The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 56 No.12

Guardians of our forests



Royal Mail celebrates the centenary of the Forestry Commission

ROYAL NAVAL WW2 POSTAL MARKINGS • MACHIN NVIs • CURIOUS CUSTOMS • STAMP ACTIVE

Stampex special

Exclusive D-Day Miniature Sheet

Operation Overlord and Stampex overprint



To honour those who helped secure peace in Europe we are offering a very special, D-Day Miniature Sheet to those of you who visit our stand at this year's Autumn Stampex. It comprises five Special First Class Stamps featuring a special Operation Overlord and Stampex overprint. This will be a limited edition show exclusive of 7,500, that will be numbered and sold at the face value of £3.50 each. We aim to retain a small quantity for sale on each day of the show and these will be sold on a first come, first served basis. So arrive early to make sure you don't miss this remarkable and exclusive collectible.

Only £3.50

Autumn Stampex is being held at The Business Design Centre, Islington, London, N1 0QH. Opening times are Wednesday 11th September 11.00 to 7pm, Thursday 12th September 10.00 to 6pm, Friday 13th September 10.00 to 6pm and Saturday 14th September 10.00 to 5pm. Admission is free.

Royal Mail

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Editor Tim Noble, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.15 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £20.95 UK and Europe; £26.95 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.68 and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, are also available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

Glen Affric *Inverness-shire, Scotland*
Glen Affric, here depicted in the autumn is a fragment of the once extensive Caledonian Forest. Its rugged Scots pines and graceful birches are the signature trees in a landscape where forest, lochs, river and mountains combine to create the perfect Highland setting, which is breath-taking at any time of year but especially when the birches take on their golden apparel





Westonbirt, The National Arboretum *Gloucestershire, England*
Highlighted here are the autumn colours of the Acer Glade, which people flock to see each year. Westonbirt, The National Arboretum is the Forestry Commission's flagship collection of trees in England. First created by the wealthy Holford family almost 200 years ago, it is one of the most beautiful and diverse botanical collections in the world. The 600-acre (243ha) site with 17 miles (27km) of paths showcases 3,000 tree species, including the Japanese maples seen on the stamp

The Forestry Commission has been breathing life into Britain's forests for a century, Royal Mail's Special Stamp issue captures the stunning woodlands it helps to protect

The Forestry Commission has been protector of our forests for 100 years and remains cognitive of their value to a healthy environment and the country's plant and fauna biodiversity. Our woodlands are of course home and haven to a wide variety of animals as well as a place of refuge and sanctuary for people escaping the pressures of the modern world. For many, walking, jogging and cycling in beautiful surrounds, whilst filling lungs with fresh air, is a more stimulating counter to sedentary living, than pounding treadmills in clammy gymnasiums.

The commission is the UK's largest land owner and manages a broad spectrum of landscapes that include heathlands, mountains, moors, and ►



Sherwood Forest *Nottinghamshire, England*
Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire is famous for its rich assemblage of ancient oak trees, notably the major oak, arguably Britain's most famous tree. However the atmospheric image captured in early morning light in Blidworth Woods, shows a fine stand of conifers, well illustrating the fact that broadleaf trees and conifers both have a place in this celebrated forest



Glenariff Forest *County Antrim, Northern Ireland*
Glenariff Forest Park in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, boasts a beautiful mixture of views and trails that allow the visitor to enjoy a wide variety of walks and activities. Probably the most spectacular of these is the Waterfall Walk, a steep path up the vertical sides of the gorge and along elevated boardwalks taking in a succession of dramatic waterfalls





Coed y Brenin *Gwynedd, Wales Coed y Brenin*
Located near Dolgellau in the Snowdonia National Park, Coed y Brenin is now one of the flagship forests of Natural Resources Wales. Commercial softwood forestry across some 7,650 acres (3,093ha) of Forest Park combines with recreational facilities for mountain-bikers and a network of spectacular scenic trails for hikers, based around the impressive visitor centre. There's plenty for children, too, including a 'free play' area where they can make dens, and dam streams



Kielder Forest *Northumberland, England*
The stamp shows common beech *(Fagus sylvatica)* in an autumnal scene in Sidwood. Kielder Forest in Northumberland is the largest human-made forest in Britain, stretching 250 square miles (647sq km); around 75% is covered by trees. The Forestry Commission harvests around 500,000 cubic metres of timber here each year. The felled areas are replanted using a mixture of conifer and broadleaf trees, and parts are left open to create a diversity of habitats



First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp. Below: Filler Card





The Forestry Commission's endeavours have helped much of Britain's wildlife to thrive. Some of its beneficiaries were featured in the Woodland Animals stamp issue of 16 September 2004. The se-tenant block of ten First Class stamps (below) were designed by Kate Stephens



The pine marten is closely related to the stoat, weasel and badger, but resembles a cat in being roughly the same size. Pine martens are most commonly found in woodlands in Scotland but in July 2015, the first confirmed sighting of a pine marten in England for over a century was recorded



Many roe deer begin life as twins (even triplets) but each fawn stays by itself while its mother grazes, relying on the camouflage of its spotted coat to hide it from anger. They feed mostly on grasses, herbs, fresh and succulent tree shoots and leaves, and live in woodland throughout Britain and Ireland



The black-and-white-striped headgear makes a badger instantly recognisable. They live in families of up to a dozen animals and emerge from their underground 'setts' at dusk. Badgers use scent markings to proclaim territory ownership. They feed on berries, tubers, earthworms, insects, rodents, and frogs



The yellow-necked mouse was recognised as a distinct species from the wood mouse in 1894. Named for its coloured collar, it is slightly larger than its close relative, the wood mouse, and found in mature, broad-leaved woodlands where it is an agile climber. Its diet includes fruit, fungi, insects and worms



The wild cat is Britain's only native cat, now found only in north and east of Scotland. Wild and domestic cats have interbred, producing fertile offspring, but a few hundred free-living wild cats still survive. Rodents, birds, mountain hare, frogs and fish are their primary source of food



First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp



FD1914-TH



FD1914-PL



FD1914-NP

urban green spaces. The commission also offers its expertise to other land owners – whose concerns include the potential threats posed in the 21st century of climate change, pests and diseases. The commission that currently oversees over 1,500 woods and forests has been instrumental in doubling the UK's tree cover to nearly 12% of its land. The successes have been synonymous with numerous reforestation projects and acquiring agricultural land for afforestation.

