 2011 release, will now be out on 16 September. Turn to page 348 for more on the background to the Medical Breakthroughs issue ●

2010 Revised special stamp programme

27 July	Olympic & Paralympic Games
19 August	Great British Railways
16 September	Medical Breakthroughs
12 October	Children's books
2 November	Christmas

Opposite: the 'Countdown to London 2012' coin cover (below) includes the illustrated filler card (above). Below: Royal Mail cachet cover of the second series of London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games stamps carries the ten-stamp sheet and features a furled Union Jack to the right of the stamps

Orders for serviced FDCs of this month's new London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics stamps should reach Royal Mail (address below) by the day of issue, Tuesday 27 July. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB to receive the Tallents House Edinburgh postmark. Alternative postmarks representing medals hanging from ribbon are detailed below.

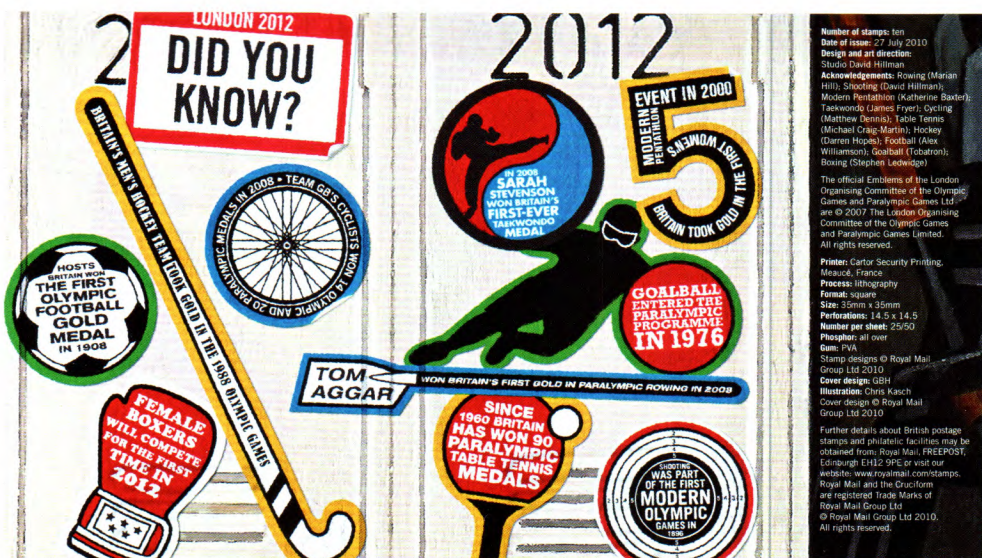
A new coin cover is also available from 27 July, and bears the official London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games stamps and a Royal Mint uncirculated £5 coin. Priced £17.50 and in a limited edition of 15,000, this is the second in a series of four 'Countdown to London 2012' to be issued in the run-up to the Games. Above an image of a powerful swimmer, the ten new stamps are cancelled by a special Countdown to London 2012 handstamp. The 'Did You Know' filler card carries a sports-themed graphic of interesting facts about previous Olympic and Paralympic events •



Two alternative postmarks for the second set of London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics issue, depicting engraved medals hanging from ribbon. Customers may send stamped envelopes to any of the Special Handstamp Centres, specifying the Vision or Pinnacle stamp as required

London 2012 stamp prices

Set of stamps	£4.10
Presentation pack	£4.60
First day cover envelope	£0.30
Serviced first day cover stamps, UK customers	£5.29
Serviced first day cover stamps, overseas customers	£4.51
Stamp cards sets	£4.00
Commemorative sheet	£13.50
Coin and stamp cover	£17.50
Stamp book	£2.46



Correction In May's *Bulletin* we stated two different issue dates for this, the second set of London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics stamps. The correct date is 27 July 2010.

Stamp scene Glenn Morgan and the *Bulletin* team keep you posted

PostBeeld Philatelic Adventure Store In times when stamp shops are declining in number and more and more philatelists are purchasing online, it's good to see that Dutch stamp dealer PostBeeld has recently opened the largest stamp shop in the Netherlands. They have merged four adjacent commercial properties into one large shop with different departments, including the Old Stamp Shop with an 'old English' atmosphere, the Numismatic Shop for PostBeeld's growing coin and banknote dealing operation, and Collections and Occasions, from where collections, remainders and loose stamps at 10c each can be purchased. Cards, Thematic Adventure and regular shop areas complete the store. PostBeeld Philatelic Adventure Store is at Cronjéstraat 68, Haarlem, Netherlands and still operates what it terms the 'world's largest internet stamp shop' at www.postbeeld.com ●

Adding a touch of glamour to the proceedings, a Marilyn Monroe lookalike opens the new PostBeeld store in Haarlem, the Netherlands



Australian Colonial Heritage Australia Post has launched a four-year series of stamps in the lead-up to 2013, when it will celebrate the Australian Federation – the union of the six separate British self-governing colonies. The 2010 issue reinterprets the original 'Chalon head' design in a \$5 double-definitive size in sheets of ten, the paper of which bears a simulated CH monogram watermark. The issue is printed in offset and intaglio using engraved copper dies and is accompanied by a special miniature sheet ●

Record-breaking sale Stanley Gibbons recently sold a 1904 6d Pale Dull Purple (IR Official) for £400,000. The stamp was re-discovered in a Spanish collection by a Swiss collector in the 1950s and was first auctioned by Robson Lowe in 1952. It has been in several famous collections since, including that of W Harrison-Cripps and William H Gross. But other owners, like the person who has just bought it, have preferred to remain anonymous. First issued on the 14 March 1904, it was withdrawn two months later, hence its rarity ●



A very valuable stamp indeed

Five Day Service Singapore Post cut back mail collections and deliveries to Monday to Friday from May, joining around 70 other postal administrations, including Sweden, Australia and Canada. This cost-saving measure came in response to a 22% reduction in mail volumes between 2002 and 2008 ●

Collaborative effort Launched at the recent London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition, www.philapedia.com claims to be the first online postal history encyclopaedia/catalogue. 'Wiki' technology allows users to view, add, comment and hold discussions on philatelic items. Information in the form of descriptions, scans, historical, philatelic and prices realised at auction will also be included, along with details of postal history societies, clubs, books and other related information ●

Put on your travelling shoes One lucky philatelist is about to get help with the research trip of their dreams. The Royal Philatelic Society London is inviting applications for the Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship, which seeks to assist in the advancement of knowledge of Commonwealth stamps and postal history by contributing to the cost of a study trip.

If you have detailed dreams of a far-flung philatelic exploration and you are confident about publishing your findings, you have until 30 September to apply. For full details phone 020 74861044 or write to The Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship, The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY.

