BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 51 NUMBER 7 | MARCH 2014 | £1.50

Preview: Buckingham Palace • Gold Horizons • Island News

'Maximum meaning, minimum means'

Abram Games
1914-1996



1951 Festival of Britain facsimiles – stamp design to treasure, issued on 25 March

JOHN HOLMAN UK STAMP SCENE • J STUDHOLME COLLECTOR CONFIDENTIAL • WIN NEW ISSUES

Issues and withdrawals



Cover image: Abram Games © Estate of Abram Games **Remarkable Lives**, issued on 25 March, honours ten high-achievers who have made an extraordinary contribution to the British way of life. The issue includes a Facsimile Pack of the 1951 Festival of Britain stamp designed by Abram Games. Turn to page 208 to read about the life and work of Games. For preview details of the Remarkable Lives issue, see page 168 of February *Bulletin*.

The copyright of all UK stamp images in this publication is owned by Royal Mail Group Ltd. Please note: postage stamps and postmarks are not shown to scale.

FSC
www.fsc.org
MIX
Board from responsible sources
FSC™ C019670

The use of the FSC logo identifies the product which contains wood from well-managed forests certified in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council.

Royal Mail

Royal Mail, the cruciform and the colour red are registered trade marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd. © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2014. All rights reserved.

25 March — **Issue** Remarkable Lives: Stamps (10 x 1st Class in se-tenant strips of 5), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (10 in set), 1951 Festival of Britain Facsimile Pack.

25 March — **Issue** By Sea, By Land, 350th Anniversary of the Royal Marines: Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class Union Flag).

26 March — **Withdrawal** Doctor Who: Stamps (11 x 1st Class), Sheet (10 x Tardis Stamps), Personalised Sheet of 10 Smilers®, Personalised Sheet of 20 Smilers®, Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class with 2 x Doctor Who and 2 x Tardis), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (set of 17).

27 March — **Withdrawal** 1st Class and 1st Class Large Recorded Signed For (printed by De La Rue, issued 7 November 2009, codes DS114 and DS136).

15 April — **Issue** Buckingham Palace: Stamps (6 stamps in se-tenant strips of 3), Miniature Sheet, Prestige Stamp Book (panes 1, 2 and 4 with 4 x 1st Class; pane 3 with 2 x £1, 2 x 10p, 4 x 20p), Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class, 4 x 1st Class, 2 x pictorials), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (11 in set), Medal Cover.

16 April — **Withdrawal** Great Britons: Stamps (10 x 1st Class in se-tenant strips of 5), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.

To order philatelic items, including those listed above, contact Royal Mail online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or at Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, London (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Square), Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southend on Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro, York and Newport, Isle of Wight.

Information about Royal Mail products is that which is available at time of going to press. Royal Mail is not responsible for opinions and information provided by independent writers in the feature articles of this publication.

Contents



Games master Meet design guru Abram Games – creator of classic stamps for the 1948 London Olympics and the Festival of Britain and celebrated in the Remarkable Lives issue launching this month **208**



Issues and Withdrawals Salute the arrival of the Royal Marines and say farewell to the Great Britons issue **194**

Correspondence Your views aired in a selection of readers' letters and emails **196**

Royal Mail News Royal Marines Sheet, Doctor Who fans alert, and some Classic Children's TV winners **198**

Throne rooms The new Buckingham Palace issue invites you on an inside tour of the most famous royal residence on the planet **199**



Stamp Scene John Holman brings you the latest news and events from the world of UK philately **203**

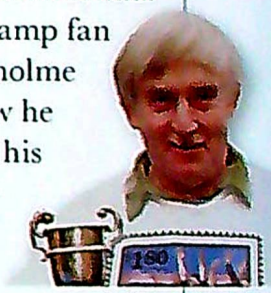
Island news Post & Gos, Europas and more **206**

Another view Douglas Myall looks at VAT exemptions and the recent Horizon software changes **217**



This Month in History John Holman spots the bulls – and a cow – from the British Cattle set of 1984 **220**

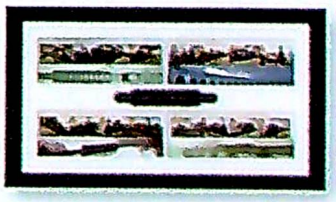
Collector Confidential Lifelong stamp fan John Studholme reveals how he 'inherited' his passion for collecting **221**



Puzzles Fiendish yet fun stamp-themed teasers and fabulous philatelic rewards **222**

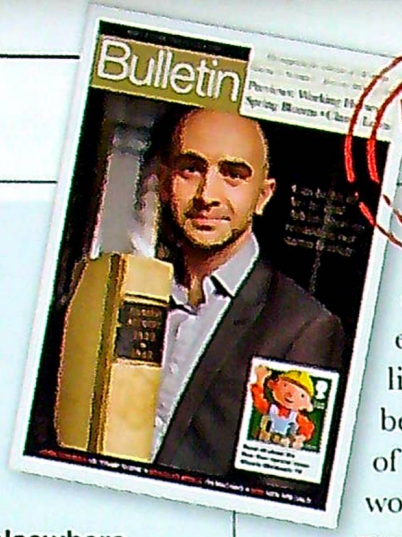
Young Collectors Where to find help with setting up a stamp club at school **223**

Go loco You will be mad for this framed set of classic British steam trains **224**



The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● Editor: William Doherty ● Price £1.50 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets (see opposite) ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address opposite) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50 and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House: £12.25 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of the world
● ©Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editor
● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Correspondence



No pun intended?

I see the pun masters from the tabloids have joined your team for the January front cover.

If this is the new presentation, pack it in. First, day covers should be frank, and stamp it out otherwise I will post and go elsewhere.

Aarghh, it's catching!

Alan Harbutt, by email

Ah, but surely there is no pun on the front cover (pictured above)? However, this is the first time the coverlines have been written by William Doherty, the Royal Mail editor, and we are happy that they caught your attention. We embraced this important change of editorial policy for the first edition of 2014 because we find the lines perfectly arresting, but to the best of our knowledge, and at the time of going to press, William has never worked anywhere near a tabloid newspaper. Not even in the same street. So we cannot claim to have had a 'pun master from the tabloids' on the *Bulletin* team, despite being a little short-staffed over Christmas.

This is also the first time we have published a letter about *Bulletin*'s front page – so for your unique and pun-tastic contribution, Alan, you are awarded a set of *Bulletin* binders and the coveted *Bulletin* Jubilee tie.

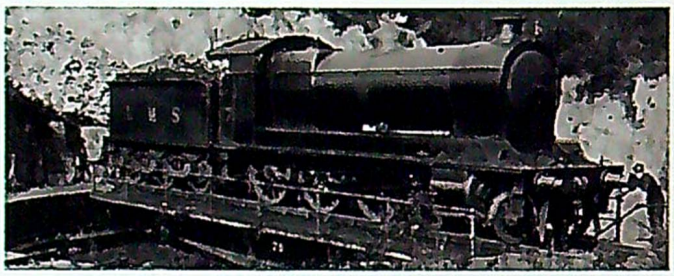
Of smokeboxes and splashers

This month's expert letter takes us to task about a certain Classic Locomotives caption...

"In Martyn Fry's article about the Classic Locomotives series in the February *Bulletin*, he repeats the misleading information that the Highland Railway locomotive shown on one of the Scottish stamps was a Clan class engine. When the stamps first appeared it was pointed out on the Highland Railway Society Chatline that this engine was in fact a Clan Goods 4-6-0; these engines were similar, but not identical, to the passenger locomotives: there were differences in the design of the smokebox and, above the long 'splashers' [wheel guards] on the Clans, there were three additional narrow splashers. They were needed because of the larger driving wheels.

I enclose photographs of the real 54767 Clan *Mackinnon*, the engine that is meant to have appeared on the stamp, and of a Clan Goods. It is clear from these pictures which is the 4-6-0 class that is in fact shown in the issue."

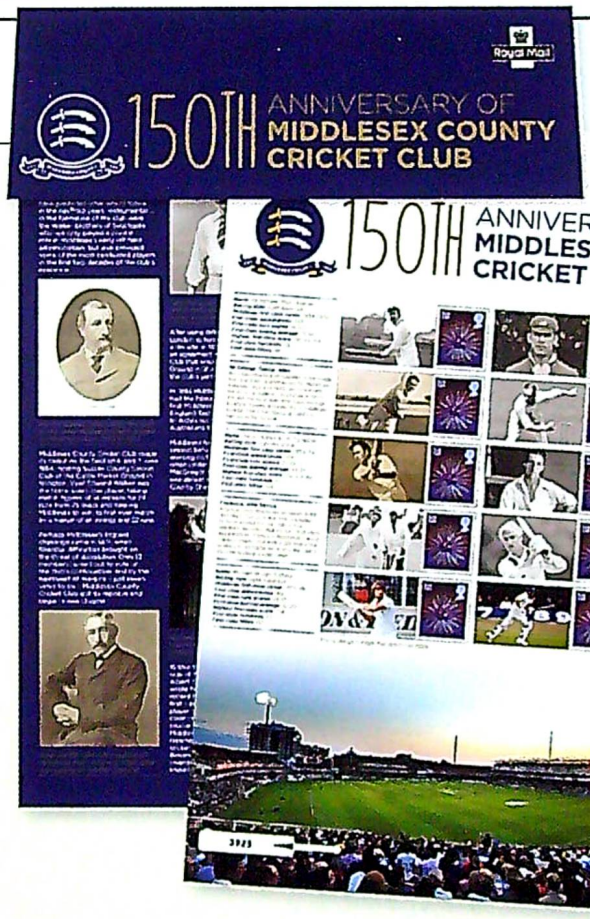
Neil Sinclair, by email





Martyn Fry's article was fact-checked against the information on the relevant Classic Locomotives Presentation Pack inserts, as these are known to have been approved by a number of experts. We now learn that after the stamps were printed, Royal Mail was alerted to the incorrect caption on the stamp and engine reference in the Presentation Pack. And thus we have inadvertently repeated the error.