Forests – Special Stamp Issue The six stamp issue will be issued on 13 August and consist of three vertical se-tenant pairs. The three values are First Class, £1.55 and £1.60. The stamps can be purchased housed in the Presentation Pack which gives insight into the themes; Forests through the Ages and The Flora and Fauna of Forests in the UK. Royal Mail provide various options for obtaining First Day Covers. Mail orders for serviced (ie stamped and postmarked) FDCs from Tallents House have to reach Royal ►



With its light body, bushy tail and long, curved claws, the red squirrel is adept at leaping between trees. Red squirrels are principally found in conifer woodlands in Scotland and parts of Ireland. The Forestry Commission is developing a long-term conservation strategy that deters grey and encourages red squirrels



The stoat is noted for its coat – reddish-brown and cream blend in the summer, and pure white in winter (in the south, this seasonal colour shift is much less dramatic). The winter coat, known as 'ermine', was once prized as trimming for expensive robes. Stoats feed on small mammals, especially rabbits



The Natterer's bat relies on sound for a detailed image of its surroundings. It sends out a rapid stream of calls and listens for echoes – a natural radar that enables it to fly and hunt at night. They leave their daytime summer roosts late in the evening to snatch small flies, beetles, harvestmen, spiders and caterpillars



Moles are fine-tuned for life underground; the huge, sideways-facing forefeet can move its own weight in soil every minute. Legend has it that a mole hill brought down King William III from his horse. When the King succumbed to his injuries, his opponents toasted the 'little man in the velvet coat'



The red fox is the world's most widespread carnivore, thriving in a wide range of places and eating earthworms, beetles, berries, and food scavenged from bins and compost heaps. It is found in broad-leaved and conifer woods, farmland, and city gardens throughout Britain and Ireland

The First World War was the catalyst for the establishment of the Forestry Commission in 1919. The war effort had resulted in huge clearances of forest areas. Consequently the commission was initially set up to reforest Britain to replenish timber stocks. However, it was overseas where the war heaped its destructive violence on nature – including the trees of Ypres Salient that fell victim to artillery fire. Paul Nash was an official artist on the Western Front who was deeply moved by the destruction of trees, seeing their abasement as a metaphor for human suffering. Saddened at the sight he painted the bleak landscape, and with caustic tone gave it the ironic title; *We Are Making a New World*. His work featured on last year's £1.55 value from the First World War - 1918 issue.



Joyce Kilmer served in the US Army's 69th Regiment that was sent to the Western Front in October 1917. His life was taken by a German sniper on 30 July 1918. No doubt he would have appreciated the emotive painting – he certainly shared Nash's reverence for trees as expressed in his poem *Trees* – penned three years before he set off to war in 1914.

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

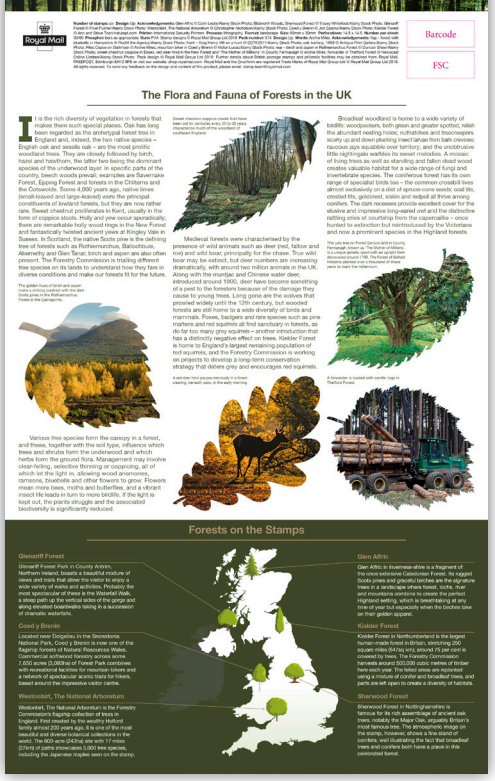
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.



Popular in media channels currently is 'forest bathing' or *'shinrin-yoku'*. This relates to scientific studies that were conducted by the Japanese government in the 1980s. Results showed that two hours of mindful exploration in a forest could reduce blood pressure, lower cortisol (stress hormone) levels and improve concentration and memory.

Forests – Stamp Specifications

Date of issue	13 August
Number of stamps	Six (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60)
Design	Up
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



Opposite page: Presentation Pack Outer.
Left: Presentation Pack
Below: Presentation Pack Inner

Mail at Tallents House by 13 August. Also, for the Tallents House handstamp, customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9PB. Covers can also be struck with the Tallents House handstamp, when posted, or handed in, on the day of issue at main Post Offices®. All other Post Offices will be supplied with the alternative pictorial handstamp regardless of their location. Alternatively, customers may send stamped envelopes to any of the Special Handstamp Centres (at the addresses listed below) and request the pictorial or plain Westonbirt postmark. All Royal Mail stamp products can be ordered by visiting: www.royalmail.com/stamps ●

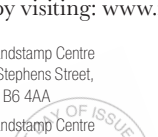
The Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail, St Stephens Street,
BIRMINGHAM, B6 4AA

The Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail, 220 Penarth Road,
CARDIFF, CF11 8TA

The Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail, Tallents House,
21 South Gyle Crescent,
EDINBURGH, EH12 9PB

The Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant,
Farringdon Road,
LONDON EC1A 1BB

The Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail, South Shields DO,
Keppell Street,
SOUTH SHIELDS,
NE33 1AA



Forests – Prices	
Set of 6 Special Stamps	£7.70
Special Stamps First Day Cover	£9.85
First Day Envelope	30p
Stamp Souvenir	£9.85
Presentation Pack	£8.50
Postcards (6 in set)	£2.70
Framed Stamps	£19.99

Glen Affric ©Colin Leslie/Alamy Stock Photo; Blidworth Woods, Sherwood Forest ©Tracey Whitefoot/Alamy Stock Photo; Glenariff Forest ©Pixel Pusher/Alamy Stock Photo; Westonbirt, The National Arboretum ©Christopher Nicholson/Alamy Stock Photo; Coed y Brenin ©Jon Sparks/Alamy Stock Photo; Kielder Forest ©Ann and Steve Toon/naturepl.com





Royal Navy Mail WW2

Part two – Postal Markings

Colin Tabeart reveals more of his knowledge of naval postal history

Early in the war most letters continued to be marked as before the war, by far the commonest form of wording including the words 'Received From HM Ships'. Usually this was in the form of a machine marking with a dated die, London and Edinburgh handling the vast majority of the mail. A typical Edinburgh stamp used in February 1940 is shown in Fig 1.