Julian Ernest Chapman was born in England in 1952 and emigrated to Australia with his parents in the 1960s. Through his years working as a teacher and later a financial administrator in the Australian Federal Department of Agriculture, his enduring interest in philately became centred on British Africa and Gibraltar, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland. He was elected a fellow of the RPSL in 1987 ●

Seeking the thousandth member Who will be the 1,000th member of Kidstamps – the online club for young collectors? Membership is now well over the 900 mark and the club organisers are planning a special prize for member 1,000. If you aren't yet a member – or know someone who might enjoy the fun – the criteria for membership are that you live in the UK and are aged between four and 19. To join, just log on to the Stamp Active Network (SAN) website – www.planetstamp.co.uk – select the Kidstamps section, download and print off the membership application form, fill it in, and post back to SAN. To find out more about the site, see page 339 ●

Ten-year-old SAN member, Josh Haswell holds £1.5 million of stamps at the London 2010 Exhibition – proving that philately can be thrilling





Top: a cover, with 14 Penny Blacks, from the Alan Holyoake exhibit. Above: Brian Trotter (left) presents Alan Holyoake with the Grand Prix

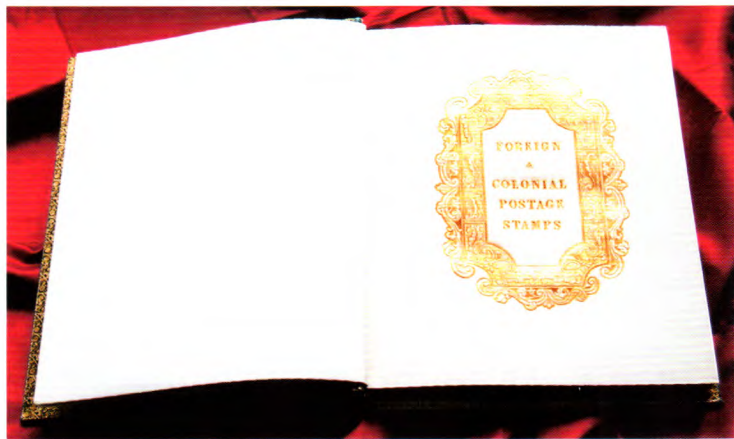
All the winners The superb exhibit *The First Line Engraved Postage Stamps* by Alan Holyoake won the top award at the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition. The Grand Prix was a sculpture of the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II by Arnold Machin, donated by The Royal Philatelic Society London. It was awarded for Holyoake's incredible exhibit that studies the birth of the Penny Black, and the plates of the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue, as used when the stamps were first issued. Alan also won the award for the best exhibit in the Postal Stationery Class, a study of *The Introduction and Usage of the Mulready Envelope and Letter Sheet Stationery*. The winners of the 'Best in Class' awards in the other categories were as follows: **Traditional** Yo-Chi Kim (South Korea) for *Great Joseon and Dasha Empire (1884-1909)* • **Postal History** Steven Walske (United States) for *Heart of the West: San Francisco as a Postal Hub from 1849 to 1869* • **Revenue** Jukka Mäkinen (Finland) for *Sweden, the First Revenue Stamp Issue of 1811-1844* • **One Frame** Pradip Jain (India) for *The Development of the Airmail Route Cairo-India 1918-1929* • **Aerophilately** Peter Motson (United Kingdom) for *Newfoundland Airmail Stamps and Airmail Flights 1919-1948* • **Thematic Philately** Joshua Magier (Israel) for *Land Cultivation from the Beginning of Agriculture to the Present Times* • **Youth** Livie-Laure Tillard (Canada) for *La Marianne de Briat surchargée St-Pierre et Miquelon* • **Literature** Ulrich Ferchenbauer (Austria) for *Österreich 1850-1918 Spezial Katalog* •



FIFA philatelics To mark the World Cup, the South African Post Office issued two stamp sheets and two commemorative covers on 11 June. The first sheet, printed by Southern Colour Security Print of New Zealand, comprises six round self-adhesive stamps presented in a round 'football' background. Designed by Thea Clemens, the round stamps feature the official FIFA World Cup Trophy, the emblem and Matchball. The second South African World Cup stamp sheet, printed by Enschedé, contains ten R2.40 stamps with five designs that all feature Zakumi, the official Mascot of the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™. Anyone interested in buying these stamps should call +27 12 845 2814 or email sa.stamps@postoffice.co.za •

Publications

The Philatelic Journalist The AIJP (Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques) has recently redesigned its magazine, which is now entitled *The Philatelic Journalist* and is in full colour with a high print quality – significantly improved from its previous incarnation. At the recent London 2010 Exhibition, AIJP held a meeting of existing and prospective members on the opening day where, for the first time in the UK, the 'Belvedere' stamp album (illustrated below) was shown to attendees. This legendary album is believed to be the oldest stamp album in existence and was once in the possession of the Royal Saxe-Coburg-Gotha family. Philatelic authors and journalists seeking more information about AIJP membership details should visit www.aijp.org, or contact its President, Wolfgang Maassen, at w.maassen@aijp.org •



George V and the GPO – Stamps, Conflict & Creativity This is the third book by Douglas Muir, following his works on the Penny Black (1990) and the Machin design (2007). All three books have involved a thorough examination of contemporary archives revealing much previously unpublished information. This new book comprises 18 chapters dealing with the King as stamp collector, the stamp issues of his reign, and the many changes to the postal service during his 25 years as king.

There are many pleasing illustrations, some well known and others I hadn't encountered before such as a motor mailboat for delivery of mail to the remote island of Foula in 1912. The book is handsomely produced, but, somewhat strangely, does not have the title on the front cover, which comprises an enlargement of one of the proposed designs for the Silver Jubilee issue. We are provided with a good index and profuse footnote references to sources, but a bibliography of relevant books and articles would have been welcome.

George V and the GPO is available from Tallents House or from The BPMA, price £19.95. **John Holman** •

Events

22-25 July 2010

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Kenilworth, UK.

21 August

East Midlands & East Anglian Philatelic Federation, Cambridge.

2-4 September

Sberatel 2010 International Trade Fair, Prague, Czech Rep.

4 September

Middlesex Philatelic Federation Diamond Jubilee stamp day, Amersham.

15-18 September

Autumn Stampex, BDC, Islington, London, UK.

11 September

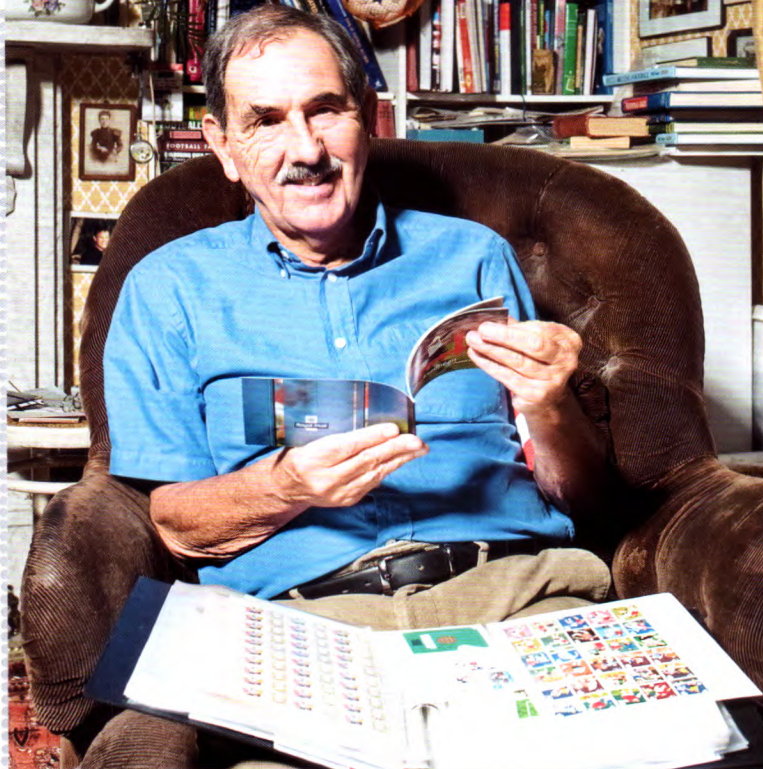
Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies, Croydon.