Thank you for your letter and photographs – and of course for those observations on the Highland Railway Society Chatline. We will aim for a picture-perfect article the next time we feature the Classic Locomotives stamp series.



We are pleased to feature this philatelic tribute to Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar alongside the MCCC cricket stars featured on the new sheet.

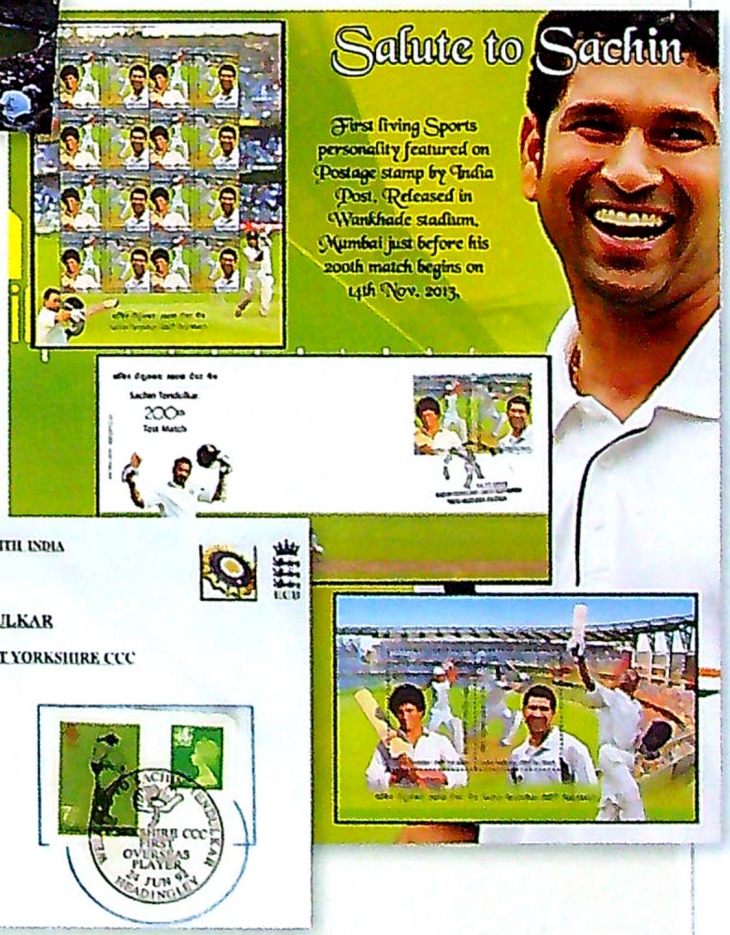
Regarded as the greatest batsman in modern cricket, Tendulkar retired last November after becoming the only player to complete more than 30,000 runs in the international game. The Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, was conferred on Tendulkar last month. He is the first ever sportsperson to be honoured in this way and, at 40, the youngest ever recipient of the award.

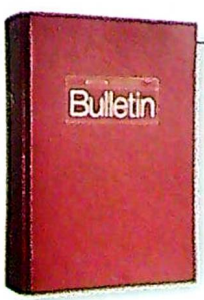
Great catches for cricket fans

With the issue of the Middlesex County Cricket Club Commemorative Sheet in February, I thought your readers might be interested in the set of stamps featuring Sachin Tendulkar. The stamps have proved very popular here in India – they were released just before Tendulkar's 200th match on 14 November 2013 in Mumbai, and they are the first stamps issued by India Post to feature a living sports personality.

I also enclose the Headingley stamp cancellation that welcomed a 19-year-old Sachin Tendulkar as Yorkshire County Cricket Club's first ever overseas player in 1992.

Pradip Jain, India





Keep the letters coming...

The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive philatelic delights as a thank-you. The writer of the 'First-class letter' receives the *Bulletin* binder.

Send your letters to: William Doherty, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Remember that you can also send emails to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

Royal Mail News Marines sheet, charity choir fundraiser and Classic Children's TV success



By Sea, By Land Commemorative Sheet A new Commemorative Sheet issued on 25 March marks the 350th anniversary of the Royal Marines. This striking sheet, shown left, comprises ten first-class Union Flag stamps with labels showing the regiment in action during historic conflicts – including the First and Second World Wars and The Falklands.

A quotation beneath the stamps, from the unit's Captain General, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, reads: 'The whole value and essence of Royal Marines Commandos is that they can undertake any kind of military or security job under any conditions anywhere in the world at a moment's notice.'

The sheet is backed by a handsome information card, which has been produced in consultation with the official historians of the Royal Marines. For philatelic specifications, see page 189 of February *Bulletin*. Sheet price: £14.95 •



Who fans please note The popular Doctor Who stamps and stamp products will be withdrawn from sale on 26 March. This is in accordance with the contractual agreement between Royal Mail and the BBC •

Sounds great! The Royal Mail choir raised £50,000 for Prostate Cancer UK, the Royal Mail Group's Charity of the Year. The sum includes penny for penny matched giving by Royal Mail Group and will help Prostate Cancer UK's vital work in supporting men and their families affected by the disease. See more at www.royalmailgroup.com •

Classic Children's fun The winners of the Classic Children's TV competition, organised in association with iChild to celebrate the launch of the January stamp issue, will be announced on Friday 7 March. A wide range of Classic Children's TV activity packs for children, including Bagpuss lyric sheets and a Bob the Builder stamp template, are downloadable from www.ichild.co.uk •





Residential palace A lavish new issue pays tribute to Buckingham Palace – the centre of court life and a glorious royal home

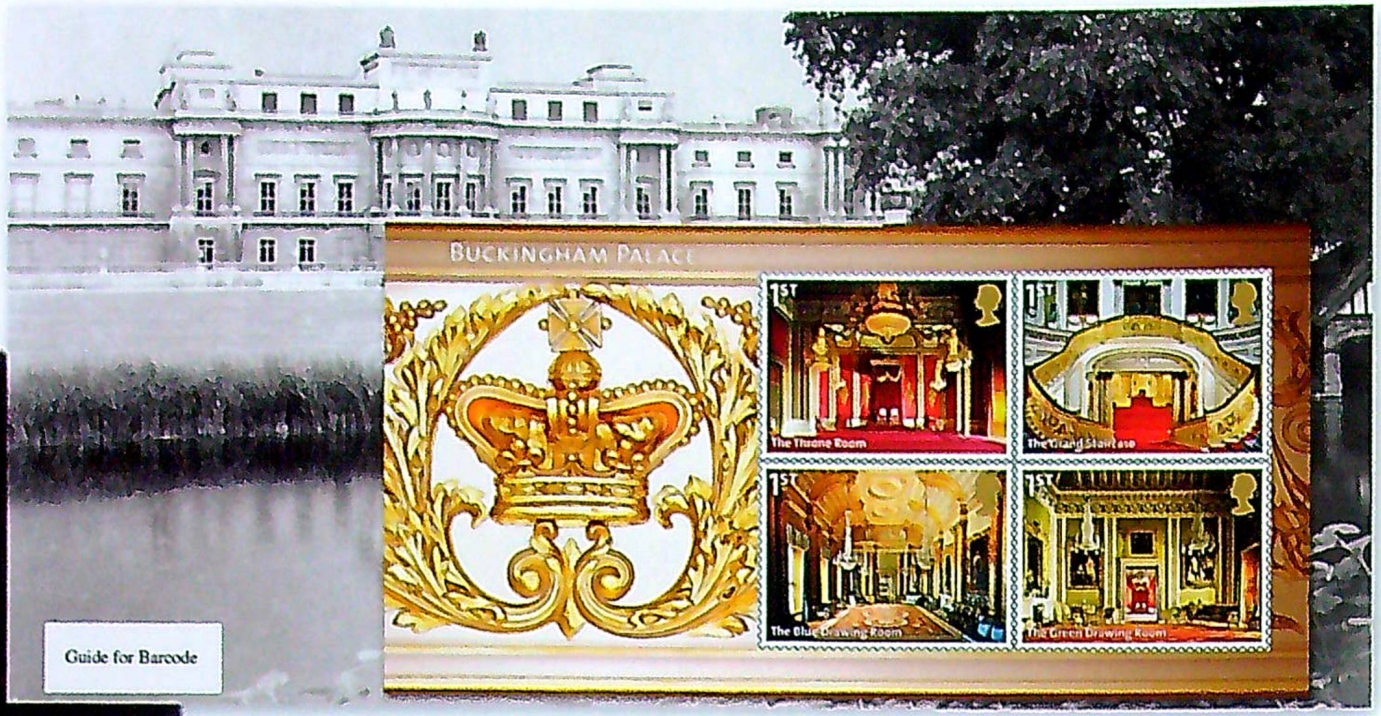
THE WORLD'S most famous palace is celebrated in a sumptuous new issue released on 15 April. Six stamps colourfully record the 300-year history of Buckingham Palace – from its origins as an elegant 18th century mansion called Buckingham House to its present role as the centrepiece of the British monarchy. They show majestic exterior views of the Palace, revealing how it has been developed over the centuries. Three of the stamps feature Buckingham House in 1700, 1714 and 1819, and the rest portray Buckingham Palace in 1846, 1862 and 2014. Four stamps on the Miniature Sheet reveal the lavish interior.

All ten stamps in the issue are First Class and the contemporary view of Buckingham Palace is a Royal Mail-commissioned picture painted in watercolour and gouache by architectural artist Chris Draper.

