

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 42 Number 5

JANUARY 2005 £1.10

Illustrated postal stationery •
New Castles miniature sheet



Farm Animals A new set of stamps celebrating a unique part of Britain's heritage

The first special issue of 2005 will go on sale on 11 January

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Christopher Wormell's linocut illustration of a rooster from his book *An Alphabet of Animals*. Mr Wormell's Farm Animals stamps, previewed in the November *Bulletin*, go on sale this month.

Issues Some items available only from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office Limited philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate, Leicester, London (Trafalgar Square & Eastcheap), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Truro, Windsor & York.

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30–17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Handling charges: UK £1.30, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some stamps/products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps

4 January

Issue Farm Animals stamp cards.

11 January

Issue Farm Animals stamps, presentation pack, and Smilers sheet.

12 January

Withdrawal Classic Locomotives stamps, miniature sheet, stamp cards and coin cover (presentation pack already sold out).

29 January

Withdrawal Hong Kong Stamp Expo Smilers sheet.

1 February

Issue British Journey: South West England stamp cards.

2 February

Withdrawal 2004 Occasions stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and Smilers sheet.

8 February

Issue British Journey: South West England stamps and presentation pack.

17 February

Issue Jane Eyre stamp cards (7 cards: 6 stamps + 1 miniature sheet).

22 February

Issue Edward VII/George V ingot pack No 4 (10s Seahorse high value).

24 February

Issue Jane Eyre stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, prestige book and Literature coin cover.

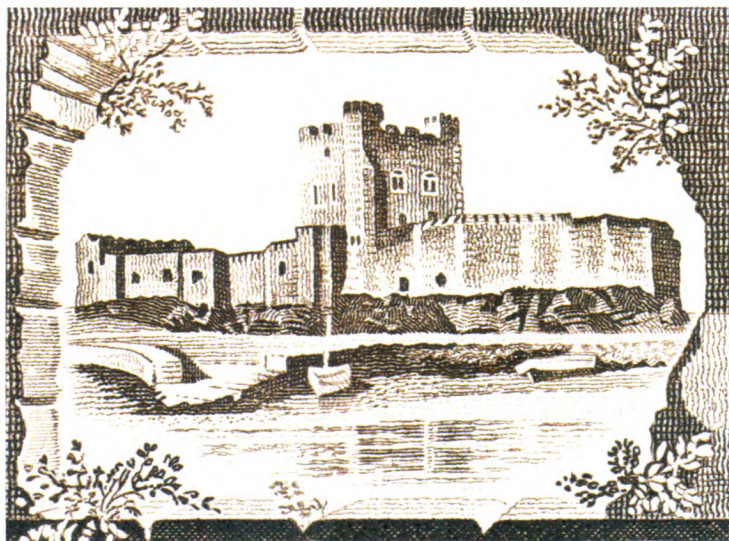
25 February

Withdrawal Lord of the Rings stamps and stamp cards (presentation pack already sold out).

Corrections The price of the Jane Eyre prestige book will be £7.43, not £7.44 as stated in the December *Bulletin*. We regret the back cover of last month's *Bulletin* showed our Smilers Album rather than our Luxury Stamp Album; we apologise for any confusion caused. The Smilers Album is available from Tallents House: price £16.50, slipcase £7.50, plus appropriate handling charge.

Sold out Stocks of the £1.68 book containing self-adhesive British Journey/Wales and definitive stamps are now exhausted.

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Guernsey Philatelic Bureau
Envoy House, La Vrangue, St
Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1AB.
Telephone 01481 716486 or
see www.guernseypost.com

Guernsey issues Guernsey Post has announced its 2005 programme, as follows. 3 February: World War Two – 1945 (5 stamps); William John Caparne (6 stamps & souvenir sheet); Hans Christian Anderson (Alderney 5 stamps). 21 April: Europa/Gastronomy (6 stamps); *Queen Mary 2* (definitive single stamp); Battle of Trafalgar (Alderney 6 stamps & prestige book). 14 July: Year of the Sea (5 stamps & prestige book); Endangered Species (min sheet); Migrating Birds (Alderney 6 stamps & souvenir sheet). 21 October: Christmas (9 stamps) and Alderney definitives (14 stamps) •

For details contact Christian
Lankes, Bachstrasse 52 A,
5023 Salzburg, Austria, or e-
mail chrisu.lankes@aon.at

Mozart stamps In the lead-up to MozartPhila and Ovebria 2006, the first personalized postage stamp with Mozart as its theme was issued on 24 July 2004, designed by the Austrian stamp artist Hannes Margreiter, a member of the Organising Committee. The Committee offers a Mozart subscription with the motifs Music and Mozart. It will include 12-15 documents, four of which will contain personalized stamps, a commemorative cover with all four personalized stamps, as well as four postmarks. A Mozart balloon ride (expected during the 2006 Salzburg Festival) will be offered •

Royal Philatelic Society
London 41 Devonshire Place,
London W1G 6AJ. Website:
www.rpsl.org.uk

Philatelic society meetings This month's meetings of the Royal Philatelic Society London will be: 'GB 1913-34 High Values – the Seahorses' (6 January) and 'Postal Heritage Trust' (20 January). There will be a Young Collectors Day on 15 January. Peter Duggan will show Togo – Overprints on Stamps of the Gold Coast on 3 February, and there will be a display to mark the 70th anniversary of the Egypt Study Circle on the 24th •

National Philatelic Society
107 Charterhouse Street,
London EC1M 6PT. Telephone
020 7490 9610. Website www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

The January displays to the National Philatelic Society will be World War 1 Tax & Red Cross Overprints (John Davis) on the 8th, and From Napoleon to Supersonic (Brian Asquith) on the 27th. Next month John Hammonds will show Bohemia & Moravia on the 12th, and Keith Hanman displays Aspects of Rhodesia on the 24th •

GB Philatelic Society Debbie
Harman, Greylands, Melton,
Woodbridge IP12 1QE.

On 15 January the GB Philatelic Society meets at Grosvenor Auctions, 399-401 Strand, London WC2 when Jane Moubray (former President of the Royal Philatelic Society London) shows Twopenny Blues. The display will be followed by Society competitions. The meeting at Spring Stampex on 26 February will be King George V: the Issued Stamps by John Sussex. The Society will be staging a Golden Jubilee Display, with the Postal Stationery Society, during the exhibition •

Overseas exhibitions Three international exhibitions are planned this year: Sydney, Australia (21-24 April); Brno, Czech Republic (10-15 May); and Hanover, Germany (2-5 June). The UK commissioners for these exhibitions will be John Sussex, Yvonne Wheatley, and Robin Pizer. Royal Mail's World Heritage Sites stamps, a joint issue with Australia Post, will be issued on the opening day of the Sydney exhibition •



Left: the US Postal Service's Lewis & Clark prestige book, issued 14 May 2004, includes two panes of the 37¢ stamps shown below.



The organizers of the Washington 2006 international exhibition have been awarded a youth grant to be used towards the publication of an educational booklet about the Lewis and Clark expedition that explored the continent following the Louisiana Purchase. It will include a history of Lewis and Clark's adventures through stamps. The duo and their 34 fellow corpsmen travelled over 8000 miles in their trek mapping the West, meeting over 50 different Indian tribes, and recording hundreds of new plant and animal species. The booklets will play an integral part of Washington 2006's 'Stamp Zone', an area set aside for youth and beginner collectors with a heroes theme. Training classes will be held for educators interested in using the booklets and related philatelic material in their classrooms. The grant is from the World Columbian Stamp Expo '92 held in Chicago to mark the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' famous voyage and 100th anniversary of the 1893 World Columbian Exposition. It was among the most successful US international philatelic exhibitions ever; proceeds continue to be donated to noteworthy projects on behalf of the organizers •

Washington 2006 Visit www.washington-2006.org

Prestige book and stamps reproduced courtesy of Harry Allen; 01923 475548.

UK exhibitions Spring Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1 on 23-27 February. The main feature will be a display organised jointly by the GB Philatelic Society and the Postal Stationery Society to mark the GB Society's golden jubilee. A feature on this display will be included in next month's *Bulletin*. There will also be major displays by Rotary International. Royal Mail's Jane Eyre stamps will be issued on the second day of the exhibition. Autumn Stampex, which will include the National Competitions, will take place 14-18 September •

Philatex (London International Stamp & Cover Show) will be held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycourt Street, London SW1 on 24-26 February. Open Thursday 11.00-19.00; Friday 10.00-18.00; Saturday 10.00-17.00, admission free •

A stamp exhibition will be held at the Wellington Park Hotel, Malone Road, Belfast on 28-29 May. The Wellington Park Hotel was the venue for Stampex Ulster in May 1975. Midpex will be held in Coventry on 25 June •

Stampex enquiries 01252 628006.

Philatex enquiries 020 8946 4489 or 01793 513431. www.stampshows.co.uk

Belfast exhibition For details telephone Peter McBride: 028 8673 7804.



Bruce Castle Museum and one young visitor's design.



Sowing seeds Bruce Castle Museum, in north London, was once a school run by Sir Rowland Hill. In addition to being a local history museum for Tottenham, the links with Sir Rowland Hill are kept very much alive. During the Easter school holidays of 2002 the National Youth Stamp Committee was invited along to provide a range of stamp-linked activities to enthuse the younger visitors. So popular was the event that the NYSC was asked to return for the half-term holiday at the end of October.