25 September

Nephilex 2010, North-East of England Philatelic Federation, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

9 October

The South of England Stamp Fair and Sussex Convention, Ardingly.



Football fever

Hunter Davies will be watching the World Cup with an eye to its impact on his collections...

I CONFESS, I AM A COMPULSIVE COLLECTOR and one of my obsessions is football stamps. I have oft had larger thematic collections, but with football I enjoy the limits. It's nice to have a finite collection, one where there is an end in sight... even if you have manufactured the limits just to keep yourself sane.

We're going to Wembley It all began with a subject slightly removed – Wembley stamps. For the great British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley 1924-25, there were only two commemorative stamps issued – one penny and one and a half penny – so the field in theory is limited to two stamps, or four, as two were dated 1924 and two dated 1925. 'Easy peasy,' you think, 'soon get this collection sorted.' However, I then found myself going into covers featuring Wembley stamps, but with different postal marks and slogans on, which were fascinating – well, *I* was fascinated.

But then I realised that my interest in the Wembley Exhibition was really



to do with Wembley Stadium – the original twin towers one, which was built for the exhibition. I decided that if I was interested in football, and interested in stamps, I should really be collecting football stamps – those with a football connection. And so I'm still going strong. In fact, football is currently my most consuming philatelic passion.

Self-imposed restrictions Having messed around with previous thematic collections, when I began with football stamps I tried to create rules for myself instead of making them up as I went along. First of all, I wouldn't go for modern stamps. Nothing wrong with them, in theory, as they are cheap enough, plentiful enough, pretty enough and are as good a way as any for a child or complete beginner to amass a fairly extensive collection quite quickly. The problem is that for the last few years, on every big footie occasion, every country in the world seems to have issued football stamps. Countries where football isn't their national game, where football isn't even played and countries that aren't even countries but lumps of rock in the ocean.

With all my collections – and I have about 20 on totally different subjects – I try not to collect stuff that was made to be collected. One of the joys of postage stamps, way back to 1840 when it all began, is that stamps served a purpose, as they still do. It was only gradually that people realised they ▶

The 4d David Gentleman-designed issue, proclaiming England's victory, reminds Hunter of the day he saw the trophy come home



One of the 1966 World Cup GB stamps released for the start of the competition

were fascinating, informative, attractive, exceedingly portable and neat if you wanted to keep and treasure them. But there are just too many, so I try to draw the line at around 1966 – though I do have some interesting ones from the 1980s and I like the Post Office's 1996 issue of football legends. Yes, I do break my own rules all the time.

Days of glory The point of 1966 is that it was the year England won the World Cup and I was there, for the final game – and kept my ticket as well as the programme. I also went round buying sheets, yes sheets, of the three

GB stamps that were issued – 4d, 6d and 1s 3d – to mark the event and then the 4d, which later had the additional words 'England Winners'.

Anyone collecting football stamps has to have some of the 1966 GB stamps, and fortunately

there are lots still around that are not too expensive. But if you find them on covers signed by the players, that will put the price up considerably.

One of the other things I had to decide, when I began collecting them, is what is a football stamp? I mean, how do you define it? Must it show a footballer? Or will a football lying in the corner be enough? I suppose collectors of bird stamps have the same problem. For instance, do bird droppings on the ground make a bird stamp?

As it's my collection, I felt entitled to make up my own rules. I decided, quite reasonably, that there has to be a football image somewhere on the stamp. The oldest stamp in my football collection dates from 1924 and was issued by Uruguay to celebrate their victory at the Olympics. It doesn't show a player or a ball. In fact, it doesn't even show a crossbar but, rather, the headless Victory of Samothrace statue in the Louvre. So, in an instant, bang went my own rule. And yet, despite the lack of any football imagery, I count it as the first-ever football stamp as it was issued for a footballing event. So I had to have it. There are three in the set – in red, purple and

‘I had to decide... what is a football stamp? Must it show a footballer? Or will a football lying in the corner be enough?’

Clockwise from right: the first 'proper' football stamp issued by the Netherlands for the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics; the only stamp issued for the 1938 World Cup in Paris; Sweden's 1958 football issue isn't particularly valuable, but Hunter loves its clean, concise nature and the energy conveyed through simple design





Hunter will no doubt find a spot for the upcoming Olympics issue, which contains a football stamp (due out 27 July 2010), despite his self-imposed rules to limit his collection

blue. I guess the first 'proper' football stamp (that is, one that showed an actual footballer) was one produced for the 1928 Netherlands Olympics.

A pertinent love My favourite football stamps are the early World Cup issues. No use looking for any stamps issued to celebrate the first-ever World Cup, which took place in 1930 in Uruguay. Strange that none came out, when you think about what a football-mad country Uruguay was and still is. There are stamps showing scenes from the 1930 finals but they came out later, not at the time. The first World Cup stamps issued contemporaneously were by the Italians for the following World Cup held in Italy in 1934. They are very stylish, as were the ones issued by France when they were hosts in 1938. Perhaps my favourites were those issued in 1958 by the hosts Sweden – they're very simple, showing just one lone figure kicking a ball.

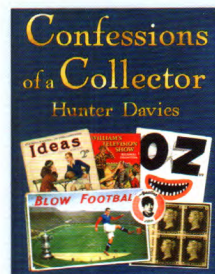
What am I saying? My best ever, favourite footer stamps are, of course, the GB ones for 1966. Best – so far... You never know, if England by some miracle wins this current tournament, Royal Mail will naturally do us proud and rush out a special set and, despite all my rules, I will buy loads and loads ●

For more football philately, check out...

- **www.footysphere.blogspot.com** Written by football enthusiast Karl Smout, this fantastic blog has detailed articles on all things stamp and football-related. Check out his great article on bullseye cancels called 'World Cup 1966 – Socked on the nose'.
- **Dawn Cover Productions** produce the Official Football Cover Series and special handstamps for many of the Football League clubs. Email them at srenshaw@ntlworld.com or go to **www.footballcover.co.uk**. They have a great selection of covers including a set entitled 'Football Locomotives' which sees the 25 locomotives named after football clubs placed in a railway setting close to their affiliated football grounds.
- **The Football Postcard Collectors Club** celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. As well as postcards, the club also touches on football stamps and special postmarks connected with football events. To find out more, email beejaysozent@hotmail.com.

Giveaway

Hunter Davies' latest book, *Confessions of a Collector* (Quercus, £20), includes a section on stamps. We have five signed copies to give away. Send a postcard with your name and address on to Hunter Davies Book, Bulletin, Redwood, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA. Senders of the first five cards drawn from our postbag on 9 August 2010 will receive a free copy.