The Palace site originally featured the home of the Earl of Arlington but in 1698 John Sheffield (who became Duke of Buckingham in 1703) ▸

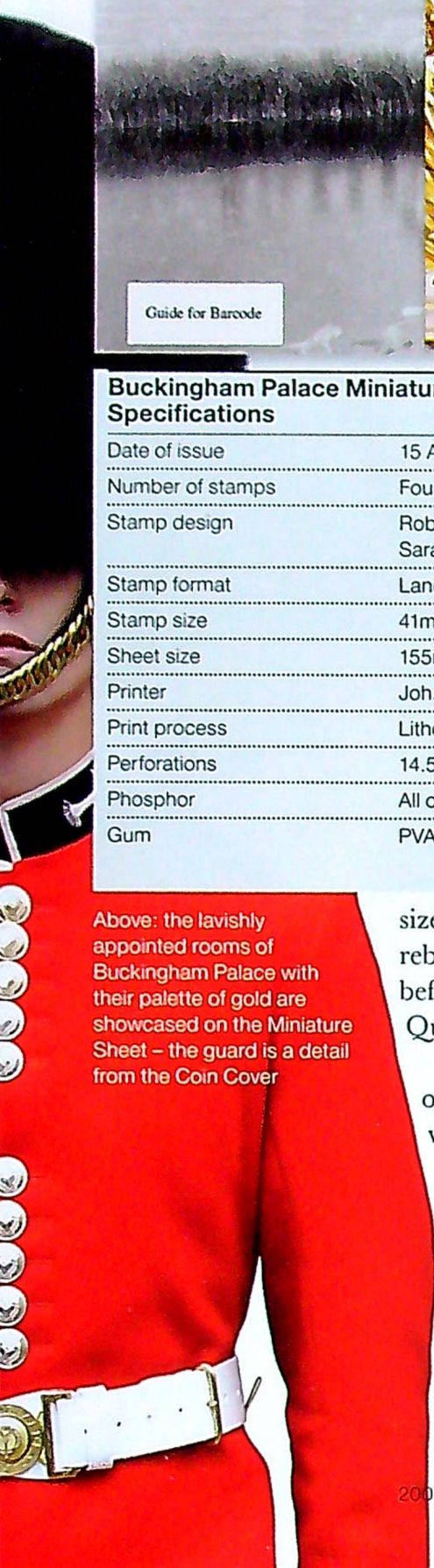
Buckingham Palace Stamps – Specifications

Date of issue	15 April
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Howard Brown
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	36
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



Buckingham Palace Miniature Sheet – Specifications

Date of issue	15 April
Number of stamps	Four
Stamp design	Robert Maude and Sarah Davies
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Sheet size	155mm x 74mm
Printer	Joh. Enschedé Stamps
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



Above: the lavishly appointed rooms of Buckingham Palace with their palette of gold are showcased on the Miniature Sheet – the guard is a detail from the Coin Cover

bought it, demolishing the building and constructing a grand brick house consisting of a three-storey block and flanking pavilions. This grand plan of Buckingham House would be the core of the future Palace.

The building was purchased in 1761 by King George III after his marriage to Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburgh-Strelitz. It was to be used as a family home conveniently close to St James's Palace, which would remain the seat of the royal court. When Queen Charlotte moved there in 1775, the residence was called the Queen's House. Later George IV commissioned the legendary architect John Nash to remodel this grand house into a true palace: the main block was doubled in size, with a set of new rooms on the garden side. The flanking wings were rebuilt, and the building was wrapped in Bath stone. But George died in 1830 before he could move in. William IV also died before taking up residence, so Queen Victoria was the first sovereign to live at Buckingham Palace.

Victoria moved there in July 1837, and it has been the official London home of British monarchs ever since. She had a new front facing the Mall built, which featured a balcony for Royal public appearances. From here she greeted her troops before and after the Crimean War. Victoria and Prince Albert loved dancing, and they added a ballroom on the Palace's south side.

Edward VII had the interior redecorated in white and gold – he wanted to create an opulent setting for a glittering court life, and he achieved his goal. Since then, the Palace has survived two World Wars to be, today, the focus of national celebrations, visits by heads of state marked by a gold-plate banquet for almost 200 guests, investitures in the Ballroom, and three garden parties every summer. Indeed, the



Miniature Sheet shows what a fine setting the Palace is. Featured are the most opulent of its 775 rooms: the Throne Room, Grand Staircase, the Blue Drawing Room and the Green Drawing Room.

Clockwise from top: Miniature Sheet with elegant views of the Palace; the three 'royal' handstamps; the Retail Stamp Book with two special stamps

Room by room On the Miniature Sheet, you 'enter' the Palace via the Grand Staircase stamp: this magnificent set of curving marble stairs, in the Grand Hall, is one of the first features seen by visitors to the Royal residence. On the Throne Room stamp, an archway guarded by winged victory figures bearing garlands accommodates the chairs of state. Leading to the Throne Room is the Green Drawing Room, which was originally the Duchess of Buckingham's saloon. The Blue Drawing Room hosted the first State Ball in May 1838. ▸



Buckingham Palace Retail Stamp Book – Specifications

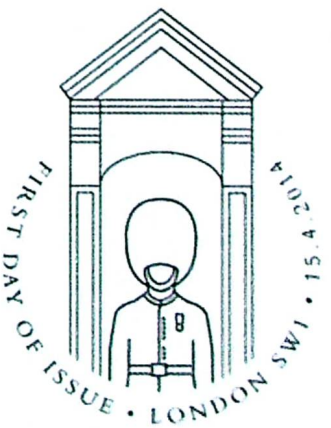
Date of issue	15 April
Number of stamps	2 x 1st Class Buckingham Palace, 4 x 1st Class Machins
Printer	Walsall Security Printers
Print process	Gravure



FD1412TH

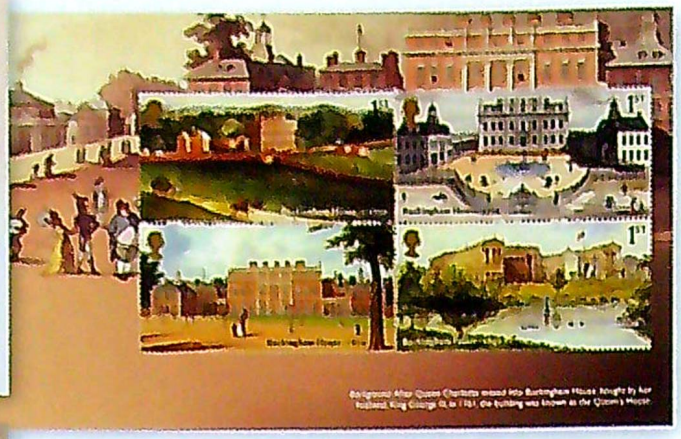


FD1412NP



FD1412PL











Above: the Prestige Stamp Book's cover and its four panes

Buckingham Palace Prestige Stamp Book – Specifications

Date of issue	15 April
Number of stamps	Pane 1: 4 x 1st Class; Pane 2: 4 x 1st Class; Pane 3: Definitives – 2 x £1, 2 x 10p, 2 x 20p; Pane 4: 4 x 1st Class
Design	So
Stamp size	30mm x 32mm
Sheet size	192mm x 74mm
Print process	Lithography

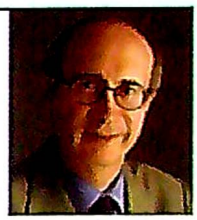
Also in the issue There is a First Day Cover, Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards, Retail Stamp Book and Coin Cover.

The Retail Stamp Book contains the Grand Staircase and the Throne Room stamps and four first-class Machins.

The panes of the Prestige Stamp Book carry more in-depth information about the architectural history of the Palace and also touches on its present use. The text is written by leading architectural historian Dr Geoffrey Tyack and the book is designed by So.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 15 April. The Tallents House postmark reads 'SW1A 1AA', the Buckingham Palace postcode (and surely the country's most prestigious) in a suitably ornate copperplate script. An alternative pictorial postmark shows a busby-wearing Palace sentry and the alternative non-pictorial has a London SW1 code •

Stamp Scene John Holman keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world



UK diary dates

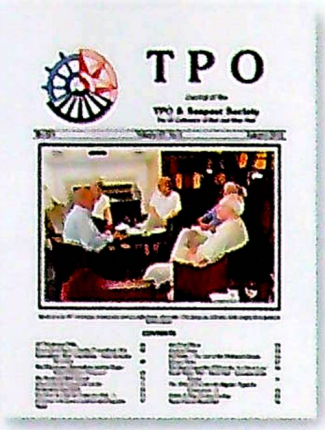
1 March Streetly Philatelic Society Annual Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4.30pm. 16 dealers. Admission 20p. Information: B Hyner, 0121 357 5340.
13 March Inverness Philatelic Society display on Solomon Islands by Robin Munro, Haugh Community Centre, 7pm.
14-15 March Salisbury Stamp Fair, Five Rivers Leisure Centre, Hulse Road, Salisbury SP1 3NR, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm.
21 March Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1, 9am to 4pm. Between 20 and 30 dealers. Information: 020 8946 4480, www.stampshows.net.
29 March GB Philatelic Society joint meeting with Cinderella Stamp Club, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, 11am.
30 March Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society Stamp & Postcard Fair, Langley Park School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, 9.30am to 3.30pm.
10 April Inverness Philatelic Society display: Postal History, Postcards & Latest Additions, Haugh Community Centre, 7pm.
11-12 April Scottish Philatelic Congress, Dewar Centre, Perth.
25 April Strand Stamp Fair, as above.
26 April GB Philatelic Society displays: The 1841 Twopence (Jane Moubray, 11am) and QEII Wildings (Mike Osborne, 2.15pm), Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1.
27 April Telephone & Post Office Vehicle Gathering, Milton Keynes Museum, McConnell Drive, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5EL, 11am to 4.30pm. Information: www.povehclub.org.uk.