On each of the four days many youngsters came along, most spending up to two hours discovering more of what stamps and stamp collecting have to offer. In fact, two of the youngsters came along on each of the four days! Many of the parents found themselves equally absorbed.

In addition to using resources generously given by many to the NYSC, material was also provided by the Postal Heritage Trust, while every young visitor left with a 'goody bag' kindly supplied by Stanley Gibbons ●

THE GBPS NEWSLETTER

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Publications The November/December issue of *The GB Journal* includes notes and articles on 1841 covers to Berlin, Cypress green (colour of George v 1/2d stamp, SG 355, described as Cyprus green), multipositives for George v photogravure 1/2d and 1d, a review of the new edition of the SG *Specialised Catalogue* vol 1, and an index to the *GB Journal* vol 42. The main feature is an article on The Post Office reproduced from *The English Illustrated Magazine* of February 1884 (see left). The illustrations to the article are taken from drawings by

illustrator and caricaturist Harry Furniss (1854-1925), who was responsible for the design of the well-known caricature of the 1890 Penny Postage Jubilee envelope. Sent out with the *Journal* is the GBPS Newsletter which includes notes on the importance of auction catalogue references, 'Jubilee' issue varieties, the philatelic use of ultra-violet light, a Maltese Cross website, the Recorded Delivery service, and a report of Tony Walker's display of Pre-decimal Machins given to the Society at Autumn Stampex. The Newsletter also includes details of GB Philatelic Society activities. The Society celebrates its 50th anniversary this year ●

GB Philatelic Society Debbie Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE.

Royal Mail news 2005 issues programme •

Yearbook and pack • Smilers • Charges



Forthcoming special issues The 2005 programme starts on 11 January with 10 stamps depicting Farm Animals. The stamps were previewed here in November. There will be two issues in February – six stamps show views of South West England in the British Journey series (8 February), and six stamps, a miniature sheet and a prestige book on the subject of Charlotte Brontë's famous novel *Jane Eyre* (24 February). Both issues were previewed last month. Please note the change of date for the Jane Eyre issue, and the Castles miniature sheet will now be issued on 22 March instead of 24 February as originally announced. The set marking the centenary of the Magic Circle will now be issued on 15 March; it is previewed this month, beginning on page 144.

On 21 April we will launch a joint issue with Australia Post on the subject of World Heritage Sites. The eight stamps will be printed in four horizontal se-tenant pairs showing a British and Australian site. Four of the stamps are shown above, at proof stage, 90% actual size. The British sites will be Hadrian's Wall, Stonehenge, Blenheim Palace, and Neolithic Orkney (Ring of Brodgar). The Australian sites are: Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park; Wet Tropics, Queensland; Greater Blue Mountains area; and Purnululu National Park.

A set featuring the Trooping of the Colour will be issued on 7 June, a miniature sheet marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War follows on 5 July, and the Transport theme of recent years continues with a Motorcycles set on 19 July. This year's Europa theme is Gastronomy and a set of food stamps will go on sale on 23 August, followed by a set marking the 50th anniversary of Independent Television on 15 September. A key set of this year will be the issue to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar on 18 October. The annual Christmas issue will go on sale on 1 November.

The alternative First Day of Issue postmarks for this year's issues are given opposite •

Date	Issue	Alternative postmark
11.01	Farm Animals	Paddock, Huddersfield
08.02	South West England	The Lizard, Helston
24.02	Jane Eyre	Haworth, Keighley
15.03	Magic	London NW1
22.03	Castles miniature sheet	Windsor
21.04	World Heritage Sites	Blenheim Palace
07.06	Trooping the Colour	London SW1
05.07	End of War miniature sheet	to be announced
19.07	Motorcycles	Solihull B91
23.08	Food	Cookstown
22.09	Classic ITV	to be announced
18.10	Trafalgar	Portsmouth
01.11	Christmas	Bethlehem, Llandeilo.



In the news The Woodland Animals stamps (16 September 2004) included a Pine Marten. This creature, declared extinct in England a decade ago, is believed to be re-establishing itself in North Yorkshire according to the *Daily Telegraph* (26 October). It was common nationwide before the advent of Victorian shooting estates, when it was driven out by gamekeepers. Conservationists are examining evidence suggesting that it is now breaking out of its last Highlands refuge and heading back south of the border.

The forthcoming Jane Eyre stamps (24 February) feature drawings by renowned artist Paula Rego. Ms Rego is one of a number of artists who have recently promised to donate works to the Tate Gallery. Others include Sir Howard Hodgkin, David Hockney, and Antony Gormley, whose works have appeared on Royal Mail stamps in recent years.

The 45p stamp in the Sound and Vision issue of December 2000 represented the Wales Millennium Centre (*Canolfan Mileniwm*) in Cardiff. This £106 million project was opened by The Queen and The Prince of Wales on 28 November. The *Telegraph* describes it as 'the last of Britain's great Millennium lottery projects and finally provides Wales with a giant performing arts centre – akin to the South Bank Centre in London – of world status'. The newspaper also reports problems at the Earth Centre near Doncaster (subject of the 44p Life and Earth Stamp). The Centre is now closed to visitors and remaining staff are unpaid. At its peak in 2003 the Centre attracted 150,000 visitors and employed 145 staff •

Bulky items

Within the UK	£ 2.95
Europe, outside UK	£ 5.00
Outside UK/Europe	£14.00

Two-dimensional items

Within the UK	£ 1.30
Europe, outside UK	£ 1.55
Outside UK/Europe	£ 2.15

Bulky items: albums, binders, Yearbooks. Two-dimensional items: coin covers, medal covers, stamp ingots, continuation pages and leaves

Royal Mail handling charges Royal Mail will introduce handling charges for orders received from 1 January 2005 for the following products: Albums, Binders, Continuation pages, Leaves, Yearbooks, Coin Covers, Medal Covers, and Stamp Ingots. The new charges, which we have to introduce to cover our fulfilment costs, will reflect the dimensions of the item(s) in the order and the delivery address. Details are given opposite.

Only one charge will be raised per order per address regardless of how many items are involved, and the higher charge will be applied where an order contains both a bulky item and a two-dimensional product. For example, if we receive an order for a Yearbook and a Coin Cover for delivery at the same address within the UK, the handling charge will be £2.95 even if we despatch the items separately. It will therefore pay to order all your items in one go. Full details about these charges and the products affected are included in the December Stock List •



Smilers sheets Readers are reminded that a generic Smilers sheet will be available from 11 January, containing 20 Farm Animals stamps. The stamps in these Smilers sheets are all printed by lithography, whereas the stamps from ordinary sheets are printed in gravure. Price £6.15. For details of how to order customised versions of the sheets, with your own image printed on the labels phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas), or pick up a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch. At the Smilers website (www.royalmail.com/Smilers), orders can be placed using digital photos. Customised sheets will also be available through Snap Digital photobooths at selected post offices and Safeway stores. The next issue of a Smilers sheet will be for the Magic Circle issue on 15 March •

Revised airtletter The standard air letter (aerogramme) was revised last June (see August *Bulletin*, p381). The Welsh version (single and discount pack versions) has now been reprinted in the revised style and will, from this month, be distributed to Post Office branches in Wales as stocks of earlier airtletters are exhausted. There will be no philatelic first day of availability •

Favourite stamp poll If you haven't voted yet for your favourite stamps and *Bulletin* author of 2004 there is still time to return the voting form sent out with the December *Bulletin*. All forms are entered in a prize draw. Return your form by 14 January to: 2004 Bulletin Poll, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ •



New Stamp Ingot The fourth in the series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V will be available from 22 February. It features the George V 10s Seahorse high value. The last two in the series, featuring the 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition, and the 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress commemoratives, will be available from 17 May and 9 August respectively. Nos 1 and 2, featuring the Edward VII 1d and £1 stamps, went on sale in June and September; see back cover of the July *Bulletin* for full details. The

six ingots cost £26.95 each from Tallents House. Collectors subscribing to all six will be charged £13.50 for the Edward VII 1d and will also receive a free Collection storage box. The storage box is available separately, price £15.95 (order code AG008).

The Victorian stamp ingot series is still available, price £26.95 each – see the back cover of the September 2003 *Bulletin* for full details ●

Royal Mail Archive Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Open Monday to Friday 10.00–17.00 (Thursday until 19.00). Telephone 020 7239 2570. E-mail heritage@royalmail.com

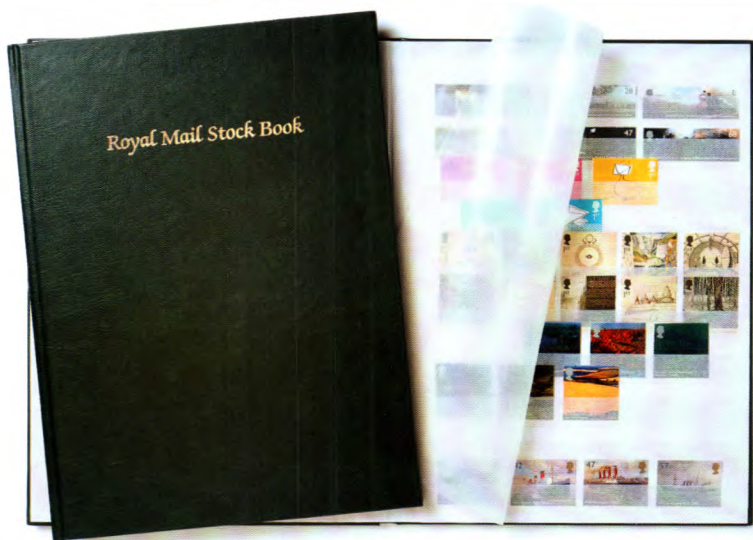
The Archive, run by the Postal Heritage Trust, comprises the collections of the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum.