Mark of many functions Keith Downing's expert guide to the history of handstamps

IN 1660 KING CHARLES II OPENED UP the Royal postal system to carry public letters. And it did not take long for the first complaints to arrive about delays to mail! So, in April 1661, an attempt to tackle this problem was made by Henry Bishop, then the Postmaster General, with the introduction of the famous 'Bishop Mark'.

The circular hand-applied mark indicated the day and month of receipt of post by the Post Office in London and continued to be used for more than 100 years. The Bishop Mark established the primary purpose of the postmark: to indicate the date a mailing enters the postal system.

Marking the journey's end At first the cost of sending a letter was calculated using a complex set of rates based on the number of sheets of paper and the distance carried, with the charge raised being marked in manuscript. By the end of the 17th century, marks were applied indicating where the letter had been posted so that the distance carried could be calculated. Even though it has no bearing on the cost of postage today, this remains the second purpose of the postmark: to indicate where the letter was received or initially processed.

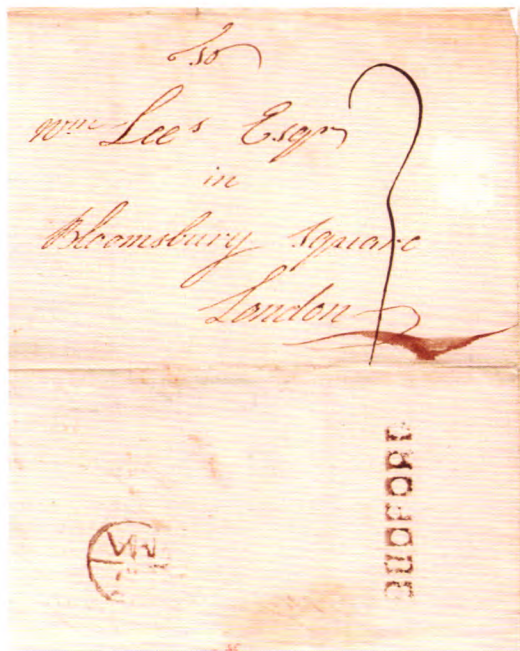
Rowland Hill simplified the complicated charging system with the introduction of the 4d post on 5 December 1839, which became the Penny Post just over a month later, on 10 January 1840.

It was the subsequent introduction of postage stamps and the Mulready cover in May 1840 that brought about the third important function of the postmark: to cancel stamps or stationery to prevent reuse and protect Post Office revenue.

Even though the designs of postmarks and the methods of application have changed significantly over the years, these three functions still remain their key purpose. Stamp collectors have always found postmarks intriguing because the information they provide helps with research; equally, they have disliked them because postmarks can obscure the stamp, which is why they are sometimes known as 'obliterators'.

March of the machines From the first Bishop Mark until after the introduction of postage stamps, postmarks were always applied by hand, but the growing volume of mail inevitably led to attempts to mechanise the process. The earliest trial was with the Pearson Hill machine in 1857, followed by various devices from other

Below: the mark struck on the reverse of the cover from 1773 indicates it was posted in Bedford and then date-stamped with a Bishop Mark on arrival in London on 5 May





Collectors... have disliked them because postmarks can obscure the stamp, which is why they're sometimes known as obliterators

manufacturers, all designed to help process ever-larger volumes of mail. Mail was initially processed and postmarked where it was received and the postmark was inscribed accordingly. This was the case with all mail sent from the special post office at the 1862 International Exhibition in Hyde Park, which established the tradition of using dedicated postmarks at exhibitions and conferences. Often relatively few letters were posted at the special post offices and so many early handstamps are rare, but for the next 100 years postmarks were applied where each piece of post began its journey.

Let there be light By the 1960s, however, the postal presence at events was often reduced to just one special postbox and all mail posted into it was processed with a commemorative postmark. At first there was very little information available about these special event postmarks and even today previously unknown early examples are still being discovered. But with the Post Office's 1971 launch of the *British Postmark Bulletin*, collectors finally had access to an authoritative publication with all the details of forthcoming postmarks and information about how they could obtain special ones on their own covers.

Temporary post offices at events have now almost entirely vanished and even special postboxes are a rarity, but there are still a large number of special postmarks. These are applied at the five Special Handstamp Centres (SHCs) across the country [details on page 326]. Some postmarks are issued

Clockwise from top: a mileage mark indicating the distance of Bedford from London (this distance changed over the years); all elements of the postmark combined into a simple duplex mark, the style that continues today; a Maltese cross handstamp used to cancel a letter from Bedford to Olney – the date was struck on the back

Below: unpublished special post offices had postmarks to cancel registered letters, often made up specially for the event – this example is from the International Railway Congress in London





Above, from top: local authorities used to be allowed to use slogan postmarks to promote their facilities and attractions; Royal Mail has promoted its own products with slogan postmarks for many years

by Royal Mail itself, but most are sponsored by philatelic cover producers, although all postmarks are available for reposting by any collector sending their own covers to the appropriate SHC.

Subject to approval by Royal Mail, sponsors can produce postmarks for any occasion, using their own design. Since 1972, special high-quality strikes have been produced using a machine which is based on a design developed by the Swiss Post Office, so most of these postmarks are no longer struck by hand. Each SHC holds a number of traditional circular postmarks as well, which are detailed in each *British Postmark Bulletin* and enable collectors to obtain perfectly applied

postmarks on their stamps if they want fine, used examples.

Until the 1960s, mail continued to be cancelled by hand at almost every small post office throughout the country, or by machines in towns and cities. But efforts to concentrate letter processing into fewer offices has resulted in the 29 mail centres receiving most letters using Integrated Mail Processors (IMPs).

A century of slogans From the start, machine postmarks had date and location details in one part of the design, with the larger section being used to cancel stamps. Britain's first slogan postmark appeared during WWI, with the message 'Buy National War Bonds Now' used in place of the cancelling bars. Subsequently, slogans promoting the British Empire Exhibition, British industry and the telephone were used, but it was only after WWII that the use of slogan postmarks to promote a wide range of subjects took off.

In 1963 the Post Office permitted local authorities to publicise themselves

Right: two different postmarks may be applied to one cover, offering the opportunity to create additional interest



A Royal Mail Stamp Card Series PHO 13310 3/91



Scientific Achievements (*Babbage – Computer*)
Reproduced from a stamp designed by Peter Till
and issued by the Royal Mail on 5 March 1991

Printed at The House of Questa, London, England SE5 7TP
© Royal Mail Stamps



Clockwise from top left: Royal Mail provides its own special handstamp with a design and place relevant to each new stamp issue, although it is not used at the place named in the postmark; collectors can link special postmarks with individual stamp designs as with this Royal Albert Bridge cover; sponsored handstamps available today can be provided for a long period of time with an interchangeable date; an example of a recent slogan postmark used at one of the 29 IMP offices

☛ The *British Postmark Bulletin* features illustrated lists of forthcoming special handstamps from around the country ☛

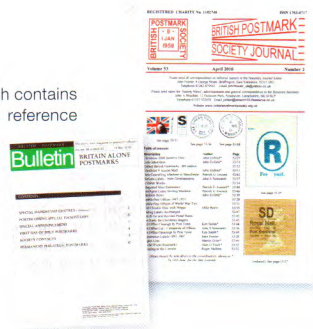
using slogan postmarks and it eventually allowed commercial advertising, although the legibility of marks was variable. By the end of the 20th century, Royal Mail had withdrawn almost all slogan postmarks except those for its own national campaigns, which were applied at the IMP mail centres. Collectors can no longer use the repost facility to obtain slogan postmarks but must rely on commercial usage for their collections.