Society publications

The main feature in the January/February issue of *The GB Journal* from the GB Philatelic Society is about the samples of Ford's blotting paper in GB stamp booklets of the 1930s. The samples can be found in a range of colours. David Slattery looks at inks of the Queen Victoria Penny Red, and Austin Barnes and Edward Klempka write on the 'Dollis Hill Find' of Wilding experimental phosphor material from the estate of the late Charles Forster. Sent out with the Journal is the January/February issue of the *GBPS Newsletter* with good illustrated write-ups of recent displays that include much useful information. It is the last *Newsletter* edited, in his own idiosyncratic style, by Howard Hughes before handing over the task to Paul Ramsay.



The December 2013 issue of the *Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society of GB Newsletter* contains news of the Society's activities as well as a number of short features. These include information on the slogan postmarks for the finalists in Royal Mail's Christmas stamp design competition, with images of their designs and the issued stamps. There is news of Calthorpe House, the planned new home for the BPMA, and information on the Europhilex exhibition in London next year. The Society is open to all collectors working in, or retired from, ▸



insurance or banking. Information: Dudley Baker, 25 Bunbury Way, Downs View, Epsom KT17 4JP, Dudley.baker1@ntlworld.com.

The Winter 2013 issue of *TPO*, the journal of the TPO & Seapost Society, includes features on the first GPO mobile post office, a report on plans for the TPO service during the Second World War, recent discoveries of TPO postmarks and the London & Holyhead TPO, as well as articles on non-British material. The Society has recently lost its Honorary Life President Roger Hosking, and no doubt tributes will be published in the next issue. The Society will hold a convention in York on 19 July. Information: Julian H Jones, 19 Richmond Lane, Romsey SO51 7LB.

The *Newsletter of the British Royal Portraits Stamp Group* records issues depicting royalty. The Autumn 2013 issue includes stamps marking the 60th anniversary of The Queen's Coronation, the birth of Prince George and the new King of the Netherlands as well as stamps, which continue to be issued, featuring Diana, Princess of Wales. Information: Allan Rendle, 23 More Close, St Paul's Court, London W14 9BN, email allrendle@hotmail.com •

Exhibitions



The popular Scottish Philatelic Congress will be held at the Dewar Centre, Perth, on 11 and 12 April. The first Congress was held 90 years ago in Glasgow. This will be the 85th Congress and hosted by the Scottish Postal History Society, which was formed in 1978 and has some 200 members. The Congress will include the National Exhibition, Open and Pictorial Postcard class competitions, and a range of dealers in stamps and postal history. A Congress cover will be available commemorating Gleneagles Hotel and a postcard marking the centenary of the start of the First World War.

The 2014 Philatelic Congress of GB will take place in Ypres from 11 to 14 July, making a rare excursion outside Britain. The only international stamp exhibition in 2014 will be held in Seoul from 7 to 12 August •

Stamp-related exhibitions

The main anniversary of 2014 will, of course, be the centenary of the start of the First World War, with Royal Mail issuing stamps on 28 July. The Imperial War Museum is leading over 1,600 local, regional, national and international organisations with an impressive series of exhibitions, talks and events – details of which can be found on the Museum's website.

Royal Mail issued a stamp featuring Benjamin Britten in the Great Britons set in April 2013 and a coin cover marked the centenary of his birth on 22 November. A small display, 'Benjamin Britten: A life in Pictures', can be seen in Room 31 at the National Portrait Gallery until 30 June.

Royal Mail's Remarkable Lives issue on 25 March includes a stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of Dylan Thomas's birth. A number of events are marking the centenary: see www.dylanthomas100.org for details.

In 1996 we published *Bulletin Publication No 3* to mark the issue of the Robert Burns stamps. We were privileged to reproduce a Burns manuscript by permission of the National Library of Scotland. The manuscript shown was from the Glenriddell Collection and items from this collection are on display at the Library until 30 March (open Monday to Friday 10am to 8pm, Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 2pm to 5pm).



This year marks the 300 anniversary of the last monarch of the House of Stuart and the first of the House of Hanover, respectively Queen Anne and King George I. They were shown in the Kings & Queens issues of June 2010 and September 2011. An exhibition, 'The First Georgians: Art & Monarchy 1714-60', opens in the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace on 11 April and continues until 12 October. The Royal Mint has announced a £5 commemorative coin marking the 300 anniversary of the death of Queen Anne •

New catalogues

Stanley Gibbons has published new editions of several catalogues: *Collect Channel Islands & Isle of Man Stamps* (29th edition, £29.95), *Falkland Islands* (6th edition, £16.95), *Western Pacific* (3rd edition, £27.95), *Collect British Postmarks* (9th edition, £32.95), and *Commonwealth Simplified* (5th edition, two volumes £79.95). All are available from the Stanley Gibbons shop at 399 Strand, London WC2 and by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Publications, 7 Parkside, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH, 0800 611 622 (UK only), or orders@stanleygibbons.com •

BPMA

The British Postal Museum & Archive, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on Saturday 8 March and 12 April, 10am to 5pm (but closed Mondays 10 March and 14 April). On show at Freeling House is a display of photographs of Mail Rail, the famous Post Office Underground Railway built to carry mail between sorting offices beneath the London streets in the 1920s. The 'Post Office in the Community' display can be seen at Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire, and 25 online exhibitions on the BPMA website include Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes.

Also at Freeling House, until 5 April, is a two-panel display relating to the centenary of Postage Due stamps introduced in 1914 to help combat the problem of uncollected revenue, which had been a source of concern to the Post Office for some time. The stamps were created by the engraver George Eve (1855-1914), with the design remaining the same for over half a century. The Postage Due display will be available to groups and societies for free hire – email the BPMA's Dominique Gardner at dominique.gardner@postalheritage.org.uk or call on 020 7354 7287 for more details.

A BPMA touring exhibition about the Great Train Robbery of August 1963 can be seen at the Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire, from 30 March to October. For more on BPMA displays and events, contact the BPMA for a copy of its comprehensive Events Guide on 020 7239 2570, at info@postalheritage.org.uk, or via www.postalheritage.org.uk.

A talk, 'The London Postal Map' by Helen Kearney, will be held at Freeling House on 6 March (7pm); 'Jobs for Heroes' (relating to the First World War) by Helen Dafter is on 10 April (7pm). Tickets, costing £3, should be booked in advance. A tour of the BPMA Archive will be held on 9 April (3pm, suggested donation £2), and tours of the BPMA Store at Debden, Essex, take place on 5 March (1pm), 2 April (1pm), and 7 May (10am and 1pm). Suggested donation is £5. These tours are popular so book in advance •

New from the islands



Above: Post & Go stamps featuring the Jersey flag, first issued at Stampex last month

Below: Jersey Post's vibrant Musical Instruments set released on 25 March

Jersey Post & Go Jersey has released its first ever Post & Go issue – and the six stamps feature the island's flag. The set covers local, UK, Europe and international postage tariffs, and the stamps bear unique identification numbers according to the machine and session number of where they were issued.

Launched at Spring Stampex on 19 February by the Jersey Philatelic Bureau, the issue feature a Presentation Pack and First Day Covers printed on a 'B Series' Back Office machine.

The Jersey flag depicted on the stamps shows the red saltire on a white field and in the upper quadrant the red crest of Jersey, with the three leopards of Normandy, surmounted by a gold crown.

The stamps can be ordered online at www.jerseystamps.com •



Europas and more Jersey's next pictorial issues comprise four Europa stamps depicting musical instruments, designed by Mark Wilkinson, on 25 March, followed by six stamps and a Miniature Sheet for the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth on 23 April. Information: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, www.jerseystamps.com.

Guernsey's next issues will be in May. The Europa set on the theme of musical instruments will be issued on 8 May, followed by an issue marking 50 years of Britain in Bloom on 28 May. On the same day a Bayeux Tapestry issue for Alderney will go on sale. For more details contact Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS, or see philatelic@guernseypost.com •

Stamp images: Royal Mail, Jersey Post, Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Isle of Man Stamps

Red Arrows tribute A set of six stamps celebrating the 50th display season of the Red Arrows was issued by Isle of Man Stamps and Coins on 19 February. Created in association with the Ministry of Defence, the stamps depict the Red Arrows squadron in its signature formation, conveying the speed, agility and precision of the world-famous synchronised aerobatics team. To date the Red Arrows have performed over 4,500 displays worldwide, in 55 countries.



Left: the recently issued Isle of Man stamps commemorating the Red Arrows. They include images of the world-famous 'diamond nine' formation and the trademark red, white and blue smoke trails



On 4 April the Isle of Man issues stamps honouring Manx designer Archibald Knox (in conjunction with Manx National Heritage), followed by a Rare Breeds set on 15 April and an issue commemorating the Battle of Clontarf on 23 April.

For more information: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, www.iomstamps.com •

Games for anything

Rebel artist, gadget inventor, and the creator of historic stamps – Abram Games could do it all. Meet the cockney socialist who shocked the establishment with his work and became one of the best graphic designers of the 20th century



Top: veteran designer Abram Games had a 60-year career

Above: the Games stamp in the Remarkable Lives issue

His wartime propaganda posters are classics, as is the brilliant commercial art he produced for major national and global players such as Shell, BEA, the United Nations, the *FT*, the RSC, *The Times*, Guinness, Penguin, the Savoy and the GPO. He also created the Festival of Britain emblem, which has become a graphic icon, and produced the BBC's first animated logo.

Now Abram Games's spectacular 60-year career is celebrated with his own stamp in the Remarkable Lives issue released this month. There is plenty to celebrate among his philatelic designs alone. He created iconic stamps for the 1948 London Olympic Games and for the Festival of Britain in 1951 and carried out commissions for Jersey and Israel's postal services. The fascinating Remarkable Lives includes a Facsimile Pack with replicas of the iconic Festival of Britain stamp (see page 214). Aside from his stamp

work, Games was a poster artist extraordinaire. His striking visual style, with its strong whiff of Surrealism and Futurism, won him an OBE in 1957 and an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Art two years before his death in 1996. Design critics have praised Games's trademark airbrush technique (he even used an airbrush to sign cheques) and smart blending of typography and images: words form an integral part of the picture and dynamically deliver the poster's message, making his work instantly recognisable decades after his death.

