

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 48 Number 2

OCTOBER 2010 £1.20

Bulletin

Intelligent stamps • Stampex
• War and peace thematics



**Britain's best-loved stamp
makes a welcome return in
time for Remembrance Day**

PREVIEW 2010 CHRISTMAS STAMPS

WIN A BATTLEFIELD HISTORY TOUR

Issues and withdrawals



Cover Poppies for remembrance: The National Memorial Arboretum commemorative stamp sheet is released this month, see page 45. Cover image © Roland Gerth/Corbis

7 October

Withdrawal Eminent Britons stamps, Presentation Packs, Stamp Cards

12 October

Issues Winnie-the-Pooh stamps, Presentation Pack, Miniature Sheet and Stamp Cards • The Olympic & Paralympic Games (II) Stamp Book No 4 including football and cycling BMX stamps)

20 October

Withdrawal Italia 2009 Exhibition Sheet

26 October

Issue Special Delivery stamps, Presentation Pack

28 October

Issue Arboretum Commemorative Stamp Sheet
Re-issue Lest We Forget 'Poppy' Stamp Sheets, 3 x 1st class, se-tenant

2 November

Issue Christmas issue, Miniature Sheet, First Day Cover, First Day Cover Miniature Sheet, First Day Envelope, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Stamp Books • Christmas Smilers® generic sheet
• Reintroduction of 2007 Madonna and Child stamps
• Annual Collections

Withdrawal Christmas 2009 stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Stamp Books, Christmas Smilers® generic sheet

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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 Readers' questions and favourite finds

A right royal rarity

I thought your readers might be interested in seeing an item of postal history given to me by my grandfather, who ran a nursery that supplied plants to Glamis Castle for Lady Strathmore. When the postal authority of Newfoundland was given permission to use a Marcus Adams photograph of Lady Strathmore's granddaughter on a six-cent postage stamp in 1932, my grandfather asked for the child's signature across the stamp.

Lady Strathmore sent the little girl's signature with a note saying that, as her granddaughter had written beneath rather than across the stamp, my grandfather or his wife might be able to stick the stamp over the signature rather than vice versa. I'm so glad they didn't take up this suggestion, because the little girl grew up to be our Queen and this is the only stamp in the world that shows her as a child. The signature was written very carefully between ruled lines to help her achieve her best joined-up writing – most accomplished for her age and already with the distinctive style of the adult Elizabeth II's handwriting.

Gardeners among readers may also appreciate the second message in the accompanying note, where Lady Strathmore also requests a selection of *campanulas* be sent to Glamis. It is dated April 21 1932, the Queen's sixth birthday.

J Walker, Gloucestershire

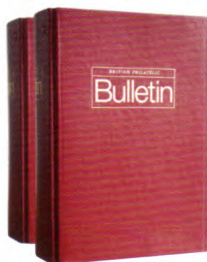


Elizabeth

Dear Ms Walker,

Thank you so much for sharing this most unusual piece of philatelic history. It gives us a wonderful glimpse into Her Majesty's childhood and reminds us that it was a twist of fate that saw her accede to the throne – when Newfoundland chose to show her on a stamp, they had little reason to believe Elizabeth would ever become Queen.

Ms Walker receives a set of *Bulletin* binders and a Definitive Stamps pack.



Letting off steam

The following letter is one of many we regularly receive that seeks to start a debate. So we thought we'd give *Bulletin* readers a forum to discuss the things that get your goat, suggestions for improvements to the philatelic programme and anything else you'd like to shout about.

The August Bulletin asks for letters from readers but those published all seem to be of a 'question and answer' nature.

Could there be a space for expressing a general view?

When I started collecting British stamps as a young boy in 1934, we had four different definitive sets in four years and only around 25 commemorative stamps – all eagerly looked forward to – in the 18 years to the end of George VI's reign.

In my opinion, Royal Mail now issues far too many 'special' stamps. I should like to see fewer and shorter sets with more second-class values. Except for the Christmas Issues, few special stamps are actually used on ordinary mail. I should also like to see fewer miniature sheets and fewer Prestige Stamp books. Young collectors are being priced out.

On the other hand, we have had only one basic definitive design in 40 years. How about a different design for low-value self-adhesive booklets? The much-loved Machin design could still be kept.

What do other readers think?

Philip Mountford, Cambs



Complete your collection

ER Aston of Bedfordshire has a complete set of *The Philatelic Bulletin* from 1969–2009, offered free to any *Bulletin* reader willing to collect. Also available 1968: February, May, June, August, September, October, November and December. Please call 01582 872 382 if you are interested. We'd love these to go to a good philatelic home.

Staying centred

I read your article on the Najjar cover with interest. For over 25 years I have been reconstructing a sheet of 240 well-centred press (any plate number) and now only require one – JB. The first thing I noticed about the three stamps of the newly discovered piece was that they were very much off-centre. Are the nine known specimens from one sheet or several different sheets? Whichever the case, all stamps from the same sheet will be similarly centred, so that if the poor centring of the three new ones matches any of the verified plate 77 stamps they could most likely be from the same sheet – and thus be genuine. Only if the centring is completely different will there be some doubt.

Mr Graham Torry, Sheffield

Dear Mr Torry,
We consulted with The BPMA's Douglas Muir on this matter and he agrees entirely with your conclusion. This is one mystery that looks far from being solved. Do keep letting us know your thoughts and discoveries.

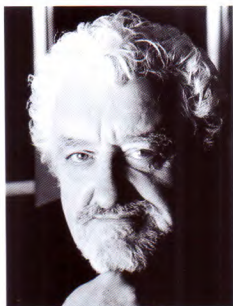


Keep the letters coming...

Karin Ward, Editor of the *Bulletin*, welcomes your letters and has a topical selection of philatelic delights to give as a thank-you to the senders of those published. Please note, however, that Royal Mail cannot reply to all letters and reserves the right to

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

What's new? Issues, products and events



Above: Bernard Cribbins, whose reading of W H Auden's poem 'Night Mail' is activated on mobile phones by the new Intelligent Stamps and launches Royal Mail's journey into a new age of interactive communications



An 'intelligent' stamp Combining state-of-the-art technology with rich cultural history, Royal Mail has launched the world's first Intelligent Stamp. The six Great British Railways stamps issued in August are the first to work with image-recognition technology, which launches exclusive online content, activated by the latest smartphones – the iPhone 3GS and 4 or Android OS4 platforms. The Junaio phone application has been equipped to 'recognise' the stamps since 3 September.

And it's free – you simply open the Junaio 'app', go to the Royal Mail channel, select the Royal Mail logo, then scan the stamp with the phone. You will be presented with a short film of Bernard Cribbins reading WH Auden's 'Night Mail' – the poem originally written in 1936 as a voice-over for a short film of the same title, and warmly regarded as a British classic.

'This is an important step in the evolution of postage stamps,' comments Royal Mail's Philip Parker. 'It is a whole new world of information and fun for philatelists and everyone who uses stamps.'

UK philatelists are variously bemused and excited by the development. The cool techno-movie angle to the stamps has been given the thumbs-up by online social networkers from all corners of the world, and this can only be a good thing for the future of British philately. One typical Twitter reads 'Awesome! The collector's geek in me is excited.'

Bernard Cribbins is delighted to be involved with the project and says, 'I am excited to be bringing the poem to a brand new audience, and to help take postage stamps into a new era of interactive technology.' ●



Winnie-the-Pooh issue Royal Mail has worked closely with Disney to develop a delightful set of stamps on Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends. AA Milne's stories of the bear of very little brain have delighted generations of young readers, not to mention their parents.