Royal Mail Archive An exhibition of Victorian stamps is now on display at Royal Mail Archive. The exhibition tells the story of British stamps in the 19th century, from the Penny Black to the 'Jubilee' issue of 1887. The items on show include unique registration sheets and several pieces from the world-famous Reginald M Phillips Collection. The exhibition runs until Summer 2005; the items on display will change from time to time. The exhibition looks at the story of perforations and letterpress stamps; visitors can see an original comb perforator. A well-produced brochure has been produced giving the background to the exhibition.

Royal Mail Archive will be open on Saturday on the following dates during 2005: 8 January, 26 February, 9 April, 11 June, 13 August, 17 September, 8 October, and 10 December. Sessions giving a general introduction to the Archive plus a 'behind the scenes' tour will take place on: 20 January, 17 February, 10 March, 21 April, 19 May, and 16 June. The sessions are at 16.30 on 10 March and 21 April, and at 13.00 on other dates. Call 020 7239 2570 to book a place. A free lunchtime talk on 'Family History in the Royal Mail Archive' will be held at 13.00 on 15 April – call 020 7239 2570 for a ticket.

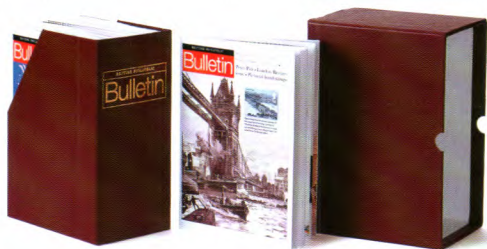
Large items such as vehicles are kept at the Postal Heritage Museum Store at Loughton, Essex, which will open to the public on 7 May, 11 June, 16 July and 17 September. Please book in advance if you wish to visit ●

Coming off sale Any remaining stocks of the Classic Locomotives stamps, miniature sheet and stamp cards will be withdrawn at Tallents House on 12 January. The Classic Locomotives pack is already sold out. The Smilers Hong Kong Expo sheet will be withdrawn on 29 January and the 2004 Occasions stamps, pack, stamp cards and Smilers sheet on 2 February. The Lord of the Rings stamps and stamp cards will be withdrawn on 25 February; the pack is already sold out ●



New Royal Mail stock book A handsome stock book with 16 pages, each with 10 acetate clear strips, is now available – ideal for keeping your stamps in prime condition prior to mounting in an album. The stock book has a racing green cover with ‘Royal Mail Stock Book’ inscribed in gold. Price £7.95 (order code PA690) from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB •

Storing the Bulletin Binders and box files are available for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The sturdy box files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin* are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £9.95 each. Order codes PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the Philatelic and about 50 of the Postmark Bulletins. The traditional binders for the Philatelic and Postmark Bulletins cost £8.50 each (BB001 and PB322) •



Changes The sheets of Jane Eyre stamps will show the original issue date of 3 March. The date of issue has been changed to 24 February. Please note that there will now be a Smilers sheet for the End of Second World War issue (5 July).

Rather belatedly we record that the 40p Machin definitive was withdrawn from sale at Post Office branches on 27 October 2004. It remains on philatelic sale, from Royal Mail Direct (for business customers), and at Forces Post Offices •

Draw winners Winners of 2004 Yearbooks in our October draw were Alan Booton of Nottingham, and Wim Dols of The Netherlands •

Castles miniature sheet Marking the 50th



Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé

Security Print

Process Intaglio (recess) and litho (background colour)

Stamp size 41 × 24mm

Sheet size 127 × 73mm

Perforation 14.5 × 14

Phosphor All over on stamps

Gum PVA

TO COMMEMORATE the 50th anniversary of the first Castles high values, a miniature sheet bearing the 1955 designs will go on sale from 22 March. The sheet includes two 50p stamps showing Carrickfergus and Windsor Castles and two £1 stamps showing Caernarfon and Edinburgh Castles. The stamps are printed in the same colours (brown, red, blue and black) as the 1955 stamps which were of 2s6d, 5s, 10s, and £1 values and featured respectively Carrickfergus, Caernarfon, Edinburgh, and Windsor Castles. The original stamps were designed by Lynton Lamb (1907-77), and featured the portrait of The Queen by Dorothy Wilding. The miniature sheet includes the national floral emblems of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in the sheet borders. Similar miniature sheets were issued in December 2002 and May 2003 to mark the 50th anniversary of the issue of the Wilding low value definitives.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 22 March, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Windsor must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £3.88 UK or £3.36 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark) or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Windsor postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0509' or 'FD0510'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Windsor postmark. For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* •

anniversary of the Castles high value designs



THE
CASTLES
DEFINITIVES
1955

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER



ROYAL MAIL TALLENTS HOUSE 71 SOUTH GLEN CRESCENT EDINBURGH EH12 7PB

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



THE ORIGINAL CASTLES HIGH-VALUE DEFINITIVE STAMPS FIRST ISSUED IN 1955, FEATURING LYNTON LAMB'S DRAWINGS OF CARRICKFERGUS, CAERNARFON, EDINBURGH AND WINDSOR CASTLES

An illustrated pack containing the sheet (shown left, £3.50) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from Talents House, main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack gives details of the designing of the stamps, including illustrations of unadopted designs.

There will be five stamp cards, four reproducing the stamps, and one the miniature sheet.



After the first of the Widdowson value definitives were issued in December 1952, the Post Office thought about designs for new 36d (12½p), 5s (25p), 10s (50p) and £1 stamps. They wanted the same colours as the George VI 'Festival' high values that had been issued just nine months before the King's death and were printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd in recess (intaglio). Artists were invited to submit preliminary sketches for designs, suitable for engraving at stamp size, on a subject of their choice. When it proved difficult to select a related set of four from the



67 designs submitted, which included King Alfred's statue, the Royal coat of arms and ships, fresh designs were requested from artists specializing in landscape drawing in miniature featuring the Royal castles at Caernarfon, Carrickfergus, Edinburgh and Windsor. Fifteen designs were submitted by September 1953. The frame of a design for the £1 Windsor Castle stamp, by Waterlow's artist I D Fryer, was initially



favoured for all values so Fryer prepared designs featuring the four castles. Later it was decided to use the frame of Lynton Lamb's

design (St Caernarfon Castle) with Waterlow's castle vignettes. The combination of these two elements however proved to be unsatisfactory and Lamb's design (St Caernarfon Castle) based on Waterlow's of Edinburgh and photographic' was fresh drawings of and north-west Hill and Princes eventually chose Princes Street



some in vertical from Mary Ads Bone, Joan H. MEANWHILE The H J Bard of W ready by August made in two col redly, but sing

favoured. The final versions of Lamb's designs were approved by the Queen in March 1955. Mr Bard then prepared the dies and colour proofs were sent for Royal approval in June.



STAMPS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: BICOLOURED (LYTHO PRINT) OF THE ACCEPTED DESIGN BY LYNTON LAMB, UNADOPTED DESIGN BY I D FRYER, BROMIDE OF THE UNADOPTED VIGNETTE OF WINDSOR CASTLE BY LYNTON LAMB

UK Mail, an innovative new service by Martin Robinson



THE *Commemorative Covers Review* last August announced a cover produced to mark the first day of service of UK Mail, the first company to reach agreement with Royal Mail allowing access to its local sorting and final delivery network. This is part of a process begun in 2000, when Royal Mail was given more commercial freedom and Postcomm, the regulator, made it clear that this meant the whole market would eventually be open to competition. In November 2004 the author was able to visit UK Mail at its headquarters next to the M6 in Birmingham, to find out how the system works and how things had progressed since the agreement was signed in February 2004 and the new service began in May.

Licensed in 2001 UK Mail is part of the Business Post Group, one of the largest independent express parcel and mail distribution services in the UK, with 30 years' experience in parcel delivery, and floated on the Stock Exchange in 1993. After its licence was granted in 2001 it took over two years, and the spur of a referral to Postcomm, to finalise the agreement which led to the contract with Royal Mail being signed, the main sticking point being how much Royal Mail would charge for accepting items for 'final mile' delivery.