All this from the son of a poor Jewish immigrant father from Latvia and seamstress mother who once had so little money for art materials that he would sketch ideas on the white card of hat box lids. Humble beginnings, indeed, for an artist who would one day be so successful.



Above: two of Games's posters – the tiger promoting London Zoo and the 'every 90 seconds' ad for the Tube – appeared on the 2012 London Underground Miniature Sheet

A star is drawn 'I have a small talent which I polish like a diamond,' Games was fond of saying, but he was underselling himself. It was a large talent and always rather brilliant – not that his early years would offer much of an inkling of his great potential. Born in London's East End in 1914, this Jewish cockney was dubbed Michelangelo by fellow primary school pupils because he was always doing sneaky drawings in class. Yet he was later told by his secondary school headmaster: 'To be an artist you need talent and you haven't got it.' He was advised to be a bank clerk.

Never much interested in stuffy authority, Games ignored the advice and left school, persuading his parents to pay for study at St Martin's School of Art. Unimpressed by the teaching there, he withdrew from full-time classes after two terms to plough his own artistic furrow.

This rebellious streak and independence of thought were clearly trademark traits. As were his large reserves of energy: Games attended life drawing classes four nights a week and only considered a journey to have been worthwhile if he had completed six designs by the end of it. His first job was at the Askew Younge art studio in the Strand in 1932, but he spent his lunch hours studying for a way out: he would haunt art galleries and ▸

Below: a Games poster design advertising the FT



© Estate of Abram Games (www.abramgames.com)

Life and career

1914
Born in London's East End and attends schools in Clapton and Hackney (right, centre).



1930
Attends St Martin's School of Art full-time but changes to evening classes only.

1932
Becomes studio boy at the Askew Younge agency in the Strand, and is sacked in 1936.

1936
Games forges freelance career and clients include Shell and BP.





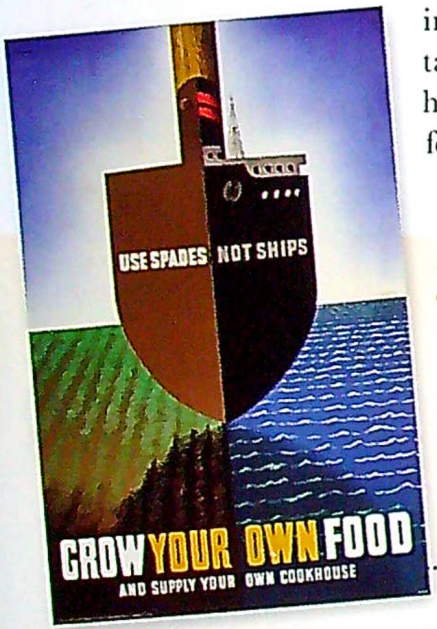
Above: the ATS 'Blonde Bombshell' recruiting poster that was too racy for MPs

Below: Games's poster asks troops to grow their own and take the pressure off Britain's beleaguered supply convoys

even draw corpses at the Royal College of Surgeons. Indeed, he did not plan to stay at Askew Younge forever: he was too much his own man to work for other designers (he loathed it). And too rebellious – Games often clashed with management, and after a dressing-down he would leave the boss's office muttering, 'When the revolution comes...' He was sacked in 1936 when he was caught attempting to jump over four office chairs. His wildness was all too much for the stiff-necked corporate world. 'I went flying and my job went flying too,' Games later recalled.

His exit from Askew Younge was the making of Games. The young artist bombarded agencies and possible clients with his portfolio and soon he was getting commissions for posters. His design credo was simple: an image and its message had to be delivered simply, cleanly and clutter-free. Indeed, his personal motto was 'maximum meaning, minimum means'. Games, then, was now on his way to being a successful freelance, when his fledgling career suddenly took an unexpected turn with the outbreak of war. He would now create art for generals and spies...

A brush with the enemy As a Jew disturbed by stories of Nazi persecution coming out of Germany, Games was determined to be a combat soldier when he was called up in 1940. But the War Office was more interested in harnessing his skills with an airbrush than training him to use a rifle, and he spent the war creating 100 propaganda posters that bear some of his most striking images. MI5 was a client, with Games's careless talk posters warning powerfully against German spies. One, with the slogan 'Your talk may kill your comrades', shows soundwaves from a blabbermouth morphing into a bloody bayonet spearing three British soldiers. Others, recruiting for tank units and the paratroops, portrayed splendid, heroic soldiers seemingly hewn from granite. He also designed for the Home Front, with one poster, for example, encouraging Britons to knit socks for troops serving abroad.



1940
Games is called up and initially joins the infantry.

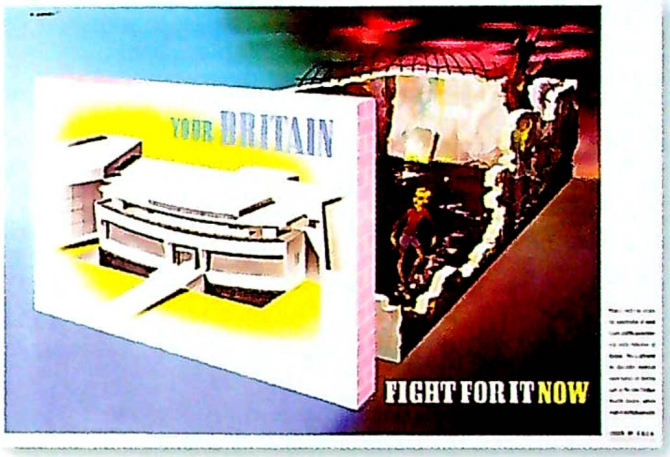
1941
Transferred to the War Office to design propaganda posters. He produces 100 posters by the war's end.



1945
Marries Marianne Salfeld. The couple go on to have three children (left).

1946
Games resumes design work and lectures at the Royal College of Art.

As in civilian life, Games did not escape controversy. His now iconic 1941 poster for the women's Auxiliary Territorial Service featured a beautiful blonde recruit (nicknamed 'The Blonde Bombshell') and her suitability was fiercely debated in Parliament. One outraged female MP said the poster was more like a beauty advert and it was withdrawn. A morale-boosting poster of 1942, entitled 'Your Britain – Fight For It Now', shows a boy with rickets in bombed ruins next to a brand-new health centre. Its message is clear: victory will bring new hope in a transformed Britain. But Winston Churchill was dismayed, believing the rickets image hinted at an uncaring pre-war Tory government, and banned the poster.



Above: the 'rickets' poster that shook Winston Churchill enough to have it banned

Below: the Festival of Britain emblem became a ubiquitous symbol of our modern nation

They call me Olympic Games Games's nascent career recovered quickly after the war, and one of his flagship commissions was to design the 3d value in the four-stamp set for the 1948 Olympics. He won the job, along with the great Edmund Dulac and two other artists, after a competitive pitch. The other three designs were rather busy, rather traditional, with classical laurel leaves on them. On Dulac's 1s value a winged Victory figure seemed to have flitted from an Olympia of ancient Greece; in contrast, the Games image is truly future-facing with plenty of contemporary space giving focus to the modernist-style athlete's face soaring from a zooming earth.

The Post Office's press release to accompany the issue's launch on 29 July 1948 was spot-on when it said of his design: 'The horizontal drawing of the athlete and the lines running from him express the movement and vitality of the Games.' Sales of his stamp amounted to over 32.5 million, and the press happily dubbed the 34-year-old designer 'Olympic Games'. They were right. He was a champion designer in the making.

Abram's art Festival The 1951 Festival of Britain was a celebration of British culture, art, science, technology and industrial design. It also celebrated, in a way, the artistic and professional achievements of Abram Games. Now married with children, he was chosen to design the emblem of the show – and came up with the much-loved Britannia-with-bunting bust. Combining the symbol of the nation's strength in hallmark battle helmet with the happy ▸



© Estate of Abram Games (www.abramgames.com)