This Special Stamp issue features many of the characters from the Hundred Acre Wood, captured in EH Shepard's original illustrations. The Miniature Sheet comprises four different stamps with appropriate lines from AA Milne's delightful poem 'Us Two'. It also carries an illustration of Pooh Bear surrounded by honey bees who have seen through his cunning rain cloud disguise (£2.86 Code MZ070).

The First Day Cover Miniature Sheet (Inland £3.84, Overseas £3.27 Code MF071) includes a filler card written by Brian Sibley, with biographies of both writer AA Milne and illustrator EH Shepard. The Presentation Pack (£7.50 Code AP337) includes all Mint Stamps, and Miniature Sheet and is contained in an illustrated brochure.

Winnie-the-Pooh is Royal Mail's contribution to the 2010 PostEurop theme of children's books, so the Europa logo appears on the first-class stamps, or technical details, see page 381 of Volume 47, August 2010 *Bulletin* ●

Remembrance: The National Memorial Arboretum Commemorative Sheet

The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire is the UK's centre for remembrance. This sheet honours the Arboretum, and particularly the Armed Forces Memorial, where the names of 16,000 service personnel killed in action since 1945 are inscribed. Royal Mail will make a donation to the National Memorial Arboretum Appeal for each of the remembrance products sold. Price £13.50 Code AV012

The ten stamps are the definitive size poppy stamps issued in January this year, but in this commemorative sheet they are self-adhesive.

The Armed Forces Memorial and other notable memorials at the Arboretum are shown on the sheet (see detail, right) and are featured in its information folder. Please turn to page 45 to see a photograph of the whole sheet ●



Stamp Design: © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2010

Remembrance: The National Memorial Arboretum Commemorative Sheet – Technical Details

Stamps	10 x 1st Class Poppy
Design	Hat-trick
Printer	Cantor Security Printing
Size	A4: 210mm(w) x 297mm(h)
Print Process	Lithography
Price	£13.50

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*

FOURTH STANZA OF FOR THE FALLEN
BY LAURENCE BINYON (1869–1943)

Olympic and Paralympic Games – Stamp Book No.4

Number of stamps	1 x 1st Football
	1 x 1st Cycling
	4 x 1st Machin
Printer	Walsall Security Print
Print Process	Gravure

Olympic and Paralympic Stamp Book issue Released on 12 October, the latest Olympic and Paralympic Stamp Book includes the soccer and cycling stamps alongside a block of four Machin First Class Definitives. It is the fourth in a series of stamp books and the second booklet to feature two stamps from the Olympics and Paralympic Games (II) sheet, released on 27 July this year.

For full details of the London 2012 set and the commemorative Presentation Pack, please see page 284 of Volume 47, *Bulletin*. The cycling illustration is by Matthew Dennis and the footballers are the work of Alex Williamson. All the stamps in the booklet are self-adhesive (unsoakable) ●

Ancient and almost modern artists on the Christian Christmas stamps, below: Lippo di Dalmasio and William Dyce (enlarged)



Two Madonna and Child stamps that were originally issued in 2007 and proved exceptionally popular, are to be put on sale every Christmas until further notice. This ensures a consistent Christian stamps alternative at Christmas, as secular and religious themes are now alternated each year for the main festive stamp issue. These definitive-sized stamps feature classic paintings: on the first-class stamp is *The Madonna of Humility* by Lippo di Dalmasio; *Madonna and Child* painted by William Dyce is on the second-class.

The painting reproduced on the first-class stamp is very old (c1395) – in fact, it is the earliest painting on canvas in the National Gallery. The work is believed to have been painted in Bologna and may have been used as a confraternity banner.

Dyce was heavily influenced by the Nazarenes in the 19th century, and such influences are clearly seen in this work, which closely follows Renaissance ideals. Painted around 1827, this painting offered a hint of what was to come with the emerging Pre-Raphaelite movement.

Both stamps go on sale this month ●

**Madonna and Child stamps, 2 November 2010**

Number of stamps	Two
Formatting	Peter Willberg
Typography	Peter Willberg
1st Class stamp	<i>The Madonna of Humility</i> by Lippo di Dalmasio © The National Gallery, London
2nd Class stamp	<i>Madonna and Child</i> by William Dyce © Tate Collection, London
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	De la Rue Security
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	Die Cut Simulated perforations
Phosphor	2 Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive



Bye bye birdie Liverpool postmarks have been around for a very long time – since well before the days of Rowland Hill. The reorganisation of letter handling at Mail Centres in the North West has therefore caused a good deal of surprise:

October Liverpool is due to lose its postmark on mail posted in the area, soon to be concentrated on to a new Mail Centre at Warrington. This will draw in postings from a wide catchment area, which includes Liverpool and other districts of Merseyside and Cheshire. The name of Liverpool will continue to appear on mail posted by local businesses using their own franking machine, and also on any mail handed in over at local post office counters and due to be postmarked there. Turn to page 52 for Peter Barrett's article in celebration of this great city's impact on philatelic impact •

Day of doing On the 10th of this month watch out for the 10:10:10 stamp cancellation mark from Royal Mail, developed in support of the climate-change initiative that encourages UK companies and individuals to commit to reducing their energy consumption by 10 per cent. Among the special 10:10 events being held across the country is a 10:10 prize draw for people who submit a photograph of themselves with the special mark. For more details, go to www.royalmail.com/1010 •



The stamp cancellation mark developed to support the campaign for reducing the nation's carbon footprint



Last chance to buy The 2009 Eminent Britons Europa issue (above) and the Italia 2009 Exhibition Sheet go off sale on 7 and 20 October respectively •

STOP PRESS New Twitter feed – now you can join the Twitterati and get the latest on UK stamps by visiting www.twitter.com/RoyalMailStamps. **New Year stamps** Watch out for a mid-October announcement about an exciting new issue due out in early 2011. More details in your next *Bulletin* •

BPMA events

Talk GPO Film Unit

Thurs 4 Nov 7-8pm

Film archivist and documentary historian Steve Foxon introduces and discusses the films of the GPO Film Unit made during the reign of KGV.

Archive Open Day

Science, Innovation and Medicine

Sat 13 Nov

10am-5pm

A day of behind-the-scenes tours featuring specially selected items from the archive which link to the theme.

Talk Architecture as

Public Art: Buildings

on British Stamps

Tues 7 Dec 7-8pm

Professor Brian Goodey, the departing Chair of the Postal Heritage Trust, will review the buildings chosen for British stamp issues (and non-issues) and the picture of British architecture they generate.

All events are free.

Please call 020 7239

2570 or email info@postalheritage.org.uk

to book your place.

Stamp Scene This month's philatelic news

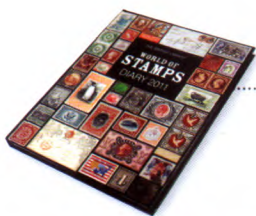


Left to right: Alan Moorcroft, President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, Rod Vousden, Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, and Ian Greig

New season at the RPSL Material produced for the reign of King George VI was recently shown to the members of the Royal Philatelic Society London at the first meeting of the season. Traditionally the first display of each season comprises material from the Royal Philatelic Collection. The display showed how the priority at the start of each reign is to find portraits of the new monarch. Various trials, proofs, and original artwork were shown for each of the countries represented, including Australia, Canada, India, Bermuda and Hong Kong. The display was brought together by Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, and assisted by Ian Greig and Rod Vousden ●

Crystal Palace Convention The Exhibition Study Group's Annual Convention takes place on 9 and 10 October at The Lodge, Crystal Palace Park, London SE19. The AGM starts at 10am on the Saturday, followed by displays, a number which commemorate the centenary of the Japan-British Exhibition held at White City, London in 1910.