What UK Mail offers is a two-day delivery service, collecting batches of at least 4000 pre-sorted letters from companies and, using its own 2500-strong road transport fleet and a network of a dozen regional hubs and 64 local depots, handing them over to Royal Mail for inward sorting and delivery. The bags of mail are delivered to

one of Royal Mail's 70 mail centres on the day after collection within an agreed half-hour slot between 08:30 and 12:00, and are inward sorted and transported to local offices for delivery the following morning. A track and trace facility is provided by barcoded labels on each bag which are scanned as they pass through the system. On the label, which gives UK Mail routing information and instructions for Royal Mail delivery, 'DSA' stands for 'Down Stream Access', ie access to Royal Mail's delivery system, and 'MAN LTR' stands for 'manual letter'.

Birmingham HQ The Birmingham depot contains Business Post's and UK Mail's main offices, and has a sorting area the size of three football pitches side by side, where pallets of parcels are manoeuvred and mailbags are sorted into cages, each one bound overnight for a different local depot. Articulated vehicles back up to the dozens of bays to load and unload the cages, the busiest time being about one o'clock in the morning. As well as road transport, some mail, for the Isle of Man, Belfast and the Channel Islands, travels by air from Speke (Liverpool), East Midlands (Derby) or Coventry, and rail services may play an increasing part.

UK Mail agrees a price per item with each of its customers, depending largely on item weight, the degree of pre-sorting, which is either to 120 postcode areas or 1400 delivery offices, and the volume and frequency of the mail involved. Royal Mail charges UK Mail 13p per item, and the whole deal enables customers to make savings of up to



This page, from left: UK Mail's blue posting box, as used in the Birmingham trial; 10 May commemorative cover for the first day of service; and the insignia which appears on UK Mail letters.

10% on their mailing costs. By the first week in November 2004, six months after the launch of the service, the company had handled 20 million letters and had dealt for the first time with over a million items in one night. So far UK Mail has achieved 99% success in its part of the two-day delivery promise, and indications are that Royal Mail is exceeding the 95% target for its part of the operation.

If you are a customer of Powergen, Dell Computers or South West Water, among others, you may already have received mail bearing the UK Mail insignia, which consists of the company's logo and a box containing 's' for 'Standard' (suggesting that there might be other classes of mail in future), 'c9' referring to 'Condition 9', ie access to Royal Mail's delivery network, and 10001, UK Mail's licence number. Below that is the 'letter fan' logo sometimes used by Royal Mail. On the reverse of every letter is a return address – to UK Mail's Birmingham HQ, with a customer reference number – as Royal Mail undertakes to return undeliverable mail to UK Mail, not to the originating customer. Customers are supplied with software to enable them to prepare their own envelopes, either printing the insignia or using an adapted franking machine.

The commemorative cover The 'stamp' which appears on the commemorative cover, nominally priced at 20p, was a one-off production, printed by Cartor Security Print in France in sheets of 10 (2 columns of 5). The envelopes were printed by Walsall Security Printers, who also did the affix-

ing of the stamps and numbering (Walsall have since bought Cartor). The cover was produced to mark the first day of the new service on 10 May 2004, after trials with live mail from mid-April. It also represents part of Business Post's 10-year support of the charity NCH, and its most recent challenge, which is to raise over £65,000 in one year.

What of the future? Other independent operators may well wish to reach similar agreements with Royal Mail; and UK Mail is already starting to accept, and do its own sorting of, smaller volumes of mail being accepted from customers (the present minimum of 4000 items was set to compare with Royal Mail's minimum to qualify for discounted postage rates) and more open public access, although there are never likely to be other companies' posting boxes on the street alongside Royal Mail's. Having said that, a trial took place in 2004 in central Birmingham, with boxes to receive mail for UK Mail's express delivery service being located at several sites including Snow Hill Station and the Mailbox (formerly Royal Mail's main sorting office, but now a shopping centre including hotels, restaurants, apartments, offices and BBC in the Midlands). The provision of letter boxes in public places implies prepayment, which in this case took the form of a prepaid envelope available from UK Mail. The boxes were blue with a black base but otherwise identical to the Romec 'garage box' which was shown in last July's *Bulletin* (page 348). One remains in the lobby of UK Mail's offices, where the photograph above was taken •

Magic Royal Mail's next special stamp issue



Technical details

Printer Walsall

Process Gravure

Stamp size 41 x 30mm

Sheet size 25 and 50

Perforation 14.5 x 14

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Colours

1st dark blue ● cool grey ● orange ● light blue

40p dark blue ● cool grey ● orange ● green ● purple

47p dark blue ● cool grey ● orange ● green ● purple ● red¹

68p dark blue ● cool grey ● orange ● red ● green

£1.12 dark blue ● cool grey ● pink¹ ● purple¹ ● blue¹

1 thermochromic ink

FIVE STAMPS celebrating the centenary of the Magic Circle go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 15 March. The Circle was founded by John Nevil Maskelyne (1839-1917), regarded as the father of modern British conjuring. The stamps feature: 1st Spinning coin – heads or tails; 40p a rabbit out of hat trick; 47p knotted scarf trick; 68p card trick; and £1.12 pyramid under fez trick. The stamps were designed by Tatham Design using illustrations by George Hardie. In keeping with the subject, the stamps feature magic tricks which can be enjoyed by the collector or user of the stamps. On the 1st class you can rub with a coin the blank coin shown on the stamp to reveal a head or a tail of a coin. The two versions of the stamp appear identical before rubbing; they are printed in alternate rows of the sheet, indicated by the small letters H and T in the left sheet margin. Follow the instructions on the other stamps for an illusion or trick. Thermographic ink, as used on the 27p Weather and 2nd class Nobel Prizes stamps in 2001, has been used in the printing of the 47p and £1.12 Magic stamps.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25. However sheets of 50 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 15 March, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or London NW1 must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £3.82 UK or £3.31 overseas.

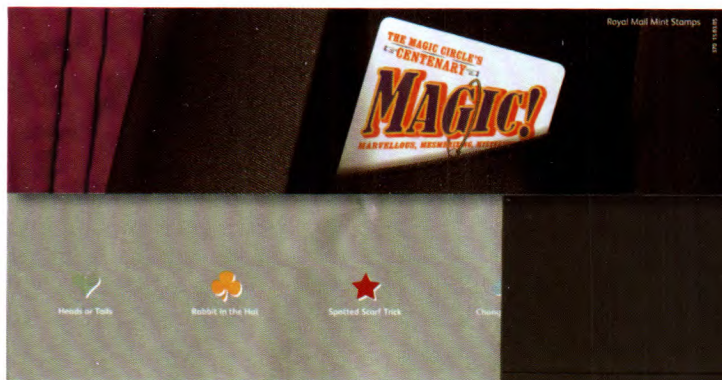
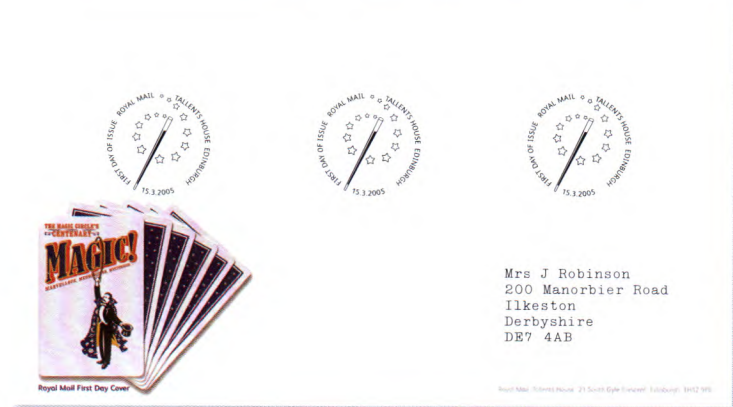
Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (London postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0507' (Tallents House), or 'FD0508' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the London postmark. A non-pictorial London postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FD0508 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 15 March will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

celebrates the centenary of the Magic Circle



The Magic stamps feature tricks which can be enjoyed by the collector or user. Rubbing the 1st class with a coin, for example, will reveal a head or a tail of a coin, but the two versions of the stamp appear identical before rubbing. Each value in the set is printed with a similar instruction for another illusion or trick.



PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £3.45) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House. The pack, written by John Fisher, gives a history of magic since the formation of the Magic Circle, with potted biographies (and some illustrations) of famous magicians past and present. These include Maskelyne, David Devant, Harry Houdini, Robert Harbin, Tommy Cooper, The Pendragons, Penn and Teller, Siegfried and Roy, Paul Daniels, and David Copperfield.

SMILERS SHEET The Smilers sheet for the Magic issue contains 20 1st class stamps; price £6.15. The labels alongside the stamps illustrate how to perform four magic tricks: coin from thin air; nothing up your sleeve; magic handkerchief; and coin from a bread roll. The sheet is printed by Walsall in litho •

Magic When The Magic Circle was founded in 1905 every major city had its own music hall where many magicians enjoyed top billing. In central London alone there were no fewer than 57 such venues, as well as 'England's Home of Mystery', a theatre dedicated to magic, established by John Nevil Maskelyne in 1873. The industrial revolution brought large sections of the working population to the towns, and theatres thrived, bringing a new respectability to the practitioners of hocus pocus. Previously they had performed mostly at town fairs and in market places. Now proper theatre stages enabled them to perform larger stage illusions, very often dependent upon secret stage machinery, while theatre lighting and controlled audience seating allowed magic with much smaller objects to reach a much bigger audience.