Machine markings in similar format are known for Glasgow, Liverpool, Plymouth, Southampton (Fig 2), and Portsmouth; all are extremely rare, probably because London handled well over 90% of all RN mail, and Edinburgh much of the rest. By 1940 the named date section of the marking began to be removed, leaving just the RFHMS section, although London did have a dateless version retaining the LONDON in the circle – see Fig 3. As well as the machine markings there is a huge variety of handstamps reading 'RECEIVED FROM HM SHIPS', usually in circular format, single or double ring, upper or lower case: a few examples are shown in Fig 4. For much wider but still incomplete coverage see Ref 1. ▶



Fig 1. The earlier, dated, Edinburgh marking, and the later, undated, version showing corrosion of the marking above the 'I' – the corrosion worsened later to affect 'SHIPS' as well

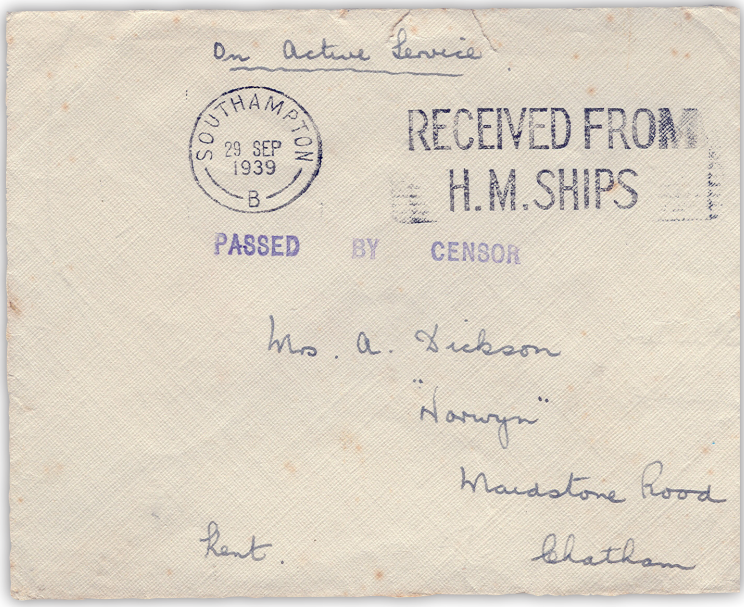
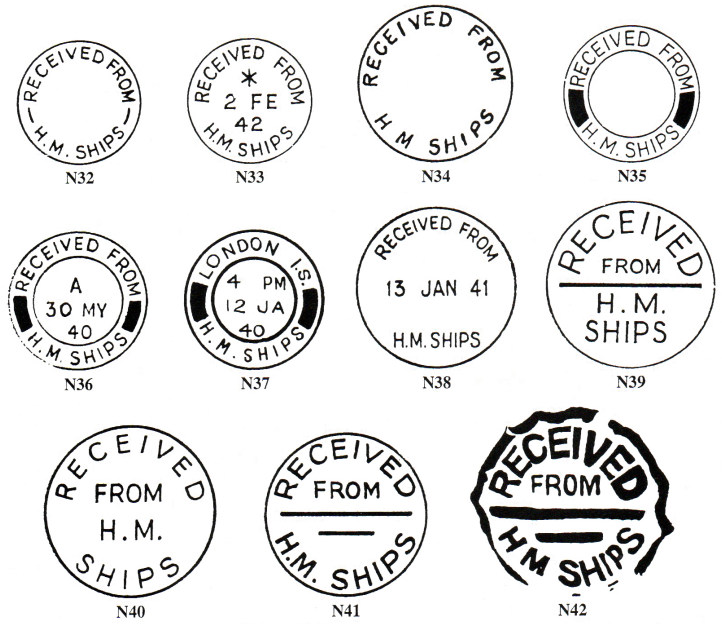


Fig 2. The Southampton marking – two examples recorded to date. Southampton was an unusual arrival port for a warship, hence the scarcity of the marking. Liverpool and Glasgow were common destinations, so why are their markings so scarce? Perhaps because security there was so much tighter; it is notable that the two examples recorded so far of the Liverpool marking were both struck on the same date, possibly contrary to normal practice



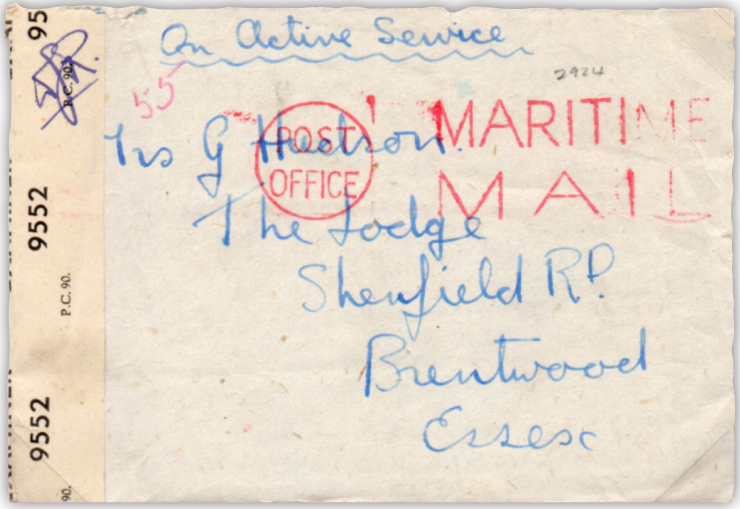
Fig 3. A previously unrecorded and undated London marking. There are almost certainly other unrecorded markings to be found by the keen collector. Red ink is relatively unusual for the tombstone censors

Fig 4. Some handstamps reading RECEIVED FROM HM SHIPS, all used during WW2. These are mostly in circular format. The 'N' numbers are from Ref 1. All were used in London – there are many more types



From 1943 a new machine marking began to be used in London reading POST OFFICE in a circle, and MARITIME MAIL unframed, as shown in Fig 5. Usually struck in red ink in contrast to the usual black of the RFHMS stamps, but also known occasionally in black or cerise. Hand-struck versions, usually in circular rimmed format, are also known – see Fig 6. These continued in use well after the end of the war. Again there are many variations of the handstamp – see Ref 1. These markings may also be found on letters from merchant ships.

Fig 5. The POST OFFICE MARITIME MAIL machine marking became common from 1943. Known in red, black and cerise ink, it continued well after the war, and may be found on merchant ship mail as well as letters from warships. This letter is from Midshipman Hudson, HM Landing Craft (Tank) 800, sent 12 days after D-Day, where his LCT probably participated



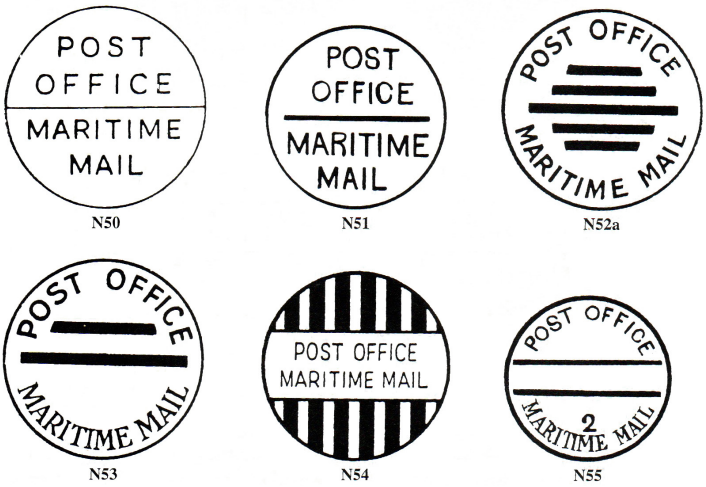


Fig 6. Handstruck examples reading POST OFFICE MARITIME MAIL. The 'N' numbers are from Ref 1. All were used in London, mainly on parcel post – there are many more types

From 1944 onwards a series of handstamps reading BRITISH FLEET MAIL in a double ring began to be used on letters from HM Ships posted abroad. They had serial numbers at the foot of the stamp, indicating from whence posted. Serial number 1 was for Colombo, serial 40, the last number, was used at Kiel by British occupation forces for a while after the war. A listing of the serial numbers can be found in Ref 2.