1947
Designs stamp for 1948 London Olympic Games.

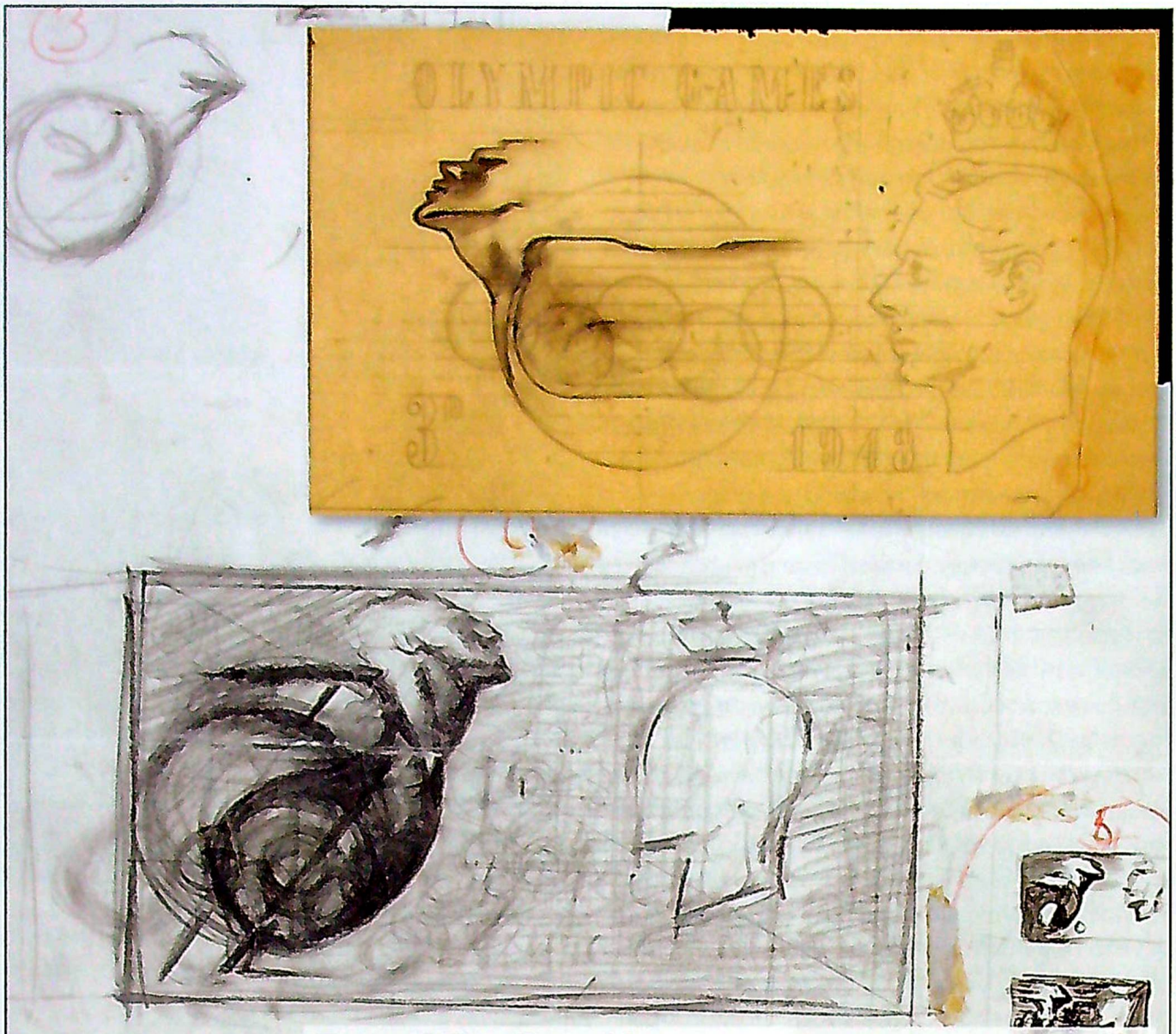
1948
Wins pitch to create emblem for the 1951 Festival of Britain.

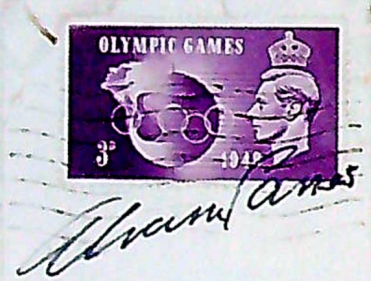


1950
Designs his first stamp for Israel. He will eventually produce six in total.

1951
His Festival of Britain stamp is released.

1956
Teaches stamp production and photogravure process in Israel.





Above: Games's planning sketches for the 1948 London Olympics stamp and the final product

Pure philatelic gold

Games's Olympics stamp was a masterpiece that grew in the drawing. The streamlined modernist head was originally a torch, but the artist gradually turned it into an athlete's sleek profile as he progressed his preliminary sketches.

There was still work to do, however, when he submitted the fully designed art. The GPO asked him to make the athlete's face and the speed lines coming from the earth more distinctive; the typography and The King's crown were also made more punchy. And it was worth it: Games's stamp scored critical success, with *The Stamp Mirror* gushing: 'A complete set from Mr Games would have been fascinating.'

Interestingly, there were no official first day covers or commemorative postmark for the Olympics set. Collectors had to rely on an enterprising merchant who had set up outside the Olympic Post Office at Wembley Stadium to sell covers.

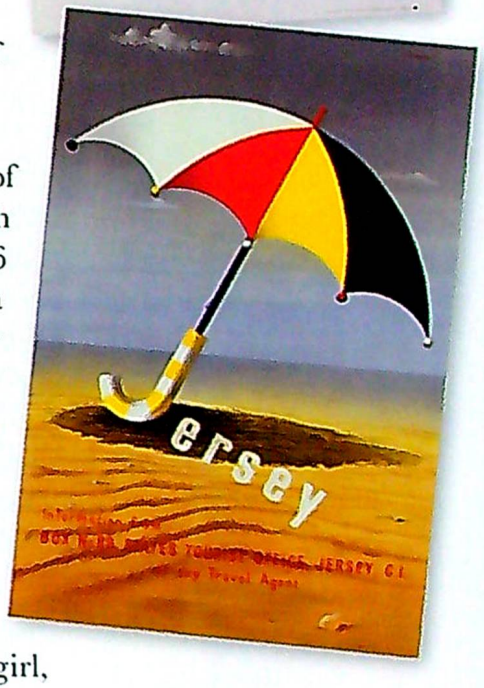
Also of note for GB and Olympic stamp collectors are a number of flaws, including a dark dot in The King's ear, a cut on his forehead, a break on the bottom edge of the crown, and a serif in the middle of the '3' of the value as opposed to a straight line.

© Estate of Abram Games (www.abramgames.com)

livery of a street party struck a chord across Britain. It appeared everywhere, way beyond the visual collateral of the show itself. On the 4d stamp Games designed to mark the Festival, on postmarks, on chocolate, sweet wrappers, even on toilet tolls, and it was carved into hills too. A medical friend of Games took him to a hospital to show him a 12-inch model of the symbol that had been built with over 600 gallstones collected from post mortem procedures. Ubiquitous and much celebrated the emblem may have been, but the roots of the design lay in a very domestic scene: Games said the bunting had been inspired by watching his wife Marianne hang out the washing.

With his Festival star riding high, Games was also selected to produce the Festival of Britain 4d value stamp (with his Festival emblem as the centre point) and Edmund Dulac the 2½d. The King approved their work on 27 February 1950. Interestingly, Games's composition is almost identical to that of his Olympics stamp. It is a neat bit of visual continuity that suggests Britain as the obvious venue for a succession of prestigious international events.





Above: posters for Guinness and Jersey tourism show his skill at combining typography with powerful visual work

Below: Games in later years with some of his posters

Post-war poster power His artistic reputation sealed by his Festival of Britain work, Games continued the success of his wartime work with advertising posters for the big corporates. His much-respected 1956 'Guinness G' poster, with the G wearing a bowler hat and enjoying a pint of black velvet, demonstrates his technique of blending typography with imagery. It also demonstrates his character. Lacking an idea for the commission, he took a bus to have a think and, inspired, drew his preliminary sketch for the poster on the back of his ticket.

This individualism paid dividends. When in 1951 Jersey tourism officials commissioned Games to do an ad poster, they asked him to include a pretty young woman in a bikini (they had their eyes on a tourist poster design competition). Instead Games did a sun parasol with the 'J' in Jersey represented by the curled parasol handle. But no girl, much to the dismay of the Jersey tourist board. When officials reminded him he had told them he could do the girl, Games replied: 'I said I could but I didn't say I would!' The design did, however, win the poster competition.

In 1958 the board asked again for a beach girl: again Games gave them a poster in the same style as before – a deckchair forming J for Jersey – with no bikini-clad beauty. Again, the poster was highly successful for the Board, enough for them to commission another several years ▸ *Continued on page 216*

1957
Awarded OBE.

1959
Appointed Royal Designer for Industry.

1965
Designs the Queen's Award to Industry logo.



1974
His Jersey tourism stamps issue is released.

1988
Wife Marianne dies.

1994
Becomes an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Art.

1996
Games dies on 27 August.



Clockwise from top: the new Facsimile Pack celebrating Games's Festival stamp; the stamp in close-up; one of the designer's preliminary pictures for the Festival emblem; the background for the page is a sheet of sketches by Games





New Games celebration

The Facsimile Pack released with the Remarkable Lives issue on 25 March holds four high-quality facsimiles of the 1951 Festival of Britain stamp created by Abram Games.

Designed by Webb & Webb and written by British Postal Museum & Archive curator Douglas Muir, the pack gives an overview of Games's work in general before focusing on his design of the Festival emblem and the special stamp that celebrated the Festival. The stamp neatly accommodates the emblem – with its much-loved and ubiquitous Britannia design.

Games won a commission to produce one of the two Festival of Britain stamps after a fierce competition: 15 artists had submitted 26 designs. (Six of the designs featured his Britannia symbol.) Originally his task had been to create a 3d value, but in the summer of 1950 the value was changed to 4d to accommodate a rise in the minimum overseas postage rate to 4d.

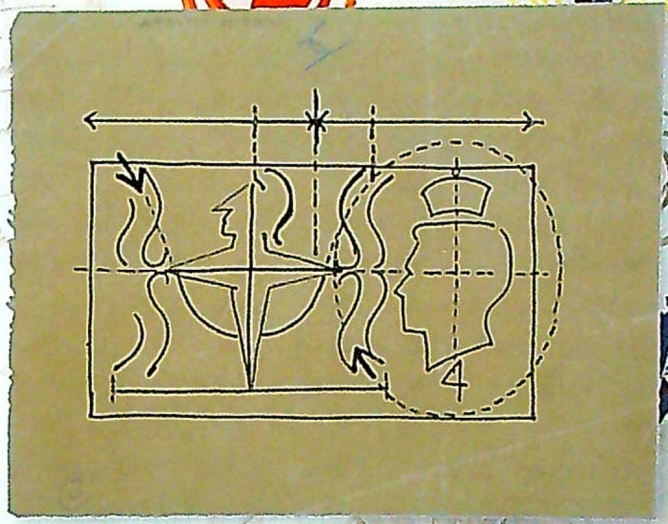
Ever the perfectionist, Games complained to the GPO after seeing a print proof of the stamps from Harrisons. He believed The King's Head was too light, and now clashed with the Britannia emblem. The GPO demurred, however, believing the lighter head was an improvement.

His stamp and Edmund Dulac's 2½d were issued on the first day of the Festival, 3 May 1951. Sales for the Games Festival of Britain stamp were over 22 million. For his efforts, Games received 40 guineas for the original design and an extra 160 guineas for its being selected.