Further details are available at www.studygroup.org.uk and from Don Knight, 2 Crescent Road, New Barnet EN4 9RF, telephone 020 8440 3574 or email donaldrk@btinternet.com ●



2011 British Library World of Stamps Diaries Official desk and pocket diaries are now available, featuring images and information about the Library's important collections. The hardback week-to-view desk version costs £12.95. The pocket version (left), is £6.99. Both are available at <http://shop.bl.uk> ●

This month in history

John Holman remembers... No longer the highest building in the capital, the BT Tower remains a major landmark. As the Post Office Tower it opened in October 1966 when two special stamps were issued. Designed by Clive Abbott, they showed the Tower dwarfing nearby Georgian buildings and the 'Nash' Terrace in Regent's Park, and were the first to include the names of the designer and printer. Produced in plain and phosphor versions, the 3d stamp has one phosphor band at left or right, making two stamps to

collect. Error 3d stamps without the Tower are now catalogued at £4,250. The Tower opened to the public in May 1966 and stamps were available from vending machines until decimalisation ●



Young winners The 2010 Stanley Gibbons-sponsored British Youth Stamp Championships were judged and shown at Autumn Stampex. They were of a high standard and greatly appreciated by judges, Christine Earle, John Davies and Richard West. The individual results were:

• 14 to 16 (Class C) Samantha Lewtas *Sport for All* Large silver; Jack Roberts *The story of powered flight* Small silver;

Jacqs Scourfield *A childhood in stamps* Large silver plus Stanley Gibbons Trophy.

• 12 and 13 (Class D) Claire Mitchell *Is it a bird? Is it a plane?* Small silver-gilt plus Melville Cup plus Benham Trophy. • Up to 12 (Class E) Sophie Smith *All About Me* Silver-bronze plus Gillian Birchnall Trophy plus ADPS Trophy; Rachel Winters *Birds on stamps on covers and cards* Bronze •



Frame fee subsidies The ABPS Exhibitions Committee has recently announced that the British Philatelic Trust will subsidise national frame fees for 2011, reducing them from £25 per frame to £10, which should encourage more exhibitors to participate. The ABPS is supporting three national exhibitions during 2011 and hopes that the reduction in fees will lead to 500 frames of competitive exhibits being shown. Application forms for exhibitions can be found at www.abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/Exhibitions/index.xalter •

Innovations abroad Australia Post has launched an 'app' that lets customers track their postal items, look-up postcodes, pay bills and locate post offices on their mobile phones. Within hours of release it went to the top of the free download charts. In Germany, customers of Deutsche Post DHL can now send a text message to pay for mail. They receive a reply containing numbers to copy on to their envelope. When received, staff in the mail centre check the validity of the code and apply a postage paid label. Meanwhile in Iceland a 'message in a bottle' service has been launched. These plastic bottles bear a photograph of Iceland on one side and address label on the other. A sheet of paper is enclosed for a message to be written and reinserted prior to sealing and mailing. Let's hope not too many are tossed in the sea! •



Events

UK

23 October

Cornex 2010 - Cornwall Philatelic Federation, Liskeard

28 October

Jane Mowbray talk, The Dominion of Canada 1868-1928, at the RPSL (non-members can download a pdf of the talk at www.rpsl.org.uk)

30 October

North Western Philatelic Federation 2010, Horwich, Lancashire

4-6 November

Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls, London

2011

23-26 February

Spring Stampex, BDC, Islington, London

ABROAD

27-31 October

Jo'burg 2010, Johannesburg, South Africa

21-25 November

Jerusalem 2010 Multinational Stamp Exhibition, Jerusalem, Israel

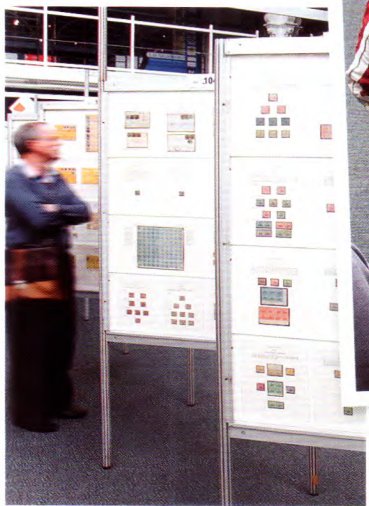
Behind the scenes Julia Lee reports on the highlights of autumn Stampex

THE NEW PICTORIAL POST AND GO LABEL STAMPS were the main attraction at this autumn's Stampex at the Business Design Centre. The stamps were issued on 17 September, the Friday of Stampex, and bear pictures of birds alongside security text. A steady stream of visitors queued to use the machine. Andrew Perkins, who handles the machines for the Post Office, described part of the appeal as 'the thrill of the chase'. He said: 'I believe the light is coming on for collectors and dealers to start treating these new label stamps as collectable items.'

BPMA curator Douglas Muir was making covers for The British Postal Museum, and commented: 'We have all the research material for this. We need something that shows what happened when it went through the mailstream.'

The Thursday saw the issue of the Medical Breakthroughs set, and other notable favourites were the Battle of Britain generic sheet and two retail books – the British Design Classics with two Spitfire stamps and the Mammals book.

Gold medallists displaying British material at the national exhibition on the Village Green were Brian Sole with *British greetings telegrams*; Peter Shaw with the *Wilding high values*; and the mysterious 'Nimrod' who showed a one-frame study of the £5 orange •



Clockwise from top left: Andrew Perkins assists Mr Patel at the Post and Go machine; Mr Patel is one happy customer; collectors

create first day covers and place orders at the Royal Mail stand; the exhibits on display were of the usual high standard



Three commemorative poppy designs from three different years are now available in a se-tenant issue

Lest we forget To mark the reissue of poppy stamps, the following pages focus on themes of war and peace in two collections

THE SAD BUT PROUD memorial events held each November are always moving. The 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, 65th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day and the end of WWII coupled with the ongoing loss of life in Afghanistan make this year's anniversaries particularly poignant and evoke important memories for thousands. It is with this commemoration in mind that we talk to two collectors on themes of war and peace in the following six-page feature section.

Lest we forget Mint Stamps

All three poppy stamps from 2006, 2007 and 2008 are now available in se-tenant triplets (£1.23 Code AS474). These stamps capture the spirit of remembrance through beautifully subtle imagery and have proved exceptionally popular designs.

The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire is the UK's centre for remembrance. A newly issued commemorative stamp sheet honours the Arboretum (above right), and particularly the Armed Forces Memorial, which is inscribed with the names of 16,000 service personnel killed in action since 1945. Royal Mail promises to make a donation to the National Memorial Arboretum Appeal for each of the remembrance products sold. The sheet costs £13.50 (AV012) and orders will be dispatched from 28 October. For more information about the Arboretum, go to www.thenma.org.uk

If you have any philatelic mementoes of war- or peace-themed items that you would like to share with *Bulletin* readers, do get in touch •



*'At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them'* LAURENCE BINYON (1869-1943)

A letter home

An unusual military history theme forms the basis of DR Harrison's captivating collection



Above: 1971 British Legion issue and 1970 General Anniversaries series.

Below: a card from a nurse named Denise, bearing a special hospital stamp



THE FIRST SEED OF INSPIRATION for this collection – Military Hospitals in France 1914-1918 – was sown by a 3p postage stamp from the British Legion issue of August 1971. It features a British Nurse in the uniform of the 1900s, and this alerted me to a possible area of research for my primary hobby – which is researching military history with special reference to British nurses who served in WWI. Looking further, I found the anniversary stamp for Florence Nightingale who is, of course, acknowledged as being the instigator of the female nursing service (both stamps are shown on the left).