Films led to the decline of the variety theatres and magicians were forced to find other venues; in the 1930s many performed in nightclubs. The most significant development was the arrival of television, making it possible for a performer to play to more people in one night than Maskelyne entertained throughout his career. TV magicians such as David Nixon, Doug Henning and David Blaine became household names.

Magic is still big business – in the glitzy showrooms of Las Vegas spectacular big-stage illusions have made an impressive comeback, and conjuring on television continues to amaze millions. A new generation of creative young performers, using new technology, will ensure that magic will continue to enchant and mystify well into the 21st century •



Magic stamps This is the first set of Royal Mail stamps devoted to magic. The children's puppet Sooty and his famous magic wand (shown in Harry Corbett's pocket), appeared on a Children's Television stamp in 1996, and the much-loved Tommy Cooper featured on the 20p stamp in the Comedians set of 1998. Dice are often associated with magic, and a dice and board games were shown on the 32p value of the 1989 Games & Toys issue. Merlin the magician appears with King Arthur on the 17p Arthurian Legends stamp of 1985 •

PAST MASTERS OF MAGIC



**JOHN NEVIL
MASKELYNE**



**DAVID
DEVANT**



**HARRY
HOUDINI**



PSYCHO
THE WHIST
PLAYING
AUTOMATON



**CHUNG
LING SOO**



CARDINI



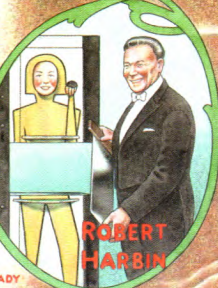
**HORACE
GOLDIN**



**A WOMAN SAWN
IN HALF**
SHE EMERGES
UNHARMED



**THE
FLOATING LADY
ILLUSION**



**ROBERT
HARBIN**

This illustration from the Magic stamps presentation pack, by Tony McSweeney, features some of the great practitioners of the past.

John Nevil Maskelyne (1839-1917), regarded as the father of modern British conjuring, founded a theatre of magic which flourished for 60 years.

David Devant (1868-1941) was the first President of the Magic Circle and the most popular performer of his day.

Harry Houdini (1874-1926) was arguably the greatest showman of all time.

Chung Ling Soo (1861-1918) a famous 'Chinese' conjuror concealed his real identity as an American.

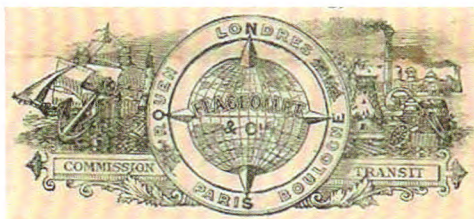
Horace Goldin (1873-1939), the 'Whirlwind Wizard', was the first magician to saw a woman in half.

Cardini (1896-1973), or the 'Welsh Wizard', redefined the image of the magician in the 1930s.

Robert Harbin (1909-1978), a pioneer in television, revolutionised large-scale stage magic.

Illustrated postal stationery of GB Part 3:

Colin Baker brings his series to a conclusion



In November the author looked at lettersheets and postcards. Here he concludes his series with lettercards, newspaper wrappers and airletters.

Lettercards First introduced in 1892, the postal stationery lettercard was never a popular item for carrying advertisements. There was little enough space inside for writing a short message, so that advertisements were seldom used. Of course, in the case of the Post Office issues, the outer reverse side carried a message regarding the addition of adhesive stamps for overseas destinations. This was positioned across the centre of the panel, so giving little opportunity for adding other printed matter. However, some private lettercards which

were stamped at Somerset House for inland use did manage to include an advertisement on the reverse of the card where no such instruction was needed. Some lettercards, both privately produced and Post Office issues, were partially pre-printed with messages, leaving only a few details to be added in manuscript.

As the postage on lettercards was no different than that for envelopes, giving much less space for the same cost, they were never very popular with commercial organisations. Postcards and printed papers were used far more frequently, being half the cost to send through the post.

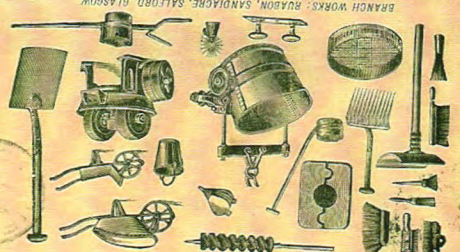
A number of lettercards carried advertisements and private overprints prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, but I have not seen any examples of overprinted Post Office lettercards used commercially in the latter part of the 20th century. Lettercards were finally withdrawn by the Post Office in 1982.

Newspaper wrappers The humble newspaper wrapper was probably about as popular as the postcard with firms who wanted to advertise their wares and services, although fewer have survived. Newspaper wrappers were often discarded on delivery, unlike envelopes that would have been used to keep their contents safe, or postcards that carried important information.

Many newspaper wrappers were privately produced and the majority of these were headed with company details or the title of the newspaper or periodical they contained. A number of the Post Office issue wrappers were also overprinted, but as these were much smaller in size they normally carried little more than the newspaper title and publishers' address. But wrappers were also used to forward invoices, advertising material and other printed papers, and were often endorsed accordingly. A few newspaper wrappers carried product details and other information relating to the company. One such wrapper was that produced by James Evans & Co, (shown opposite) which carried a number of engravings depicting items sold by them. This particular wrapper is also marked 'invoice' indicating it would have been sent at the printed paper rate.

BRANCH WORKS: RUABON, SANDIACHO, SALIORD, GLASBOW, CALLE URIBISTARTE (ADUANA NEUVA) BILBAO, SPAIN.

Every Description of Domestic Requisites for saving time and increasing comfort for labor paid free.



Makers of Unbreakable Wire Brushes, Chisels, Puttyknives and Patent Socks. Blacking, Coal Dust, Core Damp, Cauldrier.

(FIVE MINUTES WALK FROM EXCHANGE.)

BRITANNIA WORKS, NEW BLACKFRIARS, MANCHESTER.

JAMES EVANS & CO.

New Staff Vale Railway



W. H. SMITH & SON,
186 Strand, London.

Stop after April 26

E. Cox, Esq.,
68, Via Viminale,
ROMA, ITALY



Cardy

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE removed to and from all parts of the CONTINENT, by specially adapted Panthecon Vans—Experienced Packers—Inclusive Charges—No Extras



FLAGEOLLET & Co., Butler Street, Milton Street, London, E.C.
Continental Forwarding, General Shipping & Insurance Agents.



BONDED CARMEN.
BOULOGNE-SUR-MER, 8, RUE DE LA GARE.
PARIS .. 21, RUE PAUL LELONG.
ROUEN .. 17, RUE ALSACE-LORRAINE.
FOLKESTONE - THE STADE, FACING HARBOUR.



To *Paris*

FRAGILE, WITH CARE.

Per Parcel Post

Edward H. Bennett Esq.,
% **S.W. Allworthy Esq., M.D.,**
The Manor House,
Antrim Road,
BELFAST.



FROM **OSWALD MARSH,**
18, Hamlet Road, Norwood, London, S.E.

meunier freres
Birmingham St
66

If undelivered, Return to

The Daily Telegraph

and Morning Post

FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4



MRS. E. O. WATSON,
UPLANDS,
BEECH, ALTON,
HAMPSHIRE.

Stamped to order newspaper wrapper, typical of many used by publishers throughout the country.

Although the Post Office did not produce newspaper wrappers after the George V issue in 1938 (actually in the reign of George VI, but before the new King's stamps were ready), private wrappers continued to be used commercially until the STO facility was withdrawn in 1973. One well known company was The Stamford Mercury Co that printed the *Stamford Mercury* newspaper. In the latter half of the 20th century they used pre-cancelled wrappers to speed up the despatch of their publication.

Air letters 1943 saw the introduction of a new type of stationery in Great Britain that very quickly became a popular item with the general public. Air letters were cheap to use and allowed just enough space for a short letter, but had no excess space on which advertisements could easily be printed. In any case, by the middle of the 20th century there were plenty of newspapers and magazines selling cheap advertising space, so that there was no need for this to extend into air letters and the like. The Post Office produced a vast range of special issues and to a degree, this was mimicked by the philatelic world. Some private examples were printed with commemorative designs and were impressed with embossed or letterpress stamps of various values. However, these were of a philatelic nature. Truly commercial overprints, particularly with ornate designs, are rare. One example of a commercial overprint is the range of News Letters produced by the Women's Voluntary Service in the 1950s. Another is a Christmas greeting printed on the inside of the first issue of George VI 6d air letter, produced by the well known stamp dealer Whitfield King. Whether this truly falls into the commercial or philatelic category is open to debate.

Postal Stationery Society

Enquiries to: Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veney, Warminster BA12 7AY or see www.postalstationery.org.uk (This site was reviewed in February Philately On-line.)

Conclusion Postal stationery overprinted with advertising and other material makes a fascinating area for collecting. Including this type of material in a collection shows how important the post was in the last two centuries and gives an insight into the social history of the period. These articles describe only the tip of the iceberg. It is up to you, the collector, to seek out the many examples that were prepared and used from 1840 onwards •

SmartStamps Bob Wilcock on some recent developments



Above: St Edburg's Church, Bicester (2nd class Series 1). Right: London 2012 Bid Book.