It should be emphasised that this is only a skim over the commoner markings to be found on Royal Navy mail of WW2 – there are many hundreds more. Most are fairly common – if starting a collection seek out good, clearly dated, examples, preferably with endorsements as to which ship the letter came from ●

Ref 1. Tabeart, Colin: *Robertson Revisited*: James Bendon, Limassol, 1997. ISBN 9963-579-77-9.

Ref 2. Goldup, John: *Naval mails 1939-49*: TPO & Seapost Society 1950.

Ref 3. forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk has displays of material accessible to all, including non-members.

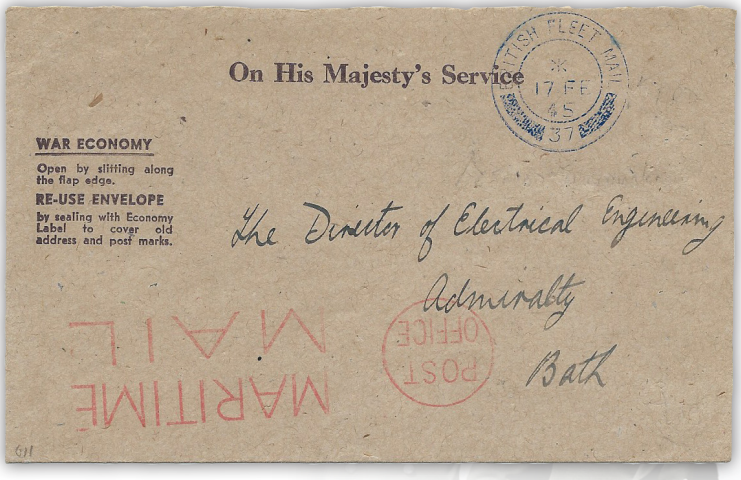


Fig 7. Feb 1945 cover showing the BRITISH FLEET MAIL 37 handstamp used at Trincomalee



Stamp Scene Dane Garrod keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

3 August Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.

• Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.

• Ruislip Stamp & Postcard Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, Ruislip HA4 7BZ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

• Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com.

• Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

• NEWQUEX, Trevisker St. Eval Community Centre, 750 Orion Drive, Wadebridge PL27 7TU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Rex Eccott, 01288 381489, eccott@gotadsl.co.uk.

4 August Hopton Stamp Fair, Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton NR31 9BE, 9.30am to 2pm. Enquiries: Terry Allaker, 01502 563759.

• Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

9 August Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 0208 946 4489.

10 August Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.

• Liverpool Stamp Fair, St. Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0NR, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• King's Lynn Stamp Fair, Gaywood Church Rooms, Gayton Road, Gaywood, King's Lynn PE30 4DZ, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318.

• Kenilworth Stamp Fair, Kenilworth School, Leyes Lane, Kenilworth CV8 2DA, 10am to 4pm, 8 dealers. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, info@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry above)

11 August Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.

DIARY DATES AUG 19

• Uckfield Stamp Fair, Ridgewood Village Hall, New Road, Ridgewood, Uckfield TN22 5TE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

14 August Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com

17 August Preston Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Preston PR3 5AA, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, hot & cold refreshments available. Enquiries: John Roberts, 07943 174958, john.roberts591@virginmedia.com.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 750)

• Sittingbourne Stamp & Postcard Fair, Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

• Dover Stamp & Collectors' Fair, Biggin Hall, Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1BD, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Jan Shepherd, 07729 967206, keithstamps61@aol.com.

• Brighton Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

18 August Knowle Stamp Fair, Knowle Village Hall, St. Johns Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 3pm, 10 dealers, tea, coffee and light refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

• Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

• Amersham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Jubilee Scout Hall, Rectory Hill, Amersham HP7 0BT, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

• Maidstone Stamp Fair, Royal British Legion Hall, Hall Road, Aylesford ME20 7NL, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

24 August Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Trinity Centre, Church Hill, off Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield B72 1TF, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 750)

• Crawley Stamp Fair, St. Paul's Church Hall, Woodfield Road, Northgate, Crawley RH10 8ER, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

• Guildford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Onslow GU2 7QR, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

• Canterbury Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, 60 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.

25 August Sandy Stamp Fair, Scout Headquarters, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1QY, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

• Bracknell Stamp Fair, Red Cross Centre, 21 Martins Lane, Bracknell RG12 9EN, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

26 August Loughborough Stamp Fair, Charnwood Bowls Club, Browns Lane, Loughborough LE11 3HE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, info@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Aylesbury Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchill Avenue, ►

Events and Meetings

• Autumn STAMPEX 2019 will be held from 11th to 14th September at the usual venue, the Business Design Centre, Islington, London, just 10 minutes' walk from the Northern Line Underground station at Angel. The opening times are unchanged, and are Wednesday 1am to 7pm, Thursday and Friday 10am to 6pm, and Saturday 10am to 5pm. A wide range of exhibits, both competitive and non-competitive, will be on display to all. Additionally, a number of societies will hold meetings, especially on the Saturday, where collectors are welcome to attend, even if not members.

• The Royal Philatelic Society has taken possession of its new home, 15 Abchurch Street, London EC4N 7BW, after over 90 years in Devonshire Place. Meetings in the new 2019/20 season are in this splendid building, and will commence in late September. We will have details of these meetings for our readers in the coming editions of the Philatelic Bulletin.

• As well as their stamp fair in early November, the Maidstone & Mid Kent is a particularly vibrant and active stamp society with three meetings a month. With quality displays and speakers, and a morning meeting each month, they would welcome new attendees and prospective new members. Should you live within possible distance for attendance, then call Brian Stonestreet on 01622 675784 or b.stonestreet@btinternet.com. He would be pleased to speak with you, and can tell you more.