Broaden your collecting horizons Stamp collectors can use the wide range of high-quality special handstamps to expand their collections. There is plenty of material available, whether you concentrate on a particular locality or county or you are a thematic collector. Even though, for a number of different reasons, fewer operational postmarks are now used, you can track down examples to add to the existing range of special postmarks by diligently checking mail ●

Keith Downing is President of the British Postmark Society

For more information on special postmarks

- First consult the *British Postmark Bulletin*, published fortnightly by Royal Mail, which contains information about all new postmarks and also carries details of each postmark's reference number, which Special Handstamp Centre will use the cancellation and on what dates. For details of how to subscribe, turn to page 326
- Another valuable source of information is the quarterly *British Postmark Society Journal*, covering all aspects of modern postmarks. For membership details, please contact John Strachan, 12 Dunaven Park, Strathaven, Lanarkshire ML10 6LP.
- For more detailed information on submitting covers and the steps to take to obtain special postmarks, please turn to page 326.



The daddy of them all Martin Robinson on Anthony Trollope's contribution to postal history

THE FIRST PILLAR BOXES belong to the age of Anthony Trollope (1815-1882), renowned novelist of the Victorian era. He began his working life as a humble Post Office surveyor's clerk, rising to become a successful senior civil servant. He travelled widely on business in the United Kingdom and also on the Continent, in the Middle East, the West Indies and the United States. A man of remarkable energy and discipline, he wrote 47 novels and found time to

indulge his passions for hunting and whist, while also following his demanding full-time career.

Trollope is credited with the introduction of street letter boxes to the United Kingdom. In the course of his work, he saw letter boxes in the streets of Paris, and thought they would solve some of the problems encountered in the Channel Islands, where letter-receiving offices were few and far between.

In 1852 he received permission to have some letter boxes made locally and installed on an experimental basis. They were judged to be a success and pillar boxes began to appear in mainland Britain the following year, the first of which was erected in Botchergate, Carlisle.

This month's box One of the two earliest post boxes can be seen in Union Street, St Peter Port, Guernsey (front and back views pictured left). The other stood for some years outside the Post Office's South Western Region headquarters in Bristol, but is now in the British Postal Museum store at Debden, Essex, which is open several times a year. (Call 020 7239 2570 or email info@postalheritage.org.uk for details.)

The Guernsey box has the number '1' cast beneath the posting aperture, while the other doesn't; otherwise they are identical. They are thought to have been cast at John Vaudin's foundry in Jersey. At the top of each of the three rear panels are the letters V.R. and the Royal Arms dating from the reign of William IV, Victoria's uncle, whom she succeeded in 1837.

Examples of many of the earliest UK mainland boxes still survive and we shall return to them in a future article.



We would like to hear from you

Miss P Muncy sent us a photograph of a Penfold box she sees every day as she goes to work. It's a well-loved Penfold in Cambridge, just outside King's College. We like the juxtaposition of the 21st-century low-carbon vehicle in the background of the picture – a typically Cambridge cycle – and Miss Muncy wins this month's *Bulletin* Post Box Prize (see below right).



Ludlow wall boxes were made for sub-post offices. This one's in Worcestershire



Edward VII lamp box, small but perfectly formed, near Bacton, Herefordshire



Penfold pillar box
A classic at Cambridge, submitted by P Muncy

Named after the manufacturer, James Ludlow of Birmingham, the Ludlow was made for use at sub post offices. The earliest is dated 1809 and is shown on the Royal Mail Post Boxes miniature sheet.

It was not until 1895 that a standard design was adopted. Before that, postmasters would have a letter box built by a local craftsman. There were two sizes of Ludlow boxes and this is an example of the larger one, with the cipher of George VI.

Edward VII lamp boxes are the smallest of all letter box types. They were first made in 1896 and were intended to be fixed to lamp posts which, with the spread of public gas lighting, had begun to appear on the streets. The very first version had the word 'LETTERS' at the top, but this was soon amended to 'LETTERS ONLY'. The original 'LETTERS' version is very rare and only two examples are still in use; one near Hythe in Kent and one near Bethlehem, Llandeilo.

Penfold pillar boxes were made between 1866 and 1879, and are named after J W Penfold, the architect who designed them. They were made in three sizes, distinguished by the width of the front panel: 8½, 9½ or 10½ inches. In addition, there were four modifications to the design. So there are five types and three sizes, giving a possible 15 combinations, 12 of which are known to exist. The box shown here is an example of the fourth most common type.

For more information

If you would like to find out more about letter boxes, contact the **Letter Box Study Group**. For details of their publications and activities look at the website www.lbsg.org or contact the Membership Secretary at 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES (email membership@lbsg.org).

Send your photographs to: The Editor, the *British Philatelic Bulletin*, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA. Or email royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net. Each month we aim to showcase and explain readers' photos of post boxes. Submissions for September *Bulletin* must reach the above address by July 15. We regret we cannot return your photographs.

What you win

Miss P Muncy wins this month's prize, a copy of *Old Letter Boxes* (£4.95 Shire Books) and presentation pack of the 2009 Miniature Sheet (£3.20, off sale 17 August), both shown below.



Tomorrow's collectors

Junior collector, Jacqs Scourfield, reviews Stamp Active Network's site



Above: the current home page of Stamp Active Network's site – www.planetstamp.co.uk

Who is it for? www.planetstamp.co.uk is the top site for young junior collectors. It tells you all you need to know from how to soak your stamps off letters to the latest competition results.

How is it organised? The site is organised into five sections 'Home', 'Rocket News', 'Café', 'Kidstamps' and 'Club Leaders'. Although the Home page tells you where to go for what you need, I feel it doesn't have that enthusiastic push to make you look further. It's written in paragraphs and is over-complicated.

What are the best bits? For me the best bit of the website is meeting Perfy on the home page. He is a lovely character and it seems a shame he doesn't seem to be anywhere else on the website. I also enjoyed looking at perforations and watermarks on our stamps in the 'Café', but felt there could have been much more advanced information.

Rocket news gives a lot of good information. It's easy to miss the smaller menu underneath, which, if you click onto 'Competitions', turns into yet another menu with more choices – complicated! But it's worth getting the hang of it, because you will find lots of news about competitions and results. The site allows you to download entry forms and, if you click on Stamp Active Competition 2011, you can get some information and find out how you can get points in the competition.

What could be improved? The 'Café' is full of lots of good information but, again the smaller menus are easy to miss. There are four sub sections – 'Starters', 'Main course', 'Puddings' and 'Specials' – a good idea but it doesn't work well, with some of the information being repeated. The 'Specials' was the best and clearest part, but aimed at competition level when a lot of its contents would have been perfect for a starter level. When you look at the pages there is mainly writing and everything feels crowded, which put me off.