The Remarkable Lives Facsimile Packs costs £5.95 and is available online at www.royalmail.com/stamps and by phone or mail from Tallents House (contact details on page 194).



© Estate of Abram Games (www.abramgames.com)







Above: sketches for the Festival of Britain stamp

Left: the original design by Games before the stamp changed colour and value to the blue 4d

Below: a postcard with Games and Dulac stamps and special postmark





Above: the six stamps designed by Games for the Israeli postal service

Continued from page 213 ▸ later. Games also created a set of stamps for Jersey in 1974, and these were partly based on these poster images. The work won Games an international stamp design competition in Italy in 1976.

Games's post-war output was both prolific and breathtaking. He completed a number of posters for London Transport in the Sixties and Seventies. His 1975 poster for London Zoo, where a tiger's stripes seamlessly assimilate the London Transport roundel, appears on the £1.28 stamp in 2012's London Underground Posters Miniature Sheet. (His poster promoting the Tube, created in 1937, is featured on the 87p value.) Games also created six stamps for Israel from the Fifties to the Seventies, and visited the country to teach designers how to use the photogravure process for the Israeli postal service.

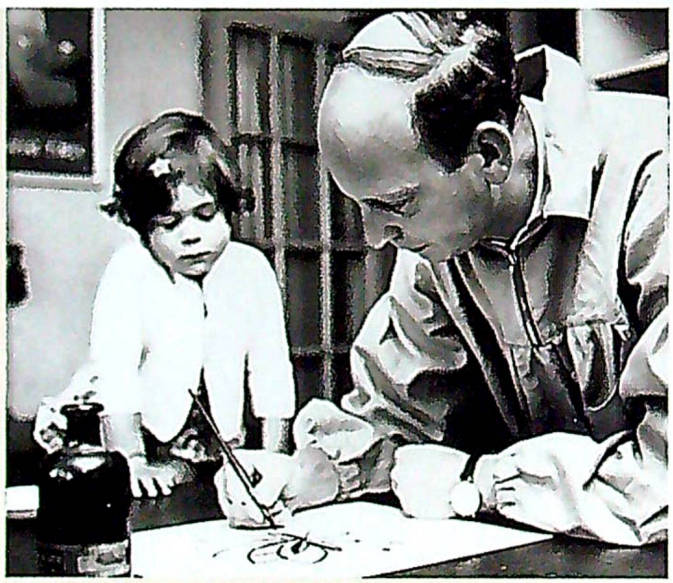
Between flagship poster commissions for the likes of the *Financial Times*, British European Airways, the RSC and visuals for the Savoy (ball invitations and Christmas cards) and others, he even found time to design a photocopier and a coffee machine. He was still working, albeit occasionally, into his 70s. Games even designed his own gravestone, a joint memorial for him and his wife: A for Abram and M for Marianne embrace to form a Star of David. His talent was truly a diamond that shone to the end •

A special slice of life

Abram Games's personality was as original as his art. When he once discovered a hole running through his loaf of bread, Games photocopied each slice, stored the offending 'slices' in a special file and complained to the bakery. His daughter Naomi (pictured right with Games) remembers in her book *Abram Games Design*: 'A file was opened and correspondence to the bakers began. He wrote: "I would have bought bagels if I had wanted holes!" He received an apology and a cheque for £1. He took no prisoners.'

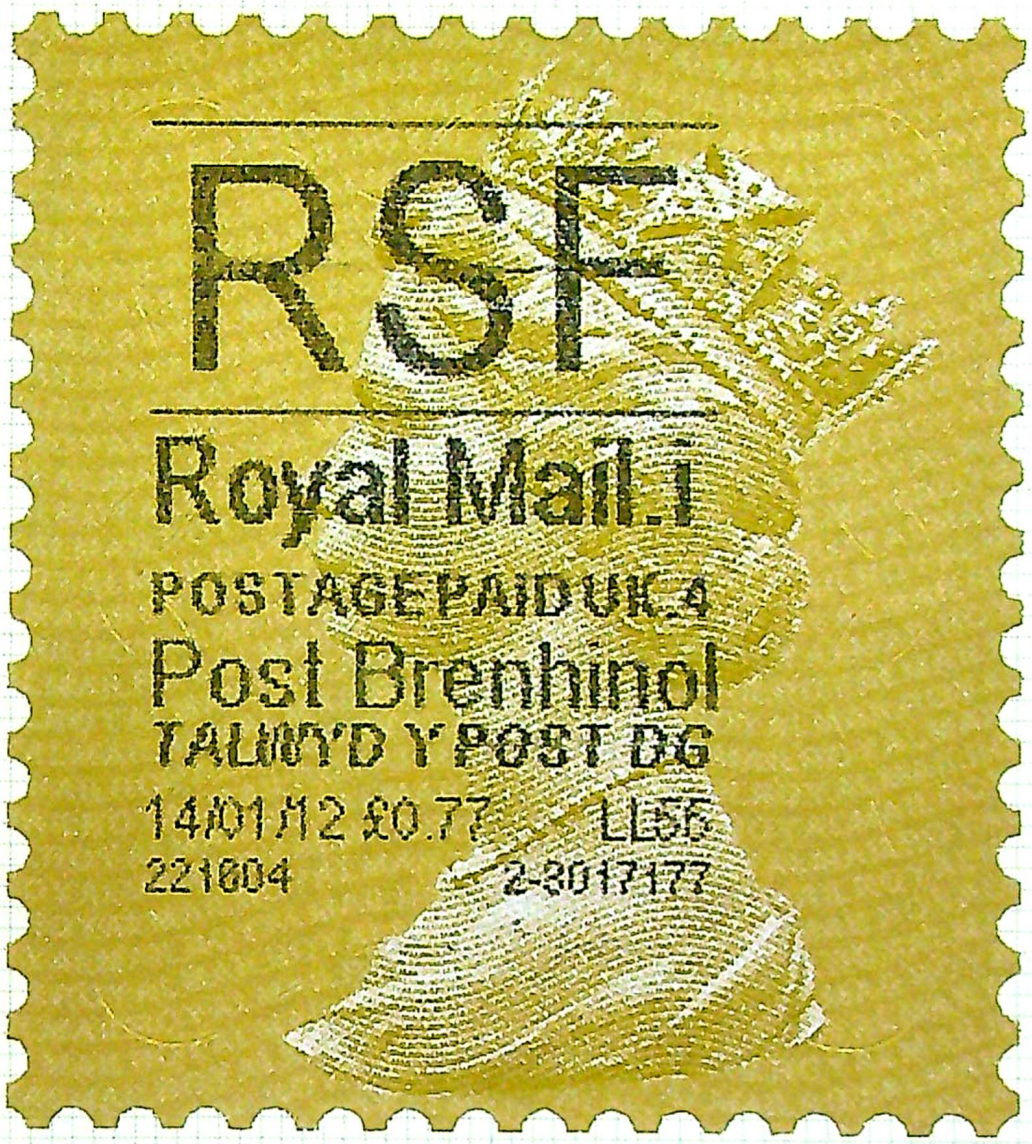
When he was working for Askew Younge on a clothing catalogue, an assistant spilled ink over a range of pink corsets. Kindly, quirky Abram came to the rescue by airbrushing the ink spots with pink paint and the client never discovered the disaster.

His work methods were pretty singular too: once a year Games went to bed for 24 hours to recharge, and emerged the next day refreshed and ready for action. Before a client saw them, he submitted design roughs to wife Marianne and their three children in the first instance. If the reaction was not obviously positive, Games would bin them and start again.



After completing a piece of work, he signed it 'A. Games' and hung it up for a week, asking for comments from his family. Only when approved would Games add a full point to his moniker. He was indeed a perfectionist through and through...

© Estate of Abram Games (www.abramgames.com)



1

Another view Douglas Myall takes you on a guided tour of VAT treatment of postal services

Value Added Tax (VAT) is a UK Government tax added to the price of most business transactions in the UK and applies to both goods and services. In line with the European Union's fundamental aim of the free movement of goods and services, it is a mandatory provision of European Union law that member countries must exempt the supplier of public postal services from the tax or its equivalent. In the UK, Royal Mail has always been regarded as the only such supplier and so the only body entitled to apply the exemption. All other postal operators licensed to carry mail must charge the standard rate of VAT, currently 20 per cent, on their services. This is so even where the delivery is effected by Royal Mail under the so-called 'final mile' system, whereby private operators are allowed access to its inward mail centre network.

This tax liability has led private operators to claim that as competitors of Royal Mail and operating in the same market, they are disadvantaged ▸

Beginner's guide to

Horizon labels

What? A Horizon label is an adhesive label that is used as a stamp after being printed with variable values by a Horizon machine.
When? Introduced in the UK in 2002, the first Horizon labels were plain white. Now they are gold (and are therefore sometimes called Gold Horizons), with a Machin head and a repeating pattern of the words 'Royal Mail'.
Why collect? For a start they are rather eye-catching, like huge golden stamps. And as the codes have become more complex, they are becoming a popular collecting specialism.
Not to be confused with Blue Horizon, the blues label founded by legendary producer Mike Vernon, who worked with John Mayall – not to be confused with Douglas Myall.
Find out more www.britishpostmarksociety.org.uk includes a potted Horizon history.

because they are not operating on a level playing field. In 2009, one private operator, TNT Post UK Ltd., challenged the legal scope of the UK exemption in an appeal to the European Court of Justice (ECJ). In its decision, the ECJ confirmed that Royal Mail is the only UK body able to apply the exemption because it is the sole universal provider of the public services. This arises from what is known as the Universal Services Obligation (USO) whereby Royal Mail is obliged under the terms of its license to deliver mail to any address in the UK at a public tariff that is uniform throughout the UK.