Above: Medals Welsh 1st with Revenue Protection cachet. Below: Torch Relay Series 1 dated 30.12.99

MY ARTICLE IN THE October *Bulletin* (p45) and the announcement in the *Commemorative Covers Review* drew a very considerable response from postal history collectors. It seems that the Society of Olympic Collectors were almost certainly the first to produce commemorative SmartStamps, and now that the original software has been replaced by Series 2.0 designs, the Society's four SmartStamps will be the principal examples of Series 1 available to collectors. SmartStamps have obviously been much more widely used (Harmers use them to send out auction catalogues for example), but commercial copies are more likely to have gone in the waste-paper bin than in collectors' albums. Fortunately for postal historians, the Olympic fraternity is strong, and over 200 copies of the Olympic Torch Relay SmartStamp were produced, and 60 or more of the Andrew Lindsay, London 2012, and Much Wenlock designs. Stocks are however now very low, and some may be sold out by the time this article appears. soc also assisted in the production of a SmartStamp to commemorate the 900th Anniversary of St Edburg's Church, Bicester.

One flaw in the initial software is that for an hour after midnight it changed the date to 30.12.99! This quirk has been removed for Series 2.0.

Improved Series 2.0 software was introduced on 21 September, all users had to update by 31 October, and it is no longer possible to produce Series 1 impressions. Series 2.0 changes the indicia, with 'SmartStamp.co.uk' appearing in some, but not all of the designs, the inclusion of Standard Parcels, the ability to print in Welsh, and a library of some 15 basic designs of slogan: 'DO NOT BEND' was used on the envelope containing the Series 2.0 CD, and 'SEASONS GREETINGS' is available for Christmas for example.

soc's policy is that SmartStamps will normally be produced in good quantities with just the 2nd class indicia. Our first Series 2.0 issue, for the 'Gold Ball' for Olympic medal winners on 12 October followed this policy, but for the 'Parade of the Heroes' and Olympic Medal Ceremony on 18 October the software was fully tested to produce a reference collection. There are 12 different indicia, set out below, although three of the Welsh Versions do not work. The amounts can only be set to correct postage rates according to service and weight. soc produced just four examples of the expensive Standard Parcels (£3.46) and Special Delivery (£3.75), 10 or more of most of the rest, with the bulk being 2nd class English. There are over 200 examples in all.

Service Indicia	English	Welsh	SmartStamp.co.uk
2nd	●	●	Both
1st	●	●	Both
Special delivery	●	○	No
Standard parcels	●	○	Yes
Airmail	●	●	Welsh only
Surface mail	●	○	No

There was a surprise bonus with the Medal Winners SmartStamp: some of the English and Welsh 1st class, Welsh 2nd class, and English and Welsh Airmail letters were cancelled with a large red handstamp 'Royal Mail Hereford and Worcester /Revenue Protection/18 OCT 2004/Sampled'. It is very understandable that Royal Mail is checking the validity of the new SmartStamp impressions, and from a collection point of view, it was a real stroke of luck!

The Society's final SmartStamp of 2004 was for the submission of the formal Olympic Bid by London 2012 to the International Olympic Committee, and a copy is illustrated (see page 151,

centre). This incorporates the new slogan 'Make Britain Proud'. It has been produced as 2nd class and Airmail only (to satisfy overseas interest, with Airmail indicia examples being made available to UK members of soc). Those who visited Basil-don 2004 will know that the soc also made an exhibition SmartStamp available, a first for any stamp show!

In 2005 soc plans to mark the visit of the Evaluation Commission of the International Olympic Committee to London in January, to consider the London 2012 Bid in depth, and also the IOC Session in Singapore in July at which the host city for the 2012 Olympics will be selected. Other key Olympic events may be marked, but otherwise, no other SmartStamps are planned.

No doubt other societies and organisations will follow where the Society of Olympic Collectors has led. It is a key development of philately in the computer age. SmartStamps will not replace special handstamps, because Smart Stamps cannot be applied to either commemorative or definitive stamps, but they will provide a very interesting extension to the hobby ●

Text © Bob Wilcock 2005

The lure of the Machins

Discovering a hobby at the point where life begins: Richard West talks to Cliff Garside

IT MUST BE SOMETHING in the air in the North-East. In the December edition I wrote about Dorothy Martin, who first took up the hobby in her retirement. For 25 years Dorothy organised the North-East Philatelic Week-ends, and when she decided to pass on the responsibility, it was taken up by Val Beeken, along with Cliff Garside. Like Dorothy, Cliff did not collect as a youngster, and it was only in 1982, at the age of 40, that he decided stamps were for him.

Mind you, there was a younger influence – two to be precise – namely his sons. Cliff has been married to Christine for 26 years, having met through a work colleague, and they have two



boys. Both collected for a time, but when the elder was 10, the younger eight, they gave up, at which point Cliff caught the bug. He started with Great Britain, the reigns of Edward VII, George VI and Elizabeth II, concentrating on the Wilding definitives of the present reign. Then came the moment of decision – should he explore the Machins?

He decided to have a go, at first concentrating on pre-decimal values including the varieties, until a friend sold his decimal Machins. The buyer was Cliff, and from that moment he was hooked on the Machin definitives from 1971 onwards. His inspiration is the Stanley Gibbons *GB Concise* cata-

logue: he focuses on all the major printings, perforations and papers, including booklet panes, cylinder blocks and the Country definitives. He collects the main varieties, but draws the line at 'flyspecks', nor does he include missing phosphor. Equally, he does not acquire every different booklet, only changes to the actual panes. Even so, it proves to be a very complex issue, although Cliff regards it as 'a world beater' and certainly 'a worthwhile issue', bearing in mind the billions that have been sold over the years.

Other countries He has not confined himself to GB, and has also collected Commonwealth, although has trimmed down those areas he collects to Antarctica, particularly Falkland Islands, plus Bahamas and Gibraltar, also having a keen interest in the Republic of France, and in 'The Birds of the World', which he finds a fascinating study. Apart from a few early French used, Cliff's collections comprise mint stamps.

Seeing what others have achieved has always been an inspiration to Cliff, citing in particular the study of the Twopenny Blue by Michael and Jane Moubray. He finds his collecting provides him with a flavour of other countries, but will only embark on a collection which he finds both absorbing and interesting.

He has always found the *British Philatelic Bulletin* a source of vital information, especially on the Machins, and has all the copies going back over 20 years.

In his life he has made two particularly good purchases. One was in a philatelic society auction, when he bought the George V ½d Downey Head with Imperial Crown watermark inverted for £2.25, a stamp that is catalogued at just under £500. He also managed to buy the France 2f 'Olivier Merson' of 1900 mint from a dealer for £80.

He often buys at auction, at one time buying job lots, which he used to sort to sell on, thereby financing purchases for his own collections. His material is in mounts on A4 card, all fully written up, and he spends 'whenever I can' on the collection, because much of his time in taken up with organised philately, perhaps one or two evenings every week. Among the events he organis-

es is a twice a year stamp fair for his local philatelic society: this not only brings him into contact with dealers, but helps the society's finances.

He believes the hobby remains as vital as ever, and hopes that the Machin definitives long continue. However, there are two regrets, one being that there are fewer changes made to the Machins these days, and so there are fewer variations to collect, while he feels that the labels which are now replacing stamps on packets, etc, are 'an absolute travesty'.

Enthusing collectors He believes it is incumbent on postal administrations to ensure that they produce superlative stamps, and thereby enthuse people to collect. He feels that the designs from France have deteriorated since the recess process has been less used, although he still admires the designs from Antarctica. For Cliff, the acquiring of material 'gives enjoyment and long term entertainment'. He abhors items produced illegally, stamps that are not recognised by the Universal Postal Union.

In the end, his opinion is that it is the responsibility of the Post Offices around the world to keep alive the interest in stamp collecting – and that can only be achieved by the quality of the product ●

CLIFF GARSIDE FACT FILE

Home Cliff is a Yorkshire man by birth, but work took him to Northampton, and then to the North-East.

Profession He has always been an accountant, which is probably why he was asked to be Treasurer of the ABPS.

What he enjoys most in organised philately Cliff is always pleased to hear the favourable comments made about the annual North-East Philatelic Week-end. He also enjoys being the Honorary Treasurer for the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Competitions Cliff entered the exhibition held in Chester in 2002, showing the Machin 1st class flame and 2nd class blue stamps. He only did it for a laugh, but achieved a silver medal. However, he does not intend to enter nationally again.

Other interests He very much enjoys listening to classical music. He also enjoys walking and gardening, and is very keen on cricket and motor racing.

Holidays Cliff is not really a holiday person, mainly because he doesn't like the anti-climax of coming home, but he is very partial to Italian cooking.

Eminent early collectors Some collectors will always be remembered best for their efforts as organizers. One such collector is Herbert R Oldfield, as Ron Negus reports



SOME COLLECTORS are best known for the scope of their material and for the prestigious awards that displaying their collections have earned for them. Others are remembered for the efforts they have put into the hobby as organizers of philately. In this latter group, the name of Herbert R Oldfield was pre-eminent from 1890 to 1940.