Jacqs' pick of other sites for young collectors

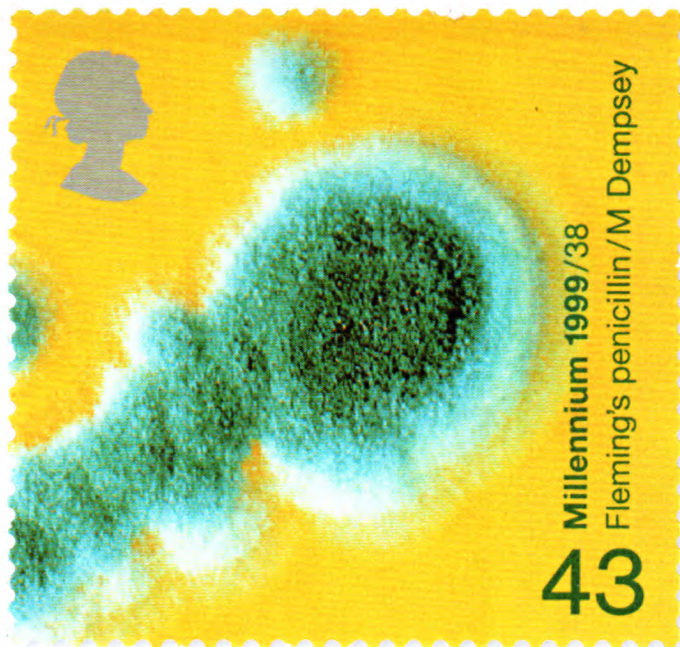
www.stamps.org/kids is The American Philatelic Society's kids' pages with lots of information.

www.stamp-search.com is part of an online store with cool stamps, where you can search for stamps by country, description or theme, which is really handy.

www.purr-n-fur.org.uk is a 'cat appreciation' site, which shows lots of different cat stamps from around the world. Stamp Active Network maintains www.planetstamp.co.uk on a voluntary basis. Anyone who is interested in supporting the website in terms of time, finance or ideas please write to John Davies, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9LB.

My view I would make the menus easier to follow and improve how the information is split up. The site could be simpler, with less writing and no repeating of information. It would be nice to have a 'Just-for-fun' section (some games are hidden away in Kidstamps) and a gallery so that clubs could post photos and news about their events ●

Our reviewer Jacqs Scourfield, 14, is an award-winning UK philatelist whose Youth Class displays have won acclaim at a number of major exhibitions



The art of medicine

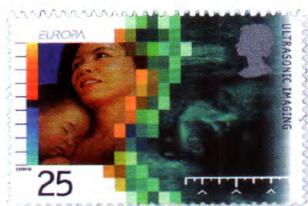
'Science communicator' Chris Yardley shares some highlights of his specialist collection

I CANNOT REMEMBER when I have not been a stamp collector; I started collecting as a boy and nothing has changed. In my retirement I have been able to combine my long-held interest in 'science communication' and 'science on stamps' by embarking on an academic career and using a stamp collection as an element of my Doctoral degree. I feel even more passionately about this collection and its purpose than the many others I have made, having been inspired to compile a different specialist collection in each of the five countries I have lived in. (My work with computers has meant that my wife and I moved home 14 times in 45 years and lived in five countries England, Ireland, Singapore, New Zealand and now Australia.)

Dream of a doctorate I entered the Australian National University in 2008 to do a Masters degree in Science Communication at the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science. I was offered an open subject for my PhD and was gratified to have the opportunity to combine my passion ►

Celebrating the significance of the discovery of penicillin by Alexander Fleming, an image of penicillin mould, shown left, is included in The Patients' Tale set of the Millennium Series of 1999. This series also represented Jenner's development of the smallpox vaccine, improvements in nursing care and the development of in-vitro fertilization, as shown below





The designs of the 1994 Europa issue included visual references to four important discoveries, shown next to images of people to convey the impact of science on our quality of life

‘They can tell us a lot about the political, cultural and economic necessities of the period in which they were issued’

with the departmental mission of promoting the awareness of science in everyday life through the study of science on stamps.

I am looking forward to seeing the Royal Mail's new issue of Medical Breakthroughs up close – I would like to analyse how the design of this set has moved forward since the similarly titled Europa issue of 1994. And I'd like to compare it to the 2002 'Australia Legends' set, which showed only the photograph and the name of the medical person being celebrated and did not attempt a visual representation of their achievements.

What fascinates me about medical science-themed stamps is that, as stamps are indicators of how a country sees itself or wants to be seen, they can tell us a lot about the political, cultural and economic necessities of the period in which they were issued. The images and symbols used to represent a medical breakthrough and/or the scientist that made the breakthrough need to answer the questions 'who', 'what' and 'when'? But, equally, I like to understand how and why they were chosen.

Highlights of my collection As a collector I have an instinctive desire to own a copy of every single stamp relevant to the theme of my collection. Choosing a favourite is difficult; the stamp I most admire is usually one that I do not yet own.

An early British issue in the theme commemorated Lister's contribution (set of two, 1965). These stamps were seminal in showing both the scientific apparatus and the scientist, and celebrated the anniversary of Lister's greatest achievement – the introduction of antiseptic surgery in 1865.

Another important stamp set based on medical discoveries is the 1994 Europa issue, whose four stamps portray ultrasonic imaging, scanning electron microscope, magnetic resonance imaging and computer tomography. The invention of the computed tomography scanner by Sir Godfrey Hounsfield in 1972, as shown in the 41p stamp of the Europa set, is a breakthrough I remember from my early days of working with computers at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Birmingham – and so has a particular relevance for me.

A set of stamps issued in 2001 to celebrate the centenary of the Nobel

Prize included three stamps that illustrate the science prizes awarded annually (namely chemistry, physiology or medicine, and physics). But they were controversial. The associated Presentation Pack carried text claiming that developments in quantum physics combined

with information technology, 'may lead to an explanation of processes still not understood within conventional science, such as telepathy – an area in which Britain is at the forefront of research'. This raised quite a few eyebrows in the world of science. What it should have said, of course, is how a more detailed understanding of paranormal phenomena

may emerge from a better understanding of quantum mechanics. The pack is collectible nonetheless.

Nobel Prize winners

While this year's Royal Mail Medical Breakthrough stamps introduce us to five less well known specialists, three stamps already in existence celebrate Nobel Prize winners for Medicine. Sir Alexander Fleming's work has already appeared twice on Great Britain stamps – the 1967 *penicillium notatum* graphic from the British Discovery and Invention set [above right] and stamp number 38 in the Millennium Series of The Patients' Tale [see page 345].

The ground-breaking work of pathologist Howard Florey and biochemist Ernst Chain, who developed the extraction of penicillin, has also been celebrated in at least one postage stamp – in my collection I have the 1995 Australian \$2.50 stamp featuring Florey and the \$2 Dominican issue celebrating the work of Ernst Chain [see below right].

Living science Australia frequently celebrates the lives and achievements of living persons. In the aforementioned 'Australian Legends: Medical Scientists' issue, the country featured five legends of medical science. They were research biologist Sir Gustav Nossal (born 1931), microbiologist Nancy Fannie Millis (born 1922), immunologist and winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize for Medicine, Peter Doherty (born 1940), epidemiologist Fiona Stanley (born 1946), and physiologist Donald Metcalf (born 1929).