However, the ECJ also ruled that the exemption does not apply to supplies made by Royal Mail where the terms have been individually negotiated or are not subject to price control. Accordingly, some supplies which had hitherto been treated as exempt became liable to VAT. The necessary legislative changes were made under the Postal Services Act 2011 and came into effect on 1 October 2011.

Postal examples of VAT exemption This is not the place for a detailed list of Royal Mail exempt services but, provided there is no individual negotiation, it includes unused stamps of the present reign with a value of £1 or a multiple of £1, unused stamps in decimal currency or designated for first- or second-class postage on letters and small and medium parcels, signed for services such as Recorded Signed For, HM Forces mail sent through the British Forces Post Office, and the so-called terminal dues. These are payments made under mutual agreements between countries whereby they deliver each other's incoming mail from abroad, in effect sharing the amount paid by the sender. Terminal dues received from EU countries are exempt from VAT. Those received from non-EU countries are outside its scope. Stamped stationery that is unused and valid for postage is also exempt from VAT up to the face value of the stamps, whether these are printed or stuck on.

The Channel Isles are not, and never were, part of the United Kingdom. Accordingly, the USO does not apply to mail sent to those countries and the cost is liable to VAT. However, the current rate is zero.

Royal Mail 'tax code' In my article published in the January *Bulletin* I made a brief reference to the fact that the Horizon machines installed in post offices play an important accounting role. This was greatly enhanced from 26 September 2011, when the ability to take account of Value Added Tax was included. This was achieved by a system of alphanumeric codes for post office operations and by purely numeric codes for Parcelforce services. These codes are included in the information printed on the gold labels.

Each post office service is indicated by a different lower case letter. For example, a first-class letter is 'b', a first-class large letter is 'c', a first-class small or medium parcel is 'd', and so on. The numerical part of the post office VAT code indicates the liability. For post office services, this is a figure 4 if it is exempt from VAT, 5 if it is liable but zero rated and 6 if it is liable at the standard rate.

Some of the early perforated labels are still occasionally found in kiloware. A Welsh RSF label with code i4 is shown on the previous page (l). The normal



2



3

labels today have imperforate edges. Examples for the first- and second-class Medium Parcels services with codes d6 and g4 are shown above (2, 3).

The letter 'y' indicates the Special Delivery Guaranteed service. This offers two options, depending on whether the next working day delivery is required before 9am or 1pm. Saturday is not regarded as a normal working day in post offices so any SD mail posted on a Friday is usually delivered on the following Monday. It is often delivered on the Saturday but this is not guaranteed. To make sure of it, a small premium, currently £3, is payable. This is available for both delivery options. A special SG label (Saturday Guaranteed) is used to identify such mail (4).



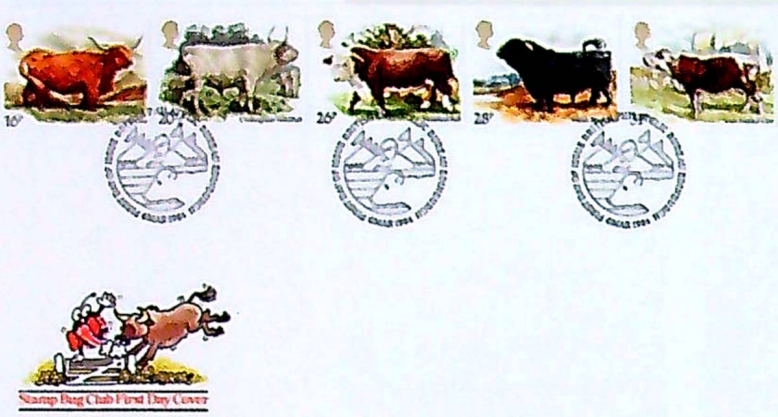
4

A change of identity On 11 February 2014 a software change was made to the Horizon system which divided the SD service into two groups with the indicia SD1 and SD9 according to the chosen time of delivery. This enabled the system to take account of the different application of VAT to these services. Delivery by 9am is a premium service and is always liable to VAT so SD9 labels do not exist with code y4; they will almost always show code y6. However, this service is available to Jersey (but not to Guernsey) so SD9 labels will exist with code y5. The delivery by 1pm service is available to both Jersey and Guernsey. The result is that SD1 labels exist with all three codes y4, y5 and y6, with y4 being the commonest.

Under certain conditions, articles which are specifically designed for blind or visually impaired people may be sent overseas by air free of charge. In such cases a Horizon label showing a payment of £0.00 is printed to avoid a charge being raised by the destination country as unpaid mail. Since the service is free, no VAT is payable •

Douglas Myall FRSPL is known for his exhaustive study of British definitive stamps since 1967. His catalogue, 'The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook', is one of the main reference books for Machin collectors and is available on CD from www.deegam.com

This Month in History Travel back three decades in stamp time, as John Holman revisits 1984 and a popular Barry Driscoll-designed animal set



Thirty years ago, on 6 March 1984, the Post Office issued five stamps featuring British cattle. Designed by Barry Driscoll (1926-2006), they featured the Highland Cow, Chillingham Wild Bull, Hereford Bull, Welsh Black Bull and the hornless Irish Moiled Cow, all set against a background of their natural habitat. On all five stamps, The Queen's silhouette was positioned at top left with the value at bottom left and the name of the breed at bottom right, making for a neat, uniform set of designs.

According to the *Bulletin* at the time, Mr Driscoll was selected as the designer 'because of his skills in relation to the subject'. He was a noted painter, wildlife artist and sculptor who had designed murals for London Zoo. The stamps were printed multicoloured – seven colours used for the 20½p and six for the other values – by Harrisons on phosphorised paper.











The British Cattle issue coincided with the centenary of the Highland Cattle Society and the bicentenary of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, which organised the first Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh in 1822. It was appropriate, therefore, that the most-used value – the 16p first-class letter rate – depicted a Highland Cow. A feature article on the Chillingham Wild Cattle of Northumberland was published in the March 1984 *Bulletin*.

The Royal Mail FDC featured an agricultural show rosette with a farmer and a Hereford Bull. Members of Royal Mail's Stamp Bug Club (for young collectors) were supplied with a free cover showing Stamp Bug being chased over a fence by a raging bull. Members could then affix stamps for whatever postmark they required.

As well as the Bureau first day postmark, covers were serviced with an alternative Oban, Argyll first day cancel or by 16 relevant sponsored special handstamps relating to cattle societies, livestock shows and other relevant subjects. The issue coincided with the opening day of Stampex, but the Stampex postmark was not related to the stamps as it depicted the Olympic flame – the 1984 Olympics being held in Los Angeles. The 28p is recorded postmarked in advance of the date of issue, at Ludlow, Salop on 3 March.

The National Postal Museum ran a farming-themed exhibition from 6 March until 4 May 1984, issuing a postcard showing the plan of the Cambridge Showyard where the Royal Agricultural Show was held in June 1894, together with the postmark used at the event. This was the first occasion that an official postmark was definitely used at an agricultural show. The card remained on sale at the Museum until the end of August 1984.

The 16p and 31p values exist imperf, and are both very rare. The Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue notes that part of the printing of the 16p had the sheets miscut so that the bottom pane appeared at the top and vice versa. Gutter pairs showing sheet margin inscriptions thus exist.

The stamps were withdrawn one year after issue, with quantities sold ranging from 6.3 million of the 31p to 36.5 million of the 16p ●

Collector Confidential Collecting is in John Studholme's blood – his parents met via philately and he 'borrowed' his first stamps from Dad

I STARTED COLLECTING STAMPS over 60 years ago, back in 1950 at the age of three and a half – yes, only three and a half! In my father's study, I saw some stamps on envelopes, and with a pair of scissors lying nearby, I cut them off two of the envelopes. I did not damage the stamps but, unknown to me, these were Hong Kong first flight covers. Luckily I only cut stamps off two of the set of eight.

My father could hardly reprimand me as I had not damaged the actual stamps (also, he should not have left them lying around!), and he naturally did not want to put me off my obvious interest in stamps at such a tender age.

It was inevitable that stamp collecting would be in my blood. When my father was stationed at Dundee in 1940 – a Royal Navy submarine commander and, seemingly, a 'confirmed bachelor' – he walked into a room and saw another naval officer swapping stamps with a Wren officer. He immediately took an interest in her, and she became my mother! Two aunts and a grandmother also collected stamps. Some cousins and family friends, aware of my interest in this, the 'World's Greatest Hobby', saved stamps for me.

Aged five, I used to go along to the local post office with my pocket money (3d a week) and put halfpenny coins in the slot machine to get the halfpence orange George VI stamps. My sisters wondered why I was wasting my pocket money on these stamps, but I still had enough left to buy a penny gobstopper. At school, I helped set up a stamp club, and with some other pupils coming from abroad (fathers being in the services stationed overseas), there was a fine selection of stamps circulating. My favourite subjects, geography and history, were certainly helped by my collecting stamps.

I joined the Scottish Philatelic Society when I was 16, at around the time I subscribed to the first edition (on A4 size paper) of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and, not surprisingly, I have kept up my subscription ever since.

I have never taken a break from collecting and, although it is difficult to encourage the younger generation, who seem addicted to computer games, at least one of my great-nephews is building up a nice collection of wildlife stamps, encouraged by his keen interest in animals and insects.

I am now a member of three different groups, and I have made many friends through our like-minded interests. It is great to see the wide diversity of other collectors' interests and how their collections are displayed. Every time I see someone's display, I discover something new: yes, one is never too old to learn more... •



Above: as a very young boy John Studholme spotted some stamps in his father's study – and his lifelong love of philately was born



Below: John holding the Walker Cup, awarded by the Scottish Philatelic Society in 1991 (and wearing a coveted NZ Post sweatshirt of the same year)

John Studholme is the Librarian and Curator of Forgeries at the Scottish Philatelic Society and a founder member and past Chairman (its second) of The Edinburgh Stamp Group. He is also a