I had a very deep interest in history as a child but was 'turned off' it when my teacher retired one year before my exams and her replacement was just plain boring. Many years later I was on one of the numerous pilgrimages my husband made to the battlefields of France and Flanders when I was asked if I had read Vera Brittain's *A Testament to Youth*. On our return I took the book out of the library and was transformed. This was something I could do on our trips – I could look at the female aspect of war. It fascinated me that these well brought up and well educated young ladies, who were generally kept in the drawing room and only knew embroidery and 'good works', suddenly defied their fathers and plunged themselves into a world of utter chaos – mud, blood, and unimaginable horrors. What made so many of them do this?

So began my long association with British Nurses in WWI, and a rekindling of my love of history. There are famous heroines that everyone knows about, such as the aforementioned Lady of the Lamp and Edith Cavell, but I wanted to look at some of the 'unknowns'. My modest research is an attempt to put some 'flesh on the bones' of some of these unsung heroes.

Postcard of Sister Julie Some time later I was at a stamp fair, idly pouring over the military postcards, not expecting to find any with photographs of nurses on them, when I came across one featuring 'Soeur Julie', a nursing nun who earned the title *Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur* for her heroic conduct. A nurse named Denise used the card to explain to her family that she was safely back in Paris and that she 'left the countryside of Lorraine with reluctance'. So obviously this was a woman compelled to nurse the wounded. It has a circular stamp entitled '*Hôpital Hospice, Gerbeviller (M.etM.)*' on the front corner. Having an idea that this could be another research opportunity, I duly purchased it, totally unaware of how this would lead to a steep learning curve to improve my schoolgirl French!

Forces from all of the countries involved in WWI suffered terrible numbers of wounded and as a result the number of hospitals and staff needed to be increased



Left: Pierre Hippolite made use of the free hospital postage service, sending his address on a card that clearly shows the cachet for the Hôpital Auxil-Jeanne d'Arc

dramatically. Many British nurses travelled to France to join the Croix Rouge and the French Flag Nursing Corps, serving alongside French and Commonwealth nurses. I should imagine that these young women, clutching the railings of the ships taking them to the fields of France, were terribly excited – not only at the prospect of using their knowledge of the French language, but also at the opportunity for adventure and possibly romance. These feelings would no doubt have been dampened at the sight of some of the poor wounded wretches they were hoping to save. The French hospitals were designated by each region as either temporary hospitals (HT), complimentary hospitals (HC), auxiliary hospitals (HA) or voluntary hospitals (HB).

These hospitals were supported by three sections of the Red Cross: the *Société Française de Secours aux Blessés* (SSBM), the Union of the Women of France (UFF), and the Association of French Ladies (ADF). The Chateaux de Passy, which opened 21 March 1915 as HB 32 with 157 beds, was transformed into the French Hospital of New York and was just one of 700 of the great old chateaux which were utilised as hospitals. They were chosen for their well-constructed buildings which offered not only large rooms and big kitchens but also large stables and barns for use as wards.

Large hotels were also transformed for the duration of the war. The postcard of the Grand Thermes Hotel, Dax, shows its use as an auxiliary hospital with the name Our Lady of Pouy. The exterior of the building would lead the soldier to think he was entering a palace, and while the inside would retain its architectural grandeur, the rooms would have been stripped of their fine furnishings and replaced with rows and rows of beds, bed pans and the necessary paraphernalia of a large working hospital.

There were in excess of 9,300 hospitals, all under the direct control of the French War Ministry. As with all wars, soldiers are rarely, if ever, lucky

It has long been realised that regular receipt of letters from home is a great morale booster for the soldier on active service, making an efficient military postal service essential



enough to be transported to a hospital in the region in which they lived before being called to serve their country. The French War Ministry thus enabled each hospital to use the 'FM' cachet for free postage. The attractive postcard shown on the left has two cachets, 39 Corps d'Armée, Hôp. Temp. No 29 Lisielly and the official hospital cachet in the bottom left-hand corner, and is dated 28 July 1914.

However, the French War Minister of Commerce, Industry, Stations and Telegraphs insisted that the military origin of the letters should be made obvious and indisputable. To establish this, all correspondence was given to the mail service via the post orderlies who affixed the seal of the regiment or the hospital before handing the mail on for distribution, thus guaranteeing free delivery to its destination. It has long been realised that receipt of letters from home is a great morale booster for soldiers, making an efficient military postal service essential to the war effort. What a comfort these short messages must have been, not only to the wounded but also to those waiting anxiously back at home. Hundreds of thousands of cards and letters were distributed in this way and, for those unable to write themselves, many English ladies visited the hospitals and undertook the writing of letters for the wounded.



From France to England This card, left, illustrates that it's not unusual to find examples where postage stamps have been affixed. This is a fine example of the Hôpital Auxiliaire No 222 cachet. This hospital, previously the Hotel Imperial in Menton, Côte d'Azur, contained 400 beds and was opened on 3 April 1915. So many of our brave nurses struggled on even at times of great weariness because the wounded were still pouring in and crying out to be tended. Many are known to have given their precious ration of eggs to these wounded men, and scavenged for yet more comforts in the little time to themselves

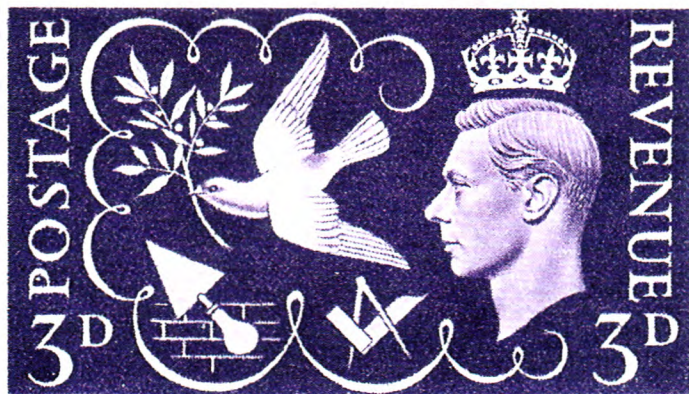
Above: an enigmatic French soldier carries an official hospital cachet in the bottom left corner; a postcard from an English nurse writing home to Guildford from Menton

that they had. Many years later, we are now able to attempt to understand what it was like for them when we read their very personal diaries and letters.

Of course, this is just the beginning of my philatelic journey. And it will be a long one if I am to collect all of the 9,300 cachets out there...

Dahlia Harrison, MA, is a member of both the Leamington and Warwick Philatelic Society and the South Midlands Stamp Club ●

For research into wartime postal history... The BPMA holds many items of wartime philatelic interest; for an overview see postalheritage.org.uk/exhibitions/onlineexhibitions/ww2stamps. For thematic inspiration try firstworldwar.com, www.worldwar1.com and www.psywar.org. The Imperial War Museum on Lambeth Road in London SE1 includes stamps among its extensive collections.



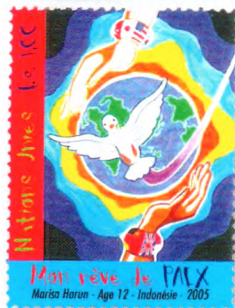
Hope in the air

Michael Hide has found inspiration from the dove of peace – on stamps as in life

OUR PERCEPTION OF THE DOVE as a symbol of peace is rooted in the famous lines of Genesis, when Noah set free a dove from the Ark and the bird returned holding an olive branch to signal an end of the violent floods – on this occasion, there truly was peace on earth! In scripture the dove is associated with the Holy Spirit coming upon someone at a specific time for a specific task, and it became firmly established as an international symbol of peace in 1949 – when Picasso's famous iconic dove lithograph was selected for the poster of the first International Peace Congress held in Paris. It was Picasso's Dove of Peace that became the emblem for the Peace Movement and a universal symbol of hope during the Cold War.