The study I am currently undertaking examines how and why particular scientists are chosen for celebration on a nation's postage stamps, so I look forward to scrutinising the forthcoming Royal Mail issue celebrating famous Medical Breakthroughs made by British scientists [see page 348]. Depending on the definition of "science", about 3.5 per cent of all stamps have a scientific theme and medical stamps constitute perhaps one in ten science stamps, so I can recommend this area as offering a fascinating variety of themed collections •



The penicillin stamp from the 1967 British Discovery and Invention issue

‘I am interested in how and why particular scientists are chosen for celebration on stamps’

Lesser-known penicillin developers Florey and Chain have been celebrated on stamps too



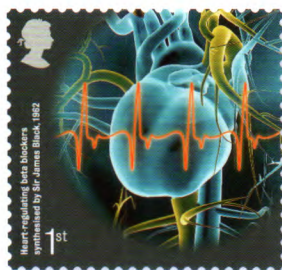
For more information

Chris Yardley is a member of the Great Britain Modern Stamp club, the British Thematic Association and the American Topical Association. He recommends the following resources for anyone interested in collecting stamps themed around medicine and/or science.

- **Online:** for new issues - the World Association for the Development of Philately's Numbering System site at www.wnsstamps.ch/en/; for physicists on stamps – <http://th.physik.uni-frankfurt.de/~jr/physstamps.html>
- **Book:** *European Stamp Design*, by David Scott (1995)
- **Philatelic society:** Modern British Philatelic Circle www.mbp-circle.co.uk



Life-changing science Celebrating British



First Class inland letter rate:
heart-regulating beta-blockers
synthesised by Sir James
Black in 1962



58p basic rate worldwide:
antibiotic properties of
penicillin, discovered by Sir
Alexander Fleming in 1928



60p, Europe up to 20g:
total hip-replacement
operation, pioneered by
Sir John Charnley in 1962

BETA-BLOCKERS, SCANS AND HIP REPLACEMENTS are among the British medical breakthroughs that have benefited the world. These and three other major 20th-century turning points in medicine will be celebrated in a set of six new stamps issued on 16 September. The Medical Breakthroughs issue comprises six stamps, a first day envelope, Presentation Pack and stamp cards showing enlarged versions of each of the stamps.

Inspiration and background The UK has been at the forefront of medical research and technology since William Harvey first described the circulation of blood in 1628. British scientists can take credit for the discovery and application of the smallpox vaccination, anaesthetics, antiseptic surgery and many public health measures, but perhaps some of the most important breakthroughs have taken place in the past hundred years or so.

This issue celebrates six of these significant medical breakthroughs. In order to whittle them down, medical historian Professor Dorothy Porter was consulted to determine the 20 most significant British medical breakthroughs of the past century, and then her recommendations were shortlisted to six, each covering a different area of medicine.

The issue in detail The First Class stamp features beta-blockers, which were synthesised by Sir James Black in 1962. The drug revolutionised the medical management of angina and is considered one of the most important contributions to clinical medicine and pharmacology of the 20th century. The 58p stamp celebrates Sir Alexander Fleming's 1928 discovery of penicillin, which began the modern era of antibiotic discovery. The 60p stamp recognises Sir John Charnley's development of the hip replacement, which was first performed in 1962. The 67p stamp honours the work of Sir Harold Ridley, who proposed the use of artificial lenses in the eye to correct cases of cataracts. The 88p stamp commemorates Sir Ronald Ross's discovery of the presence of the malarial parasite in a species of mosquito and its

Medical Breakthroughs, 16 September 2010

Set of stamps	£4.11
Presentation Pack	£4.65
First day envelope, unstamped	30p
First day cover, mail order price	£5.31
Serviced first day cover stamps, overseas customers	£4.52
Set of six stamp cards	£2.40
Retail stamp book, to be issued 2011	£2.46

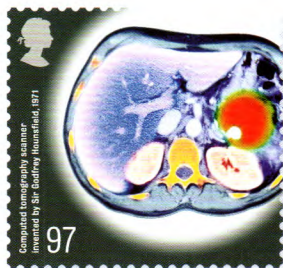
breakthroughs in medicine that helped the world



67p basic airmail rate up to 20g; artificial lens implant surgery, pioneered by Sir Harold Ridley in 1949



88p, Europe up to 40g; malaria parasite transmitted by mosquitoes, proved by Sir Ronald Ross in 1897



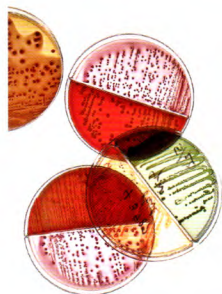
97p, world airmail up to 20g; computed tomography scanner invented by Sir Godfrey Hounsfield in 1971

consequent transmission. And the 97p stamp recognises Sir Godfrey Hounsfield's work that eventually led to the development of CT scanning.

For thematic collectors Many other Royal Mail stamps have featured medical subjects: 1963 Red Cross Centenary Congress; 1965 Centenary of Joseph Lister's Discovery of Antiseptic Surgery; 1967 British Discoveries and Inventions (*Penicillium notatum* 1/-); 1975 Health and Handicap Funds; 1987 Centenary of the St John Ambulance Brigade; 1994 Medical Imaging, 1999 Millennium Series – The Patients' Tale; 2000 Millennium Series – Mind and Matter, x-ray of hand holding computer mouse 45p; 2001 Centenary of Nobel Prize, physiology scratch-and-sniff disinfectant 40p; 2003 Fiftieth Anniversary of the Discovery of DNA; 2008 Women of Distinction, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson 48p; 2010 Royal Society, Jenner, Lister and Hodgkin; 2010 House of Stewart Miniature Sheet, Foundation of the College of Surgeons. Please note that these stamps are no longer available from Royal Mail, as they have all been withdrawn from sale, with the exception of the last two, dated 2010, which remain on sale for a limited period •

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Medical Breakthroughs



ROYAL MAIL, TALLENTS HOUSE, 21 SOUTH GYLE CRESCENT, EDINBURGH EH10 8PB

The Royal Mail First Day cover carries a stylised Petri dish graphic, and each stamp of the Medical Breakthroughs issue cancelled with the special Talents House handstamp featuring four test tubes at the centre

Commemorative covers Latest themes

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Tel 01223 363980
www.cambridge-covers.co.uk

Cotswold and Stuart Covers

PO Box 100, York YO26 9SS
Tel 0844 980 9772
www.cotswold-first-day.co.uk
Errata: please note the price of the Cotswold and Stuart FDC for the London 2010 Festival of Stamps is £6.75 plus p&p (not £19.50, as listed in May *Bulletin*).



Great British Railways To coincide with the stamp issue on August 19, this BFDC cover (stock code 34580) is limited to just 150 numbered copies.

Price: £20 per cover, which includes postage and packing to anywhere in the world ●



Battle of Britain Some 30 pilots who flew in the Battle of Britain have agreed to autograph this remarkable cover, created to commemorate its 70th anniversary.