• As you will be aware, July and August are very much the closed season for most societies, prior to the commencement of the new philatelic season in September. We shall have details of the meetings of the National Philatelic Society, the Great Britain Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society London, from mid-September onwards, in our next issue of the Philatelic Bulletin.

Southcourt, Aylesbury HP21 8ER, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

• Felbridge Stamp & Postcard Fair, Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, East Grinstead RH19 2NT, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

31 August Middlewich Stamp Fair, Middlewich Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich CW10 9BX, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

• Great Barr Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm, 14 dealers, full refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

• Ealing Stamp Fair, Ealing Parish Church, St. Mary's Road, Ealing W5 5EU, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 750)

• Twickenham Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, Whitton, Twickenham TW2 6JL, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

1 September Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

• Taplow Stamp & Postcard Fair, Taplow & Hitcham W.I. Hall, Institute Road, Taplow SL6 0NS, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

• Worthing Stamp & Postcard Fair, Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, Worthing BN11 4PL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

6 September Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 0208 946 4489.

7 September Wigginton Stamp Fair, Wigginton Recreation Hall, Wigginton, York YO32 2LL, 9am to 2pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.

• Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3AU, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441.

• Milton Keynes Philatelic Society Stamp Fair, Methodist Hall, Queensway, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK2 2HB, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers, tea, sandwiches and cakes available. Enquiries: Karen Goodger, 01908 521220, info@miltonkeynesphilatelics.

• Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.

• Ruislip Stamp & Postcard Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, Ruislip HA4 7BZ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

• Upminster Stamp Fair, St. Lawrence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2AJ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 750)
• Weston-super-Mare - Michael Hale Collectors' Fair, Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1XU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.
• Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.
• Margate Collectors' Fair, Union Church, Union Crescent, Margate CT9 1NR, 10am to 3pm, 20 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.

8 September Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.
• Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, The Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford MK2 2HX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

11 September Cheltenham Stamp & Cover Fair, St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 01179 623203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.
• Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com.
• Brighton Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

11-14 September Autumn STAMPEX 2019, Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 0QH, 50 dealers, full cafeteria all day. Opening times and further details on page 751.

12 September Clyst St. George Stamp & Postal History Fair, Clyst St. George Parish Hall, Woodbury Road, Exeter EX3 0RE, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

14 September Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.
• North Wales Stamp & Postcard Fair, Ysgol Eirias, Eirias Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 7SP, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Chapman, 01745 826434, northwalesstampfairs@gmail.com.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 750)
• Hastings Stamp & Postcard Fair, Christ Church, London Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea TN37 6GL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.
• Bexhill Stamp Fair, St. Martha's Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4SL, 10am to 4pm, 4 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

15 September Norwich Stamp Fair, Brook Hotel, Barnard Road, Bowthorpe, Norwich NR5 9JB, 10am to 3pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318.
• Knowle Stamp Fair, Knowle Village Hall, St. Johns Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 3pm, 10 dealers, tea, coffee and light refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998 •

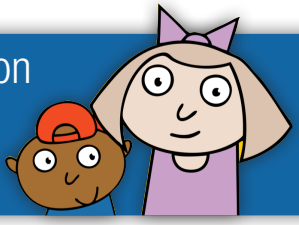
2 2 LONDON
International Exhibition
2-9 May 2020
Business Design Centre, Islington, London.


Sign up via our website to receive updates about the progress of the Exhibition and receive important announcements as they are made.
www.london2020.co



Looking to the future

Stamp Active is a voluntary organisation which promotes stamp collecting for young people in the UK



Stamp Active Network promotes a number of initiatives

KIDS ZONE sponsored by The Philatelic Traders' Society, takes place at Spring and Autumn Stampex, which is held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London.

THE STAMP ACTIVE COMPETITION sponsored by the GBPS and THE BRITISH YOUTH STAMP CHAMPIONSHIPS, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, for those interested in displaying their collections.

STAMP ACTIVE is a resource programme for organisers of junior clubs with information and updates on the website. More information can also be found on the Club section of this website.

STARTER PACKS sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, for the organisers of new school and junior stamp clubs.

KIDSTAMPS a free postal club for young collectors between the ages of 5 and 19, providing stamps, activities and much more to make your hobby even more fun!

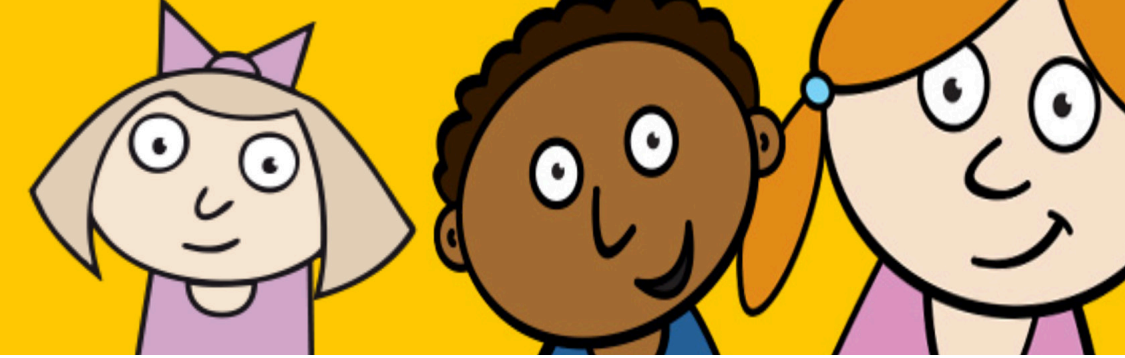
WORKSHOPS for children interested in developing their competition entries.

AWARDS for the young collector of the year and to organisers for outstanding service to youth philately.

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE for organisers of clubs.

STAMPS IN SCHOOLS sponsored by The Postal Museum, is an independent project run by Erene Grieve, which provides a fun-packed day of stamp collecting displays and activities for primary schools in the UK.

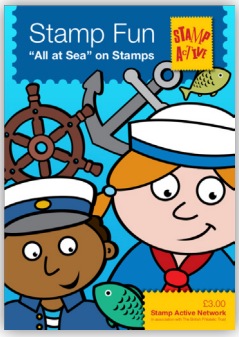
For more information about collecting and the activities of the Stamp Active Network visit www.stampactive.co.uk



Download activity books and a guide to youth stamp competitions at www.stampactive.co.uk/fun-games













Stamp Active's *Stamp Fun* books include the themes: Sport on Stamps; All at Sea; Brilliant Britain; All Creatures Great and Small. Also available to print out is the young stamp collector's competition guide: *HAVE A GO – SHOW!*



BRING A CHILD TO STAMPEX Stamp Active's aim is to encourage more parents and grandparents to bring them along to Stampex to enjoy the fun activities and see some of the attractions at the show. They receive a prize draw ticket for each child under 18 who visits the Stamp Active Kids Zone in Gallery Bay 14.