Little is recorded about Herbert Rooke Oldfield, in the first 30 years of his life. We know he was born in 1859, and in common with his contemporaries, collected stamps while at school. These were disposed of when he started to study Law in his late teens. After qualifying as a solicitor he joined the family firm of Oldfield, Bartram & Oldfield and worked in their offices in the City of London. Pressure of work in a busy practice left him little time for hobbies.

In 1890 however, at the age of 31, Oldfield had a holiday in Scotland. Whilst he was there, a friend showed him his stamp collection and this revived Herbert's own interest. He began by buying some whole world collections through dealers and at auction and soon amassed sizeable holdings of his own. In subsequent years, he built up and then sold many collections including notable ones of India, Chinese Treaty Ports and Formosa, Colombia and Persia.

South American attraction Recalling his current interests in an interview six years after he had started collecting again, he said 'I have been specializing in the stamps of Switzerland, but I found that those stamps swallowed up so much of one's time and means that there was little left for other countries; so I sold my special collection of Cantonals, and am now specializing in the Federal Issues.' In a later part of the same interview, Oldfield commented upon the attraction he found in South American issues, which he felt were undervalued, and commended these to new collectors.

He obviously took his own advice, for his collection of Bolivia earned him a Gold Medal at the 1897 London International Exhibition. When other activities allowed, Oldfield also wrote monographs. These covered *Bolivia* (in 1898), *Bosnia* (1912) and *The Stamps of the Treaty Ports of China and Formosa* (1927). His interest in philatelic literature was also demonstrated by his work in indexing the *Timbre Poste* for the period from 1863 to 1900. Two unpublished manuscript copies of this index were donated by him to the (now Royal) Philatelic Society of London library in 1917. His paper on Indian lithographed issues earned him the Royal's Tapling Medal in 1923.

His connection with the Philatelic Society of London had begun soon after he restarted collecting, and his acceptance into the Society is recorded in November 1892. By 1895, collectors

generally were becoming concerned about the number of so-called 'speculative' issues that were appearing from many countries. In that year, the Philatelic Society set up its special Speculative Issues committee to denounce stamps that they regarded as postally unnecessary. It was hoped that by exposing them in such a way, collectors would not buy them and their continued appearance would end. Herbert Oldfield was appointed as Secretary of this committee, and in the following year was appointed to the Council of the Philatelic Society itself.

The 4s League Stanley Gibbons Ltd added their weight to the discussion when Charles J Phillips sent a circular around the trade in March 1895 announcing that his firm would 'cease to catalogue, import, buy or sell these local and speculative emissions'. Following further meetings with the Philatelic Society committee, a new body was created entitled the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps. This rather unwieldy title soon became widely referred to as the 4s League. The group was initially based at Stanley Gibbons in the Strand, but after a break in operation during the 1897 London Exhibition, was reconstituted at the Philatelic Society's Effingham House premises. After this reorganization, Herbert Oldfield was made Hon Secretary of the 4s League. He continued to occupy this position until the League faded away in the early years of the 20th century, having been largely ignored by stamp issuing authorities and collectors alike.

Organizing abilities Whilst he was still involved with the 4s League, his organizing abilities were recognized within the Philatelic Society, and he was made Hon Assistant Secretary in 1898. He continued in this post until 1914, when a change in the statutes allowed Joint Hon Secretaries to be appointed. Upon this change, Oldfield took up the post and shared it with LLR Hausburg: they produced their first Annual Report together in 1915. Unfortunately, Hausburg died in 1917 after a long and painful illness. The Society decided to revert to its previous arrangement of having a single Hon Secretary, and another Hon Assistant

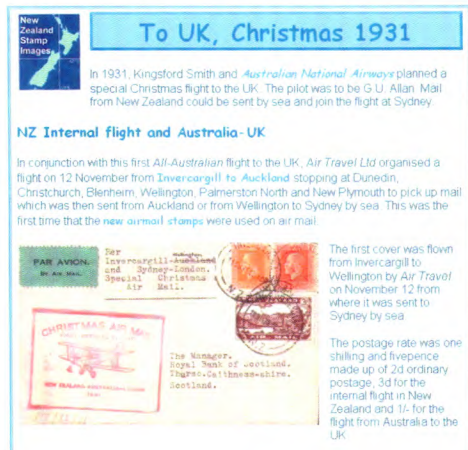
Secretary. This led to Oldfield becoming the Hon Secretary, with Baron Percy de Worms as his appointed Assistant. Oldfield held this position until June 1926, when he resigned to allow himself more time with his family and for travel abroad.

He undertook many notable activities for the Society during his long service in a secretarial capacity, often including legal tasks that he carried out gratuitously. Of these, one which stands out is the conveyancing work he performed when the Royal moved its premises to its current home at 41 Devonshire Place, London in 1925. This saved the Society a great deal of money at a time when funds were very low. Upon his retirement, the Fellows and Members presented Oldfield with a cheque and an ivory box fitted with philatelic accessories.

Herbert Oldfield was also extremely active in other areas of organized philately in addition to his duties at the Royal Philatelic Society, London. As a leading member of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, he helped to set up the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. He was a signatory to the Roll himself at the Bath Congress held in 1922, and also served on the Board of Election for the Roll from its inception in 1921 to 1938. He acted as Chairman of the Congress Executive Committee for many years, and his efforts were recognized by his peers when he was elected as the first Honorary Life Member of Congress at the Folkestone event in 1937.

Other tasks to which he brought his administrative skills were as Chairman of the British Philatelic Association and President of the International Philatelic Union. By virtue of all these offices, Herbert Oldfield was a well-known figure throughout the philatelic world. His death occurred peacefully at home on 22 December 1940 in his 81st year. Apart from a full obituary in the *London Philatelist*, the Royal's own magazine, his passing was only noted briefly elsewhere. This was not due to any lack of awareness of the contributions he had made, but simply because there was a very limited amount of organized philatelic activity being undertaken during this early wartime period. He was survived by a son and daughter ●

Philately on-line Ron Negus considers a New Zealand site



www.nzstamps.fsnet.co.uk Although not part of the official site of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain, the pages described in this column are maintained by the same person. Information about that Society can be obtained via the link on this site or by writing to Keith C Collins, 13 Briton Crescent, Sanderstead, Surrey CR2 0JN.

coverage. For instance, the grouping for 'King George v' includes headings for Recess printed definitives; 4d re-entries; the KGV Fivепence of 1922; Surface printed; Booklets; 1920s Commemoratives; and 1930s Commemoratives. Selection of any heading takes the user to illustrated pages on that subject. When new additions have been made in any category recently, these are flagged and the date they were added is shown.

A typical example of the kind of coverage included can be found on the pages entitled 'Blitz Perforations'. These describe how, in September 1940, De La Rue's printing works were bombed and production had to cease. This affected an outstanding order for New Zealand stamps and Waterlow & Sons were asked to print the stamps using the DLR printing plates. They did this, but returned the finished printed sheets to DLR for perforating. Unfortunately DLR was then bombed again in December 1940, and all but 2000 sheets of a 4d value were destroyed. The subsequent story is told here with relevant illustrations.

Another feature of this site is that the source of the notes about the material shown is quoted on each detail page. This allows interested readers to follow up any particular subject in more depth by consulting the original book or article. A separate page headed 'Useful Links' gives carefully selected lists of societies, dealers, catalogues and auctions connected with New Zealand philately. Each entry is accompanied by a brief resumé of a linked site's content, which helps users find what they are seeking more quickly.

The author of the site, Dr Robert Clark, is to be congratulated. He is a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Computing Science at Stirling University, and has used his expertise for the benefit of all collectors who are interested in the stamps of New Zealand ●

IN A RECENT newspaper poll, New Zealand was voted the most popular holiday destination for UK tourists. It is likely, therefore, that a lot more people here will be seeing stamps from that country on holiday postcards from family and friends.

For recipients who are philatelists, this may influence them to look at New Zealand as a possible addition to their collection. They may already have read about the country's issues this year, as it is the 150th anniversary of their first adhesives, released on 18 July 1855. These were the famous Full Face Queens issue based upon Alfred Edward Chalon's portrait of the young Queen Victoria.

These first stamps are described on the opening detail page of a website called New Zealand Stamp Images (address above), which provides a comprehensive introduction to issues from that country. The name of the site is misleading, as it contains a great deal of philatelic information as well as the colour illustrations. It is particularly strong on airmail, and has many pages which will appeal to all aerophilatelists. The illustrated first flight and other flown covers are excellent. Fiscal collectors will also find useful information and images of the many Revenue items used in New Zealand from 1876 onwards.

The home page contains a detailed contents list. This is grouped into main subject categories. Within these, further headings indicate specific

Genesis of the Machin design by Glenn Morgan, FRPSL

ON A COLD, WET EVENING last November, the Postal Heritage Trust held its third lecture of the season. Douglas N Muir, Curator, Philately at Royal Mail Archive treated a large audience to a detailed history of the pre-production stages of the Machin definitive design.

Now in its 38th year, this iconic image by the late Arnold Machin (1911-99) is believed to have been reproduced more than any other image in history. Around 170,000 million individual stamps are thought to have been printed so far. Admittedly Her Majesty no longer looks like the image created almost 40 years ago, but it is instantly recognisable, and so continues to serve its purpose.