Price: £24.95 plus £2 for UK postage and packing. For enquiries and orders, contact Guy Edwards at the Cambridge Stamp Centre ●



Two top Olympians Rebecca Addlington and Nicole Cooke feature on a pair of London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games covers from Buckingham. Both athletes have agreed to sign their cover. **Prices:** unsigned, £11.95 each; autographed £22.95 each, including postage and packing. Please quote order number BC412 for Addlington and 412A for Cooke ●



Second series of London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games FDCs Cotswold and Stuart Covers are producing two specially designed FDCs for this month's issue of Olympics and Paralympics stamps. Each is cancelled with a sponsored handstamp depicting cycling-BMX, the newest Olympic cycling event. A card insert bears the official logo of London 2012. **Price:** £7.95 each, plus £1.20 postage and packing, from the address shown left ●

If you wish to announce a forthcoming cover, please submit copy in the style above and an image (preferably by email to royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net) by 6 July for September's issue. The text should briefly describe the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear, and give prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis and may be modified at the Editor's discretion. Royal Mail cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning covers announced here.

Prize draw rules and regulations

1 Promotions are open to all readers of *Bulletin* aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd or Redwood, their immediate families, their agents, or anyone professionally connected with these promotions. 2 The closing date for receipt of entries is 6 August 2010. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, delayed, wrongly delivered, damaged or not received for whatever reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered. No cash alternative to prizes and prizes are not transferable. 4 Winners will be notified by post within 28 days of closing date. 5 For competitions where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, winners will be the first correct entrants drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 In the case of businesses, consent of the owner/line manager will be required to enter the draw. Any tax liability arising as a result of winning the prize is the responsibility of the individual. 9 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value should circumstances make this necessary. 10 The promoter reserves the right to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 11 Winners' names and counties are available 28 days after the closing date; send an SAE to Sharon May, *The British Philatelic Bulletin*, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA. 12 The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Competitions Test your philatelic mettle with these brainteasers



IDENTIFY & KNOWLEDGE

To win all parts of the latest stamp issue, identify the stamp from the detail, giving its name and issue year.

To win one of ten George V mug and coaster sets, answer the following.

- Who won the Grand Prix at the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition?
- Which Oxford Street department store sold stamps in the 1930s?
- What was the only cinderella stamp issued by Royal Mail?

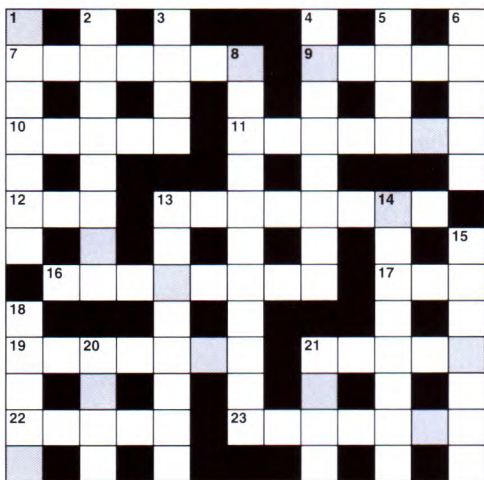
Please send your answer on a postcard,

marked *Identify* or *Knowledge* to *The Philatelic Bulletin*, Redwood, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA by 6 August 2010. The senders of the first correct answers drawn after the closing date will receive the prizes. For full rules and regulations, see p350 ●

March and May answers and winners

MARCH *Identify*: 2009 Eminent Britons, Donald Campbell. The winner is AH Lewis of Ilford. *Knowledge*: 1) Plum 2) J Norris Wood 3) 1962. The winner is P Kirsten of Morden. **MAY** *Identify*: Barbados one-shilling blue. The winner is Peter Sands of Lutterworth. *Knowledge*: 1) Sealand 2) Bush cricket 3) 1870 half-penny rose. The winner is Roberta Hanson of Malaga. Runners-up prizes were also awarded in each category.

PRIZE CROSSWORD UPON COMPLETING the puzzle, rearrange the letters in the grey squares to form a stamp-related word and send this, with your name and address to the address above. The first entry out of the hat after 6 August will win a copy of the 2009 Year Book *Feed Your Mind – A Great British Miscellany*.



CLUES ACROSS

- Another rat I catch with unpredictable ingredient (7)
- Gong, heading for dinner, repast passed round (5)
- Youth leader eaten by bird and a scavenger (5)
- Go in van round French city (7)

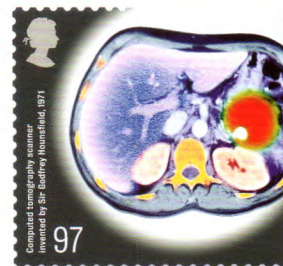
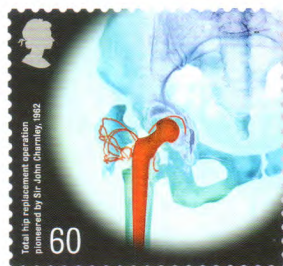
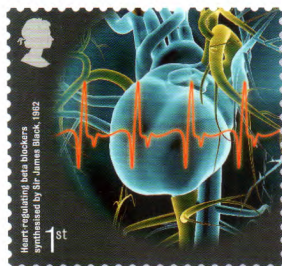
- Shrew or horse? (3)
- Mulled over returning passport and joked, we hear (8)
- Memory of holiday may make one nervous (8)
- Some recipient's baked dish (3)
- Poor try, she's a fraud (7)
- Second-class accommodation for sweeper (5)
- Even nuisances hide boredom (5)
- Relative losing head with glee (7)

CLUES DOWN

- Incorrectly name the marsh gas (7)
- Notes quickly played at new opera gig (8)
- Active volcano in Vietnam (4)
- Asian city with a flourishing sari mart? (8)
- No noise for the god (4)
- Antelope from Eastern country (5)
- Rush forward to tend person in hospital (6,5)
- Flyer's rear interlock (8)
- Hope air circulating round University creates good feeling (8)
- Relevant to European, note (7)
- Something worth having when fixed (5)
- American tug (4)
- Bank of Scotland! (4) ●



Remember autumn Stampex 2010



Wednesday 15 to Saturday 18 are key September dates to remember for people with a passion for philately, because those are the dates of the autumn 2010 Stampex in London. More than a hundred dealers and postal administrations offer all types of philatelic treasures, including first day covers and rare GB stamps. For more information, visit www.stampex.ltd.uk or phone 01252 628006.

Don't miss the Royal Mail stand and see the best in Modern Great Britain, including the first day of Medical Breakthroughs stamps on the Thursday. A special posting box will be available at the Exhibition for all days and a second box to obtain a special Stampex FDI handstamp.

The Village Green welcomes the return of the National Competitions. Details of the entrants will be available nearer the time. The National Youth Championship entries will also be on display.

How to get there Stampex is held at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH. Underground: The Angel Northern Line station is a few minutes' walk away. Bus: Route 4, 19, 30, 38, 43, 56, 73 and 171A pass close by. Driving: it's easy to find and there's an NCP car park just a short stroll away.

Stampex Ltd, British Philatelic Centre,
107 Charterhouse St, London EC1M 6PT.
Tel +44 (0)20 7490 1005 www.stampex.ltd.uk

By using the special posting box at autumn Stampex, you can obtain a special Stampex handstamp and First Day Cover of the Royal Mail Medical Breakthroughs stamps – on 16 September. Turn to page 348 in this *Bulletin* for more details of the forthcoming issue



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Edinburgh EH12 9PB

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