STAMPEX
THE BRITISH NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

11–14 September 2019
Wednesday: 11am–7pm
Thursday: 10am–6pm
Friday: 10am–6pm
Saturday: 10am–5pm

Business Design Centre
52 Upper St, The Angel,
London N1 0QH

Machin NVIs

The previous article in this series looked at Machin stamps of high face value, but this one will cover Machins with no face value at all – well, at any rate, no specific face value. The stamps we typically put on letters nowadays are instead denominated for a particular rate, such as the basic inland first class charge. They are valid for use to pay that rate indefinitely, and thus their face value equivalent changes when the rates do. The official designation is 'Non Value Indicators', which mouthful is naturally almost always shortened to 'NVI'. This subject covers a lot of ground, so as always this article is a general survey and does not include all of the specialised aspects! In particular it looks specifically at Machin NVIs, skipping over the many commemorative and country issues in other formats.

Background The main driver for the issue of NVIs was the sale of stamps via retail outlets. We're now used to being able to buy stamps from any convenient shop, not just a post office, but this was a relatively late development in the UK (although common practice in other countries for years). The first experiment in 1985-7 resulted from a Royal Mail-commissioned marketing project in 1985. A series of unofficial stamp 'books' (really packs, holding stamps torn from sheets) were produced by a marketing agency and sold at various tourist sites *'in order to prove to the Post Office board that Royal Mail stamps could and indeed should be sold in outlets other than Post Offices'*. In 1987 official trials were conducted at WH Smith branches in selected cities, selling books of stamps in a new 'window' format, and once these proved successful sales went nationwide.



One of the original tourist packs, sold at Kew Gardens – these were specially printed for each location

Image: Jean Alexander

This created its own problem. Since the 1970s there have been frequent tariff increases. As the rates are typically some odd value that would not otherwise be issued as a single stamp, stamps for the old rates generally ceased to be useful on their own, and replacements were needed. This wasn't a problem when stamps were only sold at post offices, as withdrawn values were simply returned for destruction via the normal channels, but it was considered impracticable for retail locations all across the country to do this every time the rates changed. NVIs were the solution.

The first NVIs were issued in booklets of 4 and 10 in 1989, with 1st class stamps in black and 2nd class stamps in blue in a nod to the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue. Three different printers were used (Harrison,



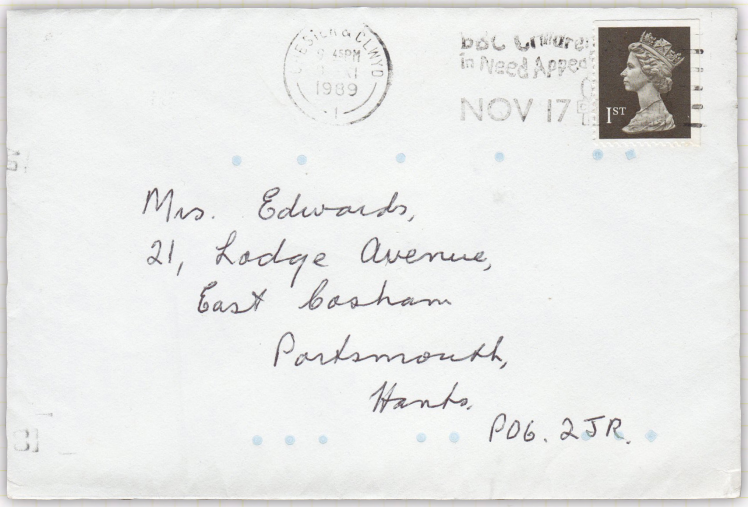


Walsall and Questa), according to Royal Mail's strategy of avoiding reliance on a single printer, which also enabled competition in pricing. This often meant distinguishable stamps – Harrison used photogravure printing, Walsall and Questa lithography, and the paper, perforators, etc., varied.

As with the conventional booklets of denominated stamps of the time, for the first few years some panes were issued imperforate top and bottom to reduce jamming in vending machines (even though the main sales channel was via shop counters). This does affect the aesthetics of single stamps, and brought complaints from collectors at the time! Some 4-stamp booklets were also imperforate at the right edge, and used copies of such stamps are distinctly harder to find than the ordinary types. ►

Above left: 'window' format stamp book issued in 1987
Above: counter poster announcing the first NVIs stamp books
Below: the first NVI stamps which comprised; perforated, imperf at top/bottom/top and right/bottom and right





1989: 1st class NVI from a 4-stamp booklet, imperforate at top and right

Colours[1] The colour of the 1st class stamps has been something of a moveable feast. The original black caused problems, but was always intended to be temporary. Red ('flame' from the Matthews palette) was used from 1990, and stamps in a celebratory gold colour were issued first in 1997 for the Queen's Golden Wedding, and then again in 2002 for her Golden Jubilee. The Royal Mail marketing department then decided to continue with this colour, because *'gold conveyed the idea of excellence'* (which is the sort of thing marketing departments like to say). A 'diamond blue' replaced it in 2012 for the Diamond Jubilee, and after that the marketers had a rethink – at the start of 2013 the stamps were issued in branding-compliant Royal Mail Red. Finally, when the Queen's reign set a new record for length in 2015 there was an issue in 'amethyst purple' to mark it.

The 2nd class stamps have been much more consistent – originally light blue, they were changed to a darker Matthews palette colour in 1990 in anticipation of the September tariff increase. This only lasted a few months until the next tariff increase in 1991, whereupon the colour of the stamps was changed back to light blue and has stayed that way.

[1]See the article in June's *Bulletin* for some background on Machin colours, including discussion on some of the changes mentioned here



1990: 2nd class colour deviation from light blue to the darker Matthews palette blue



1990: Flame red from the Matthews palette



1997/2002: Gold



2012: Diamond blue



2013: Royal Mail red



2015: Amethyst purple



Counter poster explaining: 'these stamps are valid for first or second class items up to 60g and they can also be used as part payment on heavier items'

Design Inland rate NVI Machins have generally been produced in the standard Machin small portrait format design, with either '1ST' or '2ND' at lower left in the place of the usual denomination. However, as with most things Machin there have been variations.

Self-adhesive stamps are another thing we're now used to, but they were first trialled as recently as 1993. Booklets of 20 1st class NVIs were given a limited release in the Newcastle area, with the stamps printed in landscape format to aid monitoring of their use. Although self-adhesive stamps have no need for perforation (being individually die-cut), they were issued with simulated 'perforations' around each stamp, complete with the recently introduced elliptical holes, which thus gave them a reassuringly familiar appearance. ►

Self-adhesive NVI first issued in the Newcastle area on 19 October 1993, used from there to a book club in early December





This practice has continued to the present day. A further limited test sale of stamps in this format in coils took place in 1997, this time with both 1st and 2nd class NVIs. These trials were judged a success, and the subsequent regular issues from 1998 were in normal Machin format. In 2000, 1st class NVIs were issued in a reversed design to celebrate the Millennium (let's not argue about whether this should technically have been 2001). These stamps had a larger version of the Machin head in brownish-olive on a white background, and appeared in both booklet and sheet format. They made a brief comeback guest appearance in 2017 in the prestige booklet for the 50th anniversary of the Machin design.