Douglas started by recounting the story behind the Penny Black of 1840 – a project completed in a mere five months and probably still the best stamp design ever in his opinion. The replacement to the Wilding definitive series took around 18 months to produce and went through many stages of development. It was interesting to learn how the Penny Black and the Machin stamps share several similarities. The dimensions have lasted 165 years, both stamps utilise the same diadem and the Monarch continues to face left. Also, both initial stamps were of a similar colour (the 4d Machin colour was chosen by Her Majesty to intentionally imitate the Penny Black) and both stamps were replaced by a red version due to operational problems.

Three routes were taken in the creation of the new design. Firstly, the Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) commissioned five artists in 1965 to produce renderings of The Queen's head in profile from photographs by Snowdon. These were the official preliminary designs, of which Machin produced well over 70 drawings. Tony Benn and David Gentleman were also essaying, apparently without the SAC's knowledge. Finally, the Fellowship of Miniscule Design employed artist Andrew Restall to generate yet more unofficial essays.

At this point in the lecture, a section of the GPO film *Picture to Post* was screened. We learned that the film had been reconstructed and shot after the stamps had been issued, so was a fake!

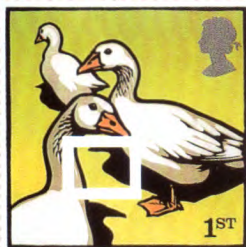
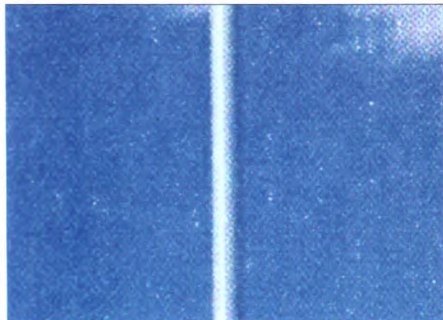
Early in 1966 Arnold Machin was officially commissioned by the Post Office to develop his designs in sculptured relief. From this point onwards, frequent re-sculpting, plaster cast production, photography sessions and essaying was undertaken. This work included the gradual elimination of all ornamentation, use of a diadem instead of tiara and the removal of the words 'Postage' and 'Revenue', leaving just the simplified portrait and value against a solid ground. Her Majesty was shown various essays and expressed a preference for a corsage. Once this had been incorporated, a large number of fresh essays were generated in different colours and shades with varying value positions. Following approval, production commenced at Harrison's and on 5 June 1967 the first stamps appeared to widespread acclaim.

By the early 1980s there was a feeling that a change was due and that the Machin head should be replaced, perhaps to tie-in with the Coronation anniversary of 1983. Jeffery Matthews was invited to produce alternatives and Snowdon took a new range of full-face photographic images of Her Majesty. Rory Matthews (Jeffery's son) produced drawn versions of the head in 1982 and these were all essayed. None of this work found favour, so four more artists were approached in 1983, but this work was also rejected.

Not prepared to let the matter rest, the following year saw the SAC establish a working party and Jeffery produced a range of new options, including a landscape format. Again, essays were generated, but not progressed further and there the matter appears to have come to rest, for how does one improve such a timeless image as the Machin head?

Visitors were given an excellent six-page A4 colour hand-out, which was written by Douglas. Entitled *The Machin Head of The Queen*, this publication provides a detailed analysis of events. It illustrates several developmental designs, several photographs of Her Majesty and records the genesis in depth. It made a fine souvenir of a fascinating evening ●

Competitions Win £200 in two easy-to-enter competitions



October identify The detail is from the 2005 Farm Animals Embden Geese stamp. The winner was Dr J Warmbrunn of Germany.

October knowledge Answers: 1) E Hughes; 2) Anthony Wedgwood (Tony) Benn; 3) 1984. The winner was M Merit of West Sussex.

Ten runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to January *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to January *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 What colour is the current 47p definitive?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps features football players?
- 3 Who designed the 1988 Sports stamps?

Send your answer (addressed to either January *Identify* competition or January *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 11 February will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

12 February Streetly PS Stamp Fair at Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Birmingham, 10.00-16.30. 16 stamp dealers. Display by the Guild of St Gabriel. Admission 20p, children 10p. Light refreshments. **Enquiries** M Chapling, 0121 329 2487.

12 February Rotherham Stamp & Postcard Club open day. Dealers, members' displays. Free parking. Refreshments. **Enquiries** J Bradley, 01709 837073.

19 February Scout & Guide Stamps Club Annual exhibition at Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, London SW7, 10.30-16.30. Admission free. Scout/Guide material. **Enquiries** G Osborne, 01256 328831.

23-27 February Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. See p133.

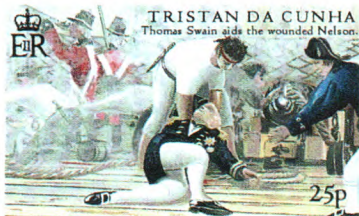
24-26 February Philatex at Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, London SW1. See p133.

Prize draw



OUR PRIZE THIS MONTH is this first day cover of the 2004 Christmas stamps signed by Raymond Briggs, the noted author of books about Father Christmas, whose illustrations are used on the stamps. We have five covers available – to win one send your name and address on a postcard (or the back of a sealed envelope) to: Christmas FDC Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 31 January. Good luck! •

Late news



Trafalgar stamps Crown Agents countries are to issue an omnibus series for the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The first sets are issued this month, continuing to October. Some of the stamps include original wood from HMS *Victory*, powdered and used in the printing ink. Further details next month •

ITV stamps Viewers of ITV's *This Morning* programme will be able to choose the design of the 1st class stamp for the ITV stamps to be issued by Royal Mail in September. In the week commencing 17 January, designs for the stamps will be pre-viewed on the morning TV programme and viewers will be able to vote for the design they prefer by phone or by post. So watch *This Morning* on ITV1 on 17 January, 10.30am •

People news On 9 December the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry announced that Mr Allan Leighton will continue as Chairman of Royal Mail for a further three years from March 2005. The Grand Prix de la Philatelie for 2004 has been awarded to the Princess Royal Maria Gabriella di Savoia, daughter of the last king of Italy, for her dedication to stamp collecting. The honour, awarded by ASCAT, the worldwide association of philatelic publishers, previously went to: Swiss Post (1994), Prince Rainier of Monaco (1996), Juan Antonio Samaranch (1998), Bertrand Piccard (2000) and Luis Figo (2002). Nick Wraith, a former Royal Navy Commander, is the new Managing Director of Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, replacing Ken Baker who is now the Vice Chairman. C Walter Hodges, the designer of the 1995 Shakespeare's Globe stamps, died on 26 November, aged 95 •



Harry Potter stamps The Isle of Man Post Office issued eight Harry Potter stamps on 7 December for the launch of the *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* DVD. Address orders and enquiries to: Isle of Man Philatelic Bureau, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, or see website www.iompost.com •

Bulletin back issues John Selby offers Bulletins from September 1985 to December 2003 to anyone who will collect or pay carriage. Contact him on 01926 424077 •

Publications The November 2004 issue of the *Postal Stationery Society Journal* includes features on the Royal Naval Exhibition postcard, a first day Mulready envelope, George V stamped to order dies, George VI forces registered envelope, Edward VII postcard with bogus overprint, and Alan Huggins's views on 'The Changing Face of Postal Stationery'. For Society details see website: www.postalstationery.org.uk • The October issue of the GBCC *Chronicle* contains features on the 1st class NV1 gold Machins, the Victorian Penny Red, George VI Coronation covers, Second World War patriotic covers and labels, and a report of the exhibition of The Queen's stamps in Washington. For GB Collectors Club details, see website www.gbustamps.com/gbcc • The Winter issue of *TPO* (journal of the TPO & Seapost Society) includes notes on protective bags for handstamps being carried to and from TPOS, AM (After Midnight) TPO postmarks, a summary of the former TPO handstamping service, the Flushing-UK Sea Post Office, and a 374-lot catalogue for the January auction. For Society details see www.tpo-seapost.org.uk •

Classic Locomotives and Letters by Night



Classic Locomotives special offer The Classic Locomotives coin cover will be withdrawn from sale on 12 January 2005. This limited edition coin cover combines two beautiful mementoes in one: a commemorative cover featuring the very popular Classic Locomotives set of six stamps, a unique cancellation and a commemorative £2 coin, celebrating 200 years of British steam with Trevithick's first locomotive nicknamed 'the puffer' struck by the Royal Mint. It also includes four pages of fascinating information about steam locomotives. Price £13.95, code AN034.

Letters by Night prestige stamp book Also still on sale is the *Letters by Night* prestige stamp book issued to commemorate the last Travelling Post Office, which made its last journey on 9 January 2004. As well as inspiring the classic *Night Mail* film and one of the country's favourite poems, the Travelling Post Office was also at the centre of one of the most notorious crimes – the Great Train Robbery. The book includes four stamp panes not available elsewhere and a specially commissioned poem by Simon Armitage plus striking images of TPO trains by Royal Academician Brendan Neiland. Price £7.49, code YB023.

Special offer Buy both the Classic Locomotives coin cover and the *Letters by Night* prestige stamp book for only £19.44 – a saving of £2 (code XA501).

Royal Mail

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