The dove has long been used on stamps and covers, most often to commemorate the end of a war or to mark important anniversaries and conferences of international organisations that work for peace. Hopner's hugely symbolic 1947 Allied Occupation of Germany stamp (above, right) is one of my early favourites. The broken chains on the hands freeing the dove are an evocative interpretation of the end of war and hope for the future.

British interpretations The dove as a peace symbol has featured on a number of issues since World War II. The first was the 3d value of the 1946 Victory issue (above) showing the bird in flight over symbols of repair and reconstruction – a wall, trowel, set square and compass – and with a ▶



Left: Reynolds Stone's iconic 1946 design. Above, from top: 1947 Allied Occupation of Germany stamp, one of the 1961 Europa issue, and the 2005 UN Geneva 1f stamp on the theme of 'my dream for peace for one day'

ribbon-like scroll joining them all together. Reynolds Stone's design was chosen by King George VI, and he chose well, for this has become an iconic stamp of its era and still has considerable impact.

The 1961 Europa issue is another of my favourites. Michael Goaman's overall design for the British set included Dutch artist Theo Kurpershoek's 'Dove of Doves', a design that was commonly used on other CEPT stamps of that year (see opposite, top right). This dove is made up of 19 smaller doves representing each member country and is used to great effect. It has become another memorable symbol of hope across Europe.

Below: Christopher Corr's design for the millennium 'A Soldiers' Tale' issue; JM Folon's 1995 stamp of simple beauty; the 1983 Christmas stamp



Christmas as a time of peace The 1983 GB festive issue focused on the Christmas message of peace to the world. All five designs featured the dove but I have chosen the 20½p as the perfect example of simplicity and symbolism: a white dove and a blackbird atop a branch, sheltering under an umbrella bearing a map of the world and gazing, almost lovingly, into each other's eyes. The addition of an appropriate postmark made this issue a seasonal classic.

The Dove of Peace also appeared on the 64p stamp of the Millennium series, 'A Soldiers' Tale'. Christopher Corr's first design for Royal Mail showed Peacekeeping Forces with children as a central feature, and the dove hovering above them to symbolize their peacemaking role. We must remember to pause to salute those unsung peacekeepers for their efforts to help achieve peace in all corners of the world.



Further afield PostEurop adopted a dove in the Peace and Freedom series in their 1995 Europa issues. Great Britain's 25p stamp uses an image by JM Folon that is starkly simple in design and has immense impact. An outstretched hand – so outstretched that it seems to me somehow elongated by the effort – sets free the white dove to the clear blue skies and needs nothing more to get across its message. Simple and simply beautiful.



As a collector of Cinderella material, I always enjoy finding labels and sheets depicting a dove of peace. The Education, Science and Cultural branch of the United Nations, UNESCO, issued 'Gift' stamps to raise funds for schools, Universities and clubs in the aftermath of WWII, and labels were issued for many member nations. My particular favourite is one for Japan from 1953, showing two children releasing a dove (above right), no doubt hopeful of the peace to come and particularly evocative of the spirit of hope that inspired the childhoods of many of us who grew up in the 1950s.



Uniting nations Without stamps of the United Nations, no collection of philatelic doves of peace would be complete. I have space only to mention one firm favourite among the many UN issues on the theme of peace: the 2005 issue based on children's drawings on the theme of 'My dream for peace for one day' stand out for me as superb examples. The 55c United Nations Vienna stamp was designed by 12-year-old Lee Min Gi from Korea. It shows a colourful umbrella, patterned with flags of all nations, being held over the earth as a face and surrounded by doves and olive branches, a vivid evocation of just how much young people hope for a peaceful future. Likewise the UN Geneva 1f stamp – 12-year-old Marisa Harun from Indonesia showed us two hands, one black and the other white releasing a white dove over the earth. If only peace were that simple.

Left: the 1953 UNESCO label
Above: Theo Kurpershoek's Europa 'Dove of Doves' was used by many nations; Michael used the dove of peace from his village logo to create a personalised stamp which is a favourite of his daughter, Jasmine

Michael Hide was born in Essex and lives in Israel. The writer wishes to thank his daughter Jasmine, Fedi and Orr Wallerstein and members of www.stampcommunity.org for their help in compiling this article •

For collectors of bird stamps... There's plenty of thematic inspiration at www.birdsofbritain.co.uk, www.birdtheme.org and www.bird-stamps.org, where 19 different species of dove are listed. The British-based club www.birdstampssociety.org is specifically for ornithological philatelists, and the society issues a quarterly newsletter called *Flight*. For a world view, gulfmannbirds.blogspot.com is illuminating. A useful book for new collectors is *Collect Birds on Stamps* by Jens Eriksen, Hanne Eriksen and DJ Aggersberg, published by Stanley Gibbons in 2002.

Farewell then, Liverpool

Peter Barrett considers the city's philatelic impact and the future without its own postmark



Above: Liverpool's philatelic postmark, available on request.
Below: covers of '69 and '84



A. N. Rees
25 Aspinall Road
Rugeley-upon-Avon
Warwickshire

Special items and handstamps This move does not represent the complete demise of Liverpool postmarks. Certain items, including Special Delivery and signed-for International Mail, must still have postage applied and cancelled at the Post Office counter where they are accepted. So, for the time being at least, there will still be some Liverpool counter date stamp postmarks seen on mail posted at the city's Post Offices.

And there has long been a permanent philatelic postmark available for Liverpool showing the Royal Liver Building available upon request from the Northern England Special Handstamp Centre, where collectors can submit covers for any date they wish. This postmark will continue to be available for the time being.

A thriving city Liverpool's worldwide reputation for its shipping, industrial and cultural heritage, has often been recognised with commemorative and First Day Covers. This thematic area has a wide reach. Notable examples include the 1969 British Cathedrals issue, whose 1s 6d value shows Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and the First Day Cover features the associated Liverpool handstamp. In 1984, when the city hosted the International Garden Festival, the Urban Renewal issue commemorated Liverpool on the 16p value.



Blackburn Ltd, Manchester Ltd / 22/28 High Street, Wetherby, York

George Stubbs, *Fino and Tiny*, 1791.

Reproduced by permission of Her Majesty The Queen



First Day Cover - CoverCard P90 Box 713 London SE18 0PH



DAWN COVERS, 27 ASHFIELD ROAD, DAVENPORT, STOCKPORT SK3 8UD

As leading lights in the world of football, Liverpool FC and Everton have been the subject of many commemorative items. For many years Dawn Cover Productions has produced football-related covers and Liverpool FC has featured in many of these. The 1988 Sports issue, just one of the many of note, is shown at the top of this page and details many of the club's successes. This First Day Cover was produced in association with another icon of the city, the *Liverpool Echo* newspaper.

Stubbs, steam and sea The 1991 dogs stamp issue featuring five paintings by George Stubbs is perhaps not instantly recognisable as connected to Liverpool, but this great British painter was born in the city. The Covercraft official First Day Cover uses the painting of *Fino and Tiny* on the 37p value as its illustration. From 1998 I have selected another Dawn official FDC for the Queen's Beasts issue. Aside from football, Dawn produces many transport related covers and this example commemorates the Lion – the world's oldest working steam locomotive, which originally operated on the Liverpool and Manchester railway.

Liverpool has always been synonymous with the sea – not only as a ►

Football, art and transport are three key aspects of Liverpool life celebrated in the covers shown above: Liverpool FC in the 1988 Sports issue; *Fino and Tiny* by George Stubbs, the artist born in Liverpool in 1724, featured in the 1991 dogs stamp issue; and the Lion, the world's oldest working steam locomotive, which originally ran on the Liverpool-Manchester line

Below: a Liverpool Corporation bus and 'the leaving of Liverpool' handstamps on a 1999 FDC; 2004 Ocean Liners miniature sheet; and two popular Beatles commemoratives with different Liverpool handstamps

SETTLERS' TALE
THE LEAVING OF LIVERPOOL



LIVERPOOL CORPORATION BUS
RESULTS AT... DESTINATION PIER HEAD



trading post, but also as a strategically important port for the allies during WWII. Liverpool was home port of many ships and over the years millions of people have entered and left England through its docks. As a result there are many covers and postmarks that reflect these links – and it was a hard task whittling the list down to the three. The Dawn Official FDC for the 1999 Settlers' Tale is themed around 'the leaving of Liverpool', the 1990

Gallantry issue AG Bradbury Official cover celebrates Mountbatten and the Distinguished Service Medal (not pictured here), and finally the 2004 Ocean Liners miniature sheet needs no explanation, given the city's history.

Illustrious sons Arguably the most influential contribution of Liverpool to the world is The Beatles, whose music and lyrics have become pop classics in every country on earth. In 2007 a set of stamps and a miniature sheet were issued. I have selected two excellent examples of the very many covers available, both containing the sheet.

I hope I have demonstrated some of the important philatelic history of Liverpool. While the loss of their commercial Liverpool postmark is a sad one, cover producers will continue to create and use Liverpool postmarks when an occasion warrants. So collectors can see this as an adieu rather than a goodbye. I, for one, will continue to develop my philatelic interest in this great city.

Peter Barrett is a FDC producer and has run a new-issue service since 1990. While his regard for Liverpool is evidenced in this article, he does admit to being a Chelsea supporter ●



A great GB resource Kathryn Saville reviews www.collectgbstamps.co.uk

Who is it for? Collectors of British issues, thematic collectors and anyone interested in the Royal Mail's stamp issuing programme.

What's the heritage? The site was started four years ago by Robert Jones, a software developer, after he resumed his childhood interest in stamp collecting. He says, 'I thought I would try and create a reference site for British stamps to help catalogue my collection and to make the stamp data available to anyone who wants it. The site now gets about 8,000 visits a month.'

How is it organised? The site is clean and clear in design, making it highly legible and easy to navigate. The home page features recent issues and news, with a right-hand column listing issues past and present and an option to search by year of issue. The search facility is logical and easy-to-use and relevant results appear quickly – for example, getting a list of all presentation stamp books since 1972 took a matter of seconds. Stamps are also organised by theme, series and by monarch. The high-resolution scans supporting the succinct information are a great asset and both this and the design lift this site above the ordinary.

What are the best bits? As a resource for checking thematic issues over the years, this is invaluable. It's very up to date and includes the sort of technical information collectors need to know (design credits, stamps sizes, perf, printer details and so on). The links page is also useful, gathering together full details of dealers, fairs and exhibitions, magazines, blogs, clubs and societies and some more esoteric specimens that are certainly worth a click through (<http://mysite.ncnetwork.net/res0wtjh/395Machins/> is a site to behold, for instance). The site is fully connected social-media-wise, too – you can follow collectgbstamps on Twitter and an app for the iPhone will be available soon. It also boasts an almost complete collection of covers of this very magazine from 1963 onwards.

What could be improved? The site's next goal is to fill in the gaps for earlier issues and make the data base material more accessible.

My view I would warn readers to enter this site at their peril. It can swallow up hours of your time, but then I somehow don't think that will deter many philatelists.

Kathryn Saville is a journalist who has been bitten by the philately bug and has recently started dabbling in collecting ●

CollectGBStamps

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British stamps for 2010

2009 2010 2011

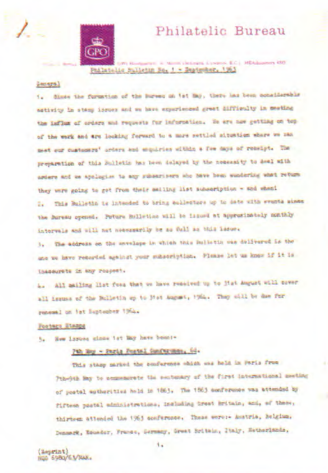
Classic Album Covers

2010 (44 items) 2009 (44 items)



Recent
 1. A. J. Jones - The British Stamp Book 1963-1964
 2. A. J. Jones - The British Stamp Book 1965-1966
 3. A. J. Jones - The British Stamp Book 1967-1968

Above: one of the excellently illustrated pages of the site. Below: the very first edition of the *Bulletin*, Volume 1, September 1963



Catching the post Martin Robinson traces the journey of lamp boxes from city to countryside

THE SMALLEST LETTER BOXES GENERALLY IN use are lamp boxes, often found in country areas either attached to a pole or built into a wall. They take their name from the fact that they were originally intended to be fixed to lamp posts, which had begun to appear as public gas lighting was introduced in the 19th century.

Jean Farrugia tells us in *The Letter Box* that by the 1890s, the Post Office was receiving requests for posting boxes nearer at hand than existing ones several hundred yards away.

London squares wanted theirs The most persistent requests came from the inhabitants of London squares, 'much given to writing letters late at night for the midnight or early morning collections', and they were often granted their wishes, especially if the cost of the box was to be met by residents.

What was required to meet these needs was a smaller box both cheaper and easier to install. Correspondence with the United States Post Office Department suggested that American-style letter boxes, usually fixed to street lamps, would be suitable. A box was shipped across the Atlantic for examination in the UK in 1895, and the following year prototypes were made by Handyside & Company of Derby, before a trial box was fitted to a lamp post in Church End, Finchley in London N3. The trial was pronounced a success and it was decided to introduce the lamp box more widely. So, while today the lamp box is associated with rural areas, it originated in London squares.

The earliest boxes bore Queen Victoria's cipher and the word LETTERS, but this was soon amended to LETTERS ONLY and the first type is very rare indeed, with examples near Bethlehem, Llandeilo; Hythe, Kent; and in the Royal Mail heritage collection.

Aperture adaptations Lamp boxes of the same pattern were made during the reigns of Edward VII and George V. Just before the end of the latter, the lamp box was completely redesigned and was given a less rounded top, a larger collection plate, a doorpull and a wider aperture with the royal cipher set above it.

This design continued into the next reign but there were persistent complaints that the aperture was too small at 5½ inches. So in 1940 the box was given a completely new revamp with a larger aperture and made of sheet steel with a cast iron front, but because of shortages this didn't actually appear until after the war (as shown left).

An EIRR lamp box after the 1940 revamp. This one sports the Scottish crown



Twentieth-century tweaks The 1940 pattern was used in Queen Elizabeth's reign until a further new design appeared in 1999 (as shown on page 35).

The modern lamp box may be thought of as a commonplace and uninteresting box, but it repays more careful study as there are many different variations of detail and manufacturer's names. There isn't space in a short article to go into this, but the Letter Box Study Group's* listing gives all the details that even the most ardent specialist could want. As with pillar and wall boxes, lamp boxes were made from 1952 with a Scottish crown for use north of the border, but the odd one has been mistakenly sited south of the border, in England •

Left to right: flatter top and curved top types of George V lamp boxes and a Victorian one with the narrower aperture, all bearing the words LETTERS ONLY



Purpose-built for business pouches

This month's winning photo from our readers' postbag shows a franked mail pillar box, first manufactured in 1995 by Romec Engineering, formerly Royal Mail's engineering section and now a limited company. These boxes are intended to receive pouches of companies' franked mail, which once had to be handed in at a Post Office, and are usually to be found on industrial estates and business areas of town centres. Such mail without stamps doesn't have to be postmarked but does need checking for tariff and date, so it must be separated from stamped mail.

This month's winner: G C Bradshaw of Worcestershire wins this month's prize – a copy of *Old Letter Boxes* (£4.95 Shire Books) and presentation pack of the 2009 Miniature Sheet. **For more information*:** visit 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 by email attachment to royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net. We regret we cannot return your photographs.



A cracking Christmas! Britain's favourite



2-11-2010



2-11-2010

Wallace and Gromit Christmas issue details

Number of stamps	Seven
Design	Aardman Animations Ltd
Acknowledgements	© and TM Aardman/Wallace & Gromit Limited (2010). All rights reserved. Wallace and Gromit (word mark) and the characters 'Wallace' and 'Gromit' © and TM Aardman/Wallace & Gromit Limited
Stamp Format	Standard: portrait. Large option, 1st and 2nd Class: landscape
Stamp Size	Standard: 20mm x 24mm Large: 30mm x 24mm
Printer	De la Rue Security Print
Print Process	Gravure
Number of stamps	50
Perforations	Kiss die-cut simulated perforations
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive



A robin watches as Gromit posts the duo's many cards



The Large format reveals the wicked penguin Feathers McGraw about to launch a snowball

'WE'VE CREATED A MONSTER!' That's definitely something that the inventor Wallace *wouldn't* say about the sparkling 2010 Christmas issue. The cheese-loving, tank-top wearing Wallace and his long-suffering dog Gromit will appear on seven Christmas stamps, to be issued on 2 November.

To create these stamps, Royal Mail has been working for many months with Aardman Animations and Nick Park, the award-winning creator of Wallace and Gromit, tasked to devise brand new scenes that could be used to feature the pair in stamp-sized images. All the photography for the stamps took place at the Aardman's film studio in Bristol.

Millions of fans around the world are familiar with the extraordinary inventions that come out of Wallace and Gromit's modest terraced house Up

North. And the festive stamp set seemed a perfect opportunity to give the public a peek through their keyhole, to see how the pair celebrate the festive period in their cosy home, away from the flashing cameras of their hectic studio schedule.

'**Cracking idea Gromit!**' In order to explore how best the world of Wallace and Gromit would work in stamp-size miniature format, Nick Park and the team at Aardman Animations created a series of models, props and background sets to capture the characters involved in a variety of seasonal activities, including carol singing and posting Christmas cards. (A large pile – it would seem they have a lot of friends and family.) The models were photographed and then Royal Mail formatted the images into stamp designs.

Each image features a close-up shot of the characters, in front of a background that has a

inventor and his dog bring lashings of festive fun



Gromit endures Wallace's dubious attempt at carol singing



The wider format of the Large stamp shows more of the carefully designed festive background

From top: Wallace gives a thumbs up as Gromit tries on his seasonal gift of a bone-themed pullover; Gromit arrives with a magnificently rotund Christmas pudding; and Wallace decorates the tree with a Christmas fairy that looks suspiciously like Feathers McGraw

suggestion of depth, which, together with the lighting, achieves a sense of perspective that brings the stories to life. To achieve this life-like quality, keeping the focus on the two main characters was vital and so a very shallow depth-of-field was employed. Multiple shots were taken of each scene, with the focus point changing each time. This allowed the team to select the exact part of the scenes to keep in sharp focus when the final images were developed for the stamps. The lighting for all of the photography was done by Dave-Alex Riddett, who has been responsible for the lighting on each one of the Wallace and Gromit films.

'All hands on deck!' A huge team at Aardman was involved in the production of these stamps, including model makers, animators, continuity checkers, photographers and lighting specialists. The photography alone took over two weeks, then the post-production phase another three weeks or so, experimenting with pulling together different shots and making them work as a powerful composite image. And yet the result looks like charming snapshots of an effortlessly relaxed day at home!

As with the films, attention to detail is crucially important in conveying the mad-cap life of our two Lancastrian heroes. Eagle-eyed philatelists will no doubt notice that on the first-class stamp the envelope Gromit is posting features the same Wallace and Gromit first-class stamp. Champion!

Christmastime alternatives While hoping that adults and children will enjoy these jolly Christmas stamps, Royal Mail is aware that at Christmas many people prefer stamps with a more obviously Christian theme. So Royal Mail policy is to alternate year to year between non-secular and secular themes. Last year the 2009 Christmas stamps showed the nativity depicted in stained glass windows and so this year we have the secular series, but there is also an alternative choice – Christmas stamps showing the Madonna and Child are also available. More details can be found on page 40 ●



Busy little IMPs Patrick G Awcock explains marks from post-2008 Integrated Mail Processors

WHEN I FIRST STARTED COLLECTING postmarks, mail was datestamped at every village, which gave great scope for collectors. Today, with advances in the automated handling of the mail, all UK mail is handled by just over 60 Mail Centres and that number is decreasing. This would appear to limit the collector's

scope, but in fact changes are occurring all the time and I shall refer to the IMP (Integrated Mail Processor) cancellations from 2008 onwards, when new printers were introduced during a refurbishment project.

The IMPs normally produce one of two cancellations. The most commonly used is the four-part cancellation that comprises an arrow, a data block, a slogan and a wavy line block (1), while shallow envelopes receive an alternative version without a slogan (2) to avoid overprinting the address. When the new printers were first used in 2008 they contained four pieces of data: date, Mail Centre name, time and item number. This was restrictive for the office name and meant that some informative descriptions of an area were lost, for example, 'Cumbria, Dumfries, Galloway' had to be replaced by 'Carlisle'. This restriction led, I believe, to complaints about the omission of names like Bath and Windsor and use of Welsh in the office names. Revised versions were tested using six pieces of data – as before but with Royal Mail at the top and two lines to describe the Mail Centre. Thus 'Harrow-Slough' could revert to 'Greenford Windsor'. Since then most Mail Centres have changed to this version (3, 4), although the earlier type can still be found used at a few Mail Centres.

Slogan cancellations are used for a week or two at a time to promote new stamp issues, Royal Mail/Post Office services and officially sponsored activities (1, 5). Letters posted in Wales are handled by one of four Mail

Centres in Cardiff, Swansea, Chester and Shrewsbury, which normally use the bilingual slogan 'PRINTIWCY y Cod Post/Please PRINT the Postcode' (3). And other bilingual slogans used in the past include the recent 'Celebrating 50 years of POSTCODES/Dathlu 50 Mlynedd o Godau Post 1959-2009'.

Late last year an alternative font was used on the Watford IMPs (5) and more recently by a few other IMPs. All such developments are regularly recorded in the quarterly *Journal of the British Postmark Society* •

The British Postmark Bulletin is published fortnightly and is only available from Tallents House on subscription. Write to Yvonne Hamilton at Tallents House at the address on page 34 or phone 08457 641 641.

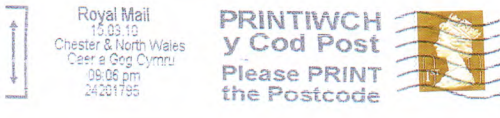
(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



Covers for the collector

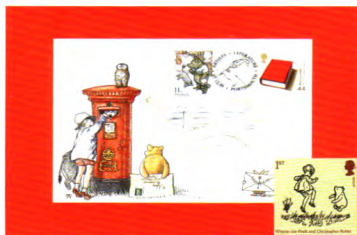


East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) Treehouse Appeal

This cover features the Children's Books issue and has the postmark EACH Treehouse Appeal, Ipswich. A donation for each cover sold will be going to the appeal. The cover will be limited to around 60 numbered covers. **Price:** £16.20 inc p&p from Phil Sheridan Covers ●



Children's Books An image of the iconic Pooh Sticks Bridge with all the Children's Books stamps feature on this cover. It is postmarked in Hartfield, East Sussex, which was the setting for 100 Acre Wood in *Winnie-the-Pooh*. Available signed by actress Susannah York, who is also a children's author herself. **Price:** £11.95 (unsigned), £24.95 (signed) plus £1.65 p&p from Buckingham Covers ●



Winnie-the-Pooh and Christopher Robin appear on this maximum card, shown with a 1st class Pooh stamp to be postmarked FDI 'Hartfield'. Other same design maximum cards will have different stamps and postmarks applied to make a set of six. Other Pooh covers available (mint postcards 60p each). **Price:** maximum cards £8 each plus £1.50 worldwide p&p from M Tanner ●

The Civil Defence Association This cover has a Smilers stamp and postmark of The National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire, which is the location of the National Civil Defence Memorial Garden. With support from Royal Mail, the CDA has sponsored the postmark, which is held at the Midland SHC, Birmingham from 10 July 2010 to 9 July 2011. **Price:** £11 inc p&p from the Civil Defence Association ●

First Day of Service
Postmark for The National Memorial Arboretum
10 July 2010



Sir William MacAlpine, chairman of the Railway Heritage Trust, has signed 28 covers of the Great British Railways stamps for Covers Direct of Matlock. The covers carry counter date stamps of appropriate Post Offices – either KINGS CROSS, for many years a steam train terminal, or SWINDON, site of the Steam Railway Museum. A few remain for sale.

Price: £10.40 inc p&p from CDS Covers Direct ●



70th Anniversary of RNAS Yeovilton

The Royal Naval Philatelic Society has issued a limited edition of 500 covers to mark the 70th anniversary of Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton, with versions available signed by its commanding officers. They are cancelled with the Society's sponsored BFFS postmark 3104 and include an illustrated booklet. **Price:** from £10.90 (unsigned) from The Royal Naval Philatelic Society ●



Orders and enquiries

Buckingham Covers.

Warren House, Shearway Rd,
Folkestone CT19 2BF
Phone 01303 278137
Email betty@buckinghamcovers.com

CDS Covers Direct.

148 Hayes Chase, West
Wickham, Kent BR4 0JE
Phone 020 8776 0820
Email enquiries@cdscoversdirect.com

Civil Defence Association.

24 Paxton Close, Matlock,
Derbyshire DE4 3TD
Phone 01629 55738
Email aedissel@btinternet.com

M Tanner,

180 Whitehorse Road, West
Croydon, Surrey CR0 2LA
Fax/answerphone for credit
card orders 020 8684 9757

Phil Sheridan Covers.

PO Box 99, Widnes,
Cheshire WA8 0NN
Phone 07939 832 184
Email sheridanfcds@aol.com

The Royal Naval Philatelic Society.

19 College Road,
HM Naval Base,
Portsmouth PO1 3LJ
Email enquiries@rnphilatelic.org

Commemorative sheets

Orders and enquiries

Benham, Unit K,
Shearway Business Park,
Folkestone, Kent CT19 4RG
Phone 0844 994 9400
Email benham@benham.co.uk

BFDC Ltd, 3 Link Road,
Leicester LE2 3RA
Phone 0116 2705367
Email brad@bfdc.co.uk

Buckingham Covers,
Warren House, Shearway Rd,
Folkestone CT19 2BF Phone
01303 278137
Email betty@buckinghamcovers.com



Travelling Post Office AG Bradbury's customised stamp sheet is produced in association with The British Postal Museum and Archive with a percentage of the proceeds going to the BPMA. Limited to 750 numbered copies. **Price:** £35 inc p&p from BFDC ●



The centenary of Florence Nightingale's death This sheet features the remembrance poppy stamp and a label depicting Florence engaged in her work. **Price:** £26.95 plus £1.65 p&p from Buckingham Covers ●

Great British Locomotives Battle of Britain Class After World War II, Southern Railway named some of its locomotives after RAF squadrons, air bases and individuals (Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Archibald Sinclair), who were involved in the Battle of Britain. This customised stamp sheet feature 10 labels of the locomotives and the coats of arms which most of them carried. **Price:** £24.95 plus £2.50 p&p from Benham ●



Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 5.11.2010. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd and Redwood, their business associates and immediate families. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent service after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to Sharon May, *The British Philatelic Bulletin*, Redwood, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.



Win a four-day tour of the Western Front

IN COMMEMORATION of the many anniversaries of significant events in WWI and WWII, *Bulletin* has joined forces with expert Somme tour guide Michael Williamson to offer readers a chance to win a four-day (three-night) Western Front tour.

Fascinating historical itinerary Starting from the pick-up point in Dover, the lucky winner will travel to a restored 150-year-old farmhouse in a tranquil Somme village, and from there enjoy a different tour each day: for example*, the Somme 1916 Tour; the 1915 Battlefields day at Fromelle and Flanders; and, weather permitting, a picnic lunch at Chippilly Ridge as part of a Battle of Amiens Tour, before returning to Dover on day four.

Four runners-up will receive philatelic prizes of the Remembrance: The National Memorial

Arboretum Commemorative Stamp Sheet and the 'Lest We Forget' Poppy Stamp Sheet, both of which also form part of the first prize.

How to enter Answer this question: *What was the name of the early detection and control chain system used in the Battle of Britain and named after its creator, the leader of RAF Fighter Command?* Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address or email and phone number to: Western Front Prize Draw, Bulletin, Redwood, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA or email royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net. Closing date: 5 November 2010. Please see page 62 for terms and conditions.

***For more information** on guided tour options, visit www.williamsometours.co.uk. The prize must be taken in 2011, dates subject to availability •

Identify and Knowledge competitions

1 Identify the stamp from this detail, right. Please give the name of the stamp and its year of issue.

2 Test your philatelic *Knowledge* by answering the following questions:

- a) Which Lady's stamp collection is being auctioned at Sotheby's next month?
- b) What is the name of the Austrian artist who designed the philatelic portrait of King Edward VII in 1901?
- c) Which country issued the first self-adhesive stamp in the world?

Please send your answers on separate postcards, marked *Identify* or *Knowledge* to The Philatelic Bulletin, Redwood, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA to arrive by 5 November 2010. The senders of the first correct answers drawn after the closing date will receive a prize selection of British stamps. For rules and regulations, please see facing page •



The world's first intelligent stamps

The future of philately is multi-functional and here's how to be part of the start

Royal Mail is proud to announce the birth of the intelligent stamp. New image-recognition technology allows mobile phones to recognise what they scan. So when certain stamps are scanned by an iPhone or Android phone, exclusive digital content is activated.

Where do I find this intelligence?

Look no further than the Great British Railways issue that was released in August and is now circulating the country. As well as an original photograph of an historic steam train, each of the stamps in this set carries futuristic intelligence: using a free phone 'app', launched on 3 September, they can be used to trigger a film on a mobile phone.

How do I turn it on? Just 'show' the stamp to your iPhone or Android phone – it has to be a the iPhone 3GS and 4 or Android OS4 with the Junaio application downloaded – and the exclusive Royal Mail content will run automatically. See page 38 for more details.

Will I become more intelligent? No. But you will have a unique post-modern experience – enjoy Bernard Cribbins reading W H Auden's poem *The Night Mail*, specially recorded for this world-first launch •



Intelligent stamp technology opens up a whole new world of information and fun for philatelists and the millions of people who will receive them on letters in the coming months...

Philip Parker, Royal Mail Stamps spokesperson



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