With the introduction of 'Pricing in Proportion' in 2006 came a new design, with a smaller Machin head and large sans-serif service indicators in the Helvetica font, placed top left. There were two sizes, the Machin standard for regular letters and a wider landscape format stamp for 'large letters'. Unfortunately the large figures on the small stamps caused confusion about what size of letter they were actually intended for, and the following year these reverted to the original design, with the new design retained for the larger stamps. The dual formats have been used ever since.



1997: Self-adhesive NVIs. Note the different typographical treatment to that of the 1993 stamp



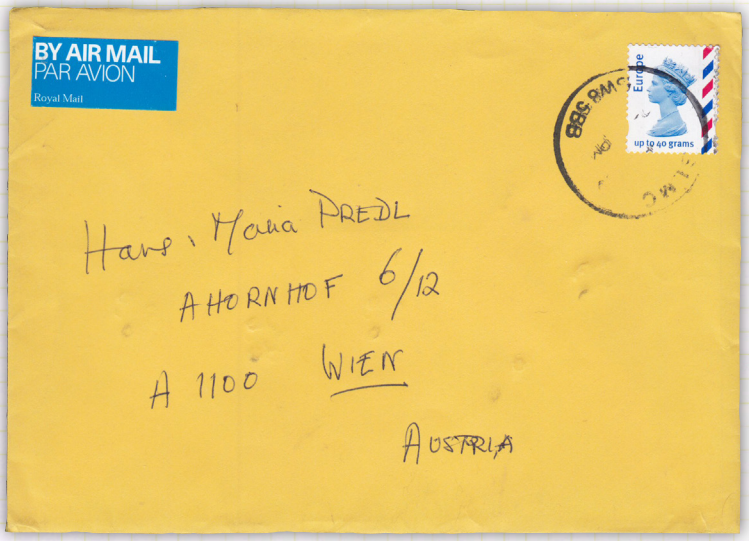
2000: Millennium reversed design



2006: New designs for Pricing in Proportion stamps



NVIs for Other Rates The first overseas rate NVI was issued in standard Machin format in 1999 for the basic 20g European letter rate, with the value shown as 'E'. Unfortunately, some people took this to mean that it was denominated in Euros (doubtless while muttering darkly that it must be part of some sinister EU plot), and it was withdrawn in 2000. The idea was tried again in 2003, when stamps were issued for European and World airmail letters up to 40g. According to Royal Mail's research this weight covered 80% of international letter mail – though the basic rates were for 20g, so anyone using these stamps for lighter letters paid more than necessary, something Royal Mail doubtless regarded with equanimity. In 2010 they were replaced by stamps for the 20g rates. There was also a stamp for world-wide postcards, introduced in 2004. All these stamps had the Machin head in colour on a white background, with the common international airmail indicator of alternating blue and red chevrons at the right. They have subsequently been withdrawn.



A more recent development is special stamps for inland signature services. Stamps for 'Recorded Signed For' were issued in 2009 in both ordinary and large letter types, but slightly wider to accommodate a strip with the name of the service at the left – with a revised version in 2013 following a rebrand to 'Royal Mail Signed For'. Then in 2010 similar stamps for the first two Special Delivery weight steps of 100g and 500g were issued. (Larger unstamped packets are supposed to use Horizon labels, although judging from my mail those often seem to be used instead of the stamps whatever the weight is.) ►

Left: the first overseas NVI of 1999 and the Europe 40g airmail stamp correctly used on a letter to Austria

The European and Worlwide 40g rates of 2003; European and Worlwide 20g rates of 2010; Worlwide postcard NVI of 2004







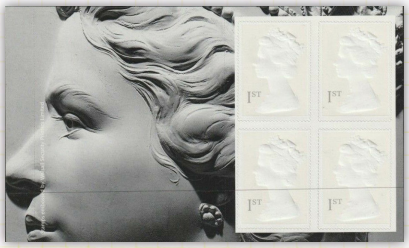




Pane 1



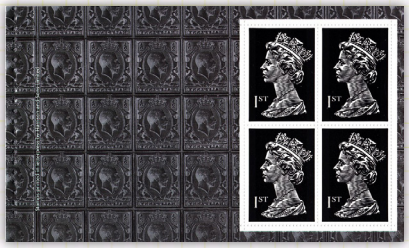
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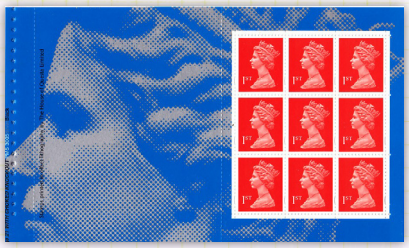
Pane 3



Pane 4



Pane 5



1999 Profile on Print Prestige Stamp Book Panes.
Pane 1 De La Rue – gravure; Pane 2 Walsall – embossed;
Pane 3 Enschede – intaglio; Pane 4 Harrison – letterpress;
Pane 5 Questa – lithography

Special Types Following a request by high street pharmacy chain Boots, which wanted to sell own-brand greetings cards packaged together with the stamp to send them (see illustration), 'miniature sheets' were authorised in 1994-7. The sheets were made available to collectors in unfolded form, as were later unbranded types – and were duly pressed into service for a wide range of philatelic souvenirs with unofficial overprints.

The Prestige Books are targeted at collectors and tend to include unique stamps, and the ones issued to publicise Stamp Show 2000 contained several new 1st class Machin NVIs. The 'Profile on Print' booklet of 1999 had an interesting concept – it contained stamps printed by multiple different processes, each on a different pane and produced by a different printer. The NVIs on the lithographed pane by Questa and gravure pane by De La Rue were the standard types in red, but the other three were in the large size used for high values



Image: Steve McGill

One of the Boots greetings cards, still in the original packaging. The sheets had diagonal rouletting for foldability, in order to utilise existing greetings card technology for wrapping a 'flash' around the top right corner of a card before it was shrink-wrapped

in 1977-88 – intaglio in grey-black from Enschedé, colourless embossing from Walsall, and letterpress in black from Harrison. (That last one gets my vote for the ugliest Machin ever issued.)

NVI Country (or Regional) Machins made their debut in the 'Special by Design' booklet of 2000, with versions for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (right). The Welsh version was unique in having the ordinal suffix in that language as well as English ('AF' for *gyntaf* and 'ST' for *first*). The Northern Ireland stamp was the only one to be subsequently issued in sheets until a pictorial NVI was ready in 2001 (Scotland and Wales had those from 1999). The booklet also contained a NVI version of the 'Double Head' stamps originally issued in 1990, something of an oddity in the original black.

Validity The original idea was that NVIs would be valid for the service and weight indicated and nothing else. Not surprisingly, this regulation proved to be unrealistic in practice, and Royal Mail bowed to the inevitable and began to accept NVIs in part-payment and then on overseas mail. The rule is now that NVIs are considered to be equal to a face value of whatever the current rate is for the service indicated. The only exceptions are the Signed For and Special Delivery stamps – the former only count as ordinary stamps unless used for the Signed For service, the latter can only be used for Special Delivery.



2015: Two inland NVIs used with a 1p and 3p to pay £1.28 second step rate for 10-20g to Nicaragua (World Zone 1) – value at the time was 62p each, the current 1st class rate



The current Machin Special Delivery NVIs

Postscript All NVIs remain valid for use at whatever rate they currently correspond to, which means that mint stamps in collector hands are at least guaranteed to hold their value! Indeed, it was possible to do substantially better than that in 2012, when the first and second class rates were increased from 46p and 36p to 60p and 50p to sweeten the offer in advance of privatisation. Anyone buying NVIs before the change saw their value rise 30% overnight for first class, and 39% for second class. So keep an eye out for rate changes in the future…

By Maurice Buxton a long-term collector, and webmaster for the Great Britain Philatelic Society – www.gbps.org.uk

Also thanks to Ian Gill of IG Stamps for most of the non attributed images

CURIOUS

MAIL • TALLENTS HOUSE

The stamp issue that captures the traditions, festivals and rituals of Brits that want to have fun!









CUSTOMS

Royal Mail released the Curious Customs Special Stamp issue on 9 July. The set comprises four horizontal se-tenant pairs: 2nd Class – Burning the Clocks; 2nd Class – 'Obby 'Oss; First Class – World Gurning Championships; First Class – Up Helly Aa; £1.55 – Cheese Rolling; £1.55 – Halloween; £1.60 – Horn Dance; £1.60 – Bog Snorkelling ●

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE • MAY • 9. 7. 2019 • H









London 2020 International Exhibition

The clock is ticking!

On 2 May 2020, the London 2020 FIP Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition will open at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London. At the closing ceremony of the fabulous FIP show in Wuhan, China in June, Frank Walton and Bernard Jimenez received the FIP flag in readiness for the London exhibition next year.



Frank Walton RDP FRPSL – Chairman, London 2020 Organising Committee *chairman@london2020.co*

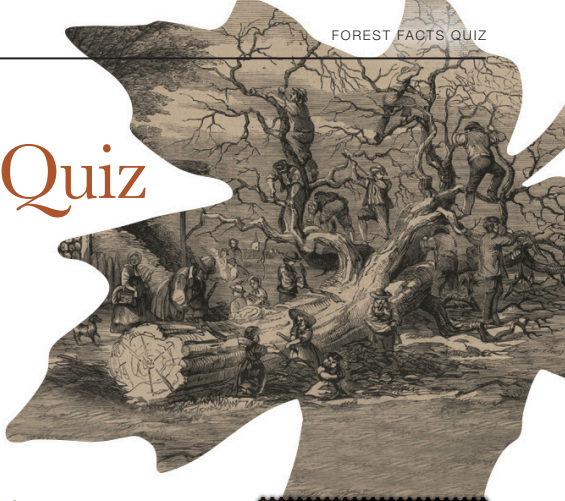
Jury President The planning of the event is progressing well, including the appointment of Chris Harman RDP Hon FRPSL as President of the Jury.

Hotel bookings for visitors Many people are now planning their trips to London, and we are getting excellent feedback from visitors who have used the hotel booking facility on the website www.london2020.co/hotels.

Other exhibitions at the BDC The exhibition organisers are appreciative of the support provided by the British Philatelic Traders' Society. The PTS organise the regular UK national exhibitions at the same venue in London. Why not come along to Autumn Stampex and experience the vibrant atmosphere that London events generate? www.stampexinternational.co.uk/newsletter.

Want to be kept Informed? To receive newsletter updates about the progress of the exhibition and important announcements as they are made, sign up via **www.london2020.co/mailchimp**. Please encourage any philatelic friends to sign up for this newsletter.

Forest Facts Quiz



1 Westonbirt, The National Arboretum in Gloucestershire showcases how many tree species?
a) 2,000
b) 3,000
c) 3,500



2 How many woods and forests do the Forestry Commission oversee?
a) 1,000
b) 1,500
c) 2,000



3 Name the trees depicted on this stamp
a) Birch b) Beech c) Box



4 What is the latin name of the squirrel on this stamp?
a) *Sciurus carolinensis*
b) *Sciuridae*
c) *Sciurus vulgaris*



5 What is the largest human-made forest in Britain?
a) Sherwood Forest
b) Kielder Forest
c) Thetford Forest

6 What is *shinrin yoku*?
a) Forest bathing
b) Forest biking
c) Forest foraging

How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Forest Facts Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.noble@royalmail.com.
Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Forests Presentation Pack.
Closing Date 15 September 2019.

May solutions – V & A Quiz 1c 2a 3b 4c 5a.
Winners Mr Ian Doggett, Paignton; James McKay, Rosehearty; Dave Dergan, Bolton; John Edmundson, Northowran; Mrs J Constantine, Beaconsfield.

Terms and conditions Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. Royal Mail's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. Prizes are subject to 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. The winners' names are available 28 days after closing date. To receive this please send an SAE to The Editor.

New Issues and Withdrawals

2 August — **Withdrawal** British Engineering: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.

13 August — **Issue** Forests: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60 – 3 vertical se-tenant pairs). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Postcards (6 in set). First Day Cover. First Day Cover Envelope. Framed Stamps.



24 August — **Withdrawal** Queen Victoria Bicentenary: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.



6 September — **Withdrawal** WW II - D-Day: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.



11 September — **Issue** WW II - D-Day: Miniature Sheet, Operation Overlord and Stampex overprint – only available at Stampex.



12 September — **Withdrawal** Royal Mail Heritage: Mail by Sea Post and Go Stamp Set and First Day Envelope.



Withdrawal Royal Mail Heritage: Mail by Bike Post and Go Stamp Set and First Day Envelope.

19 September — **Issue** Royal Navy Ships: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.35, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60 – 4 horizontal se-tenant pairs). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Postcards (8 in set). First Day Cover. First Day Cover Envelope. Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machin definitives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Framed Stamps (8 stamps, UK only). Framed Stamps (8 stamps, UK only – signed by the First Sea Lord, limited edition of 100). Framed Print and Stamp (Mary Rose/HMS Victory).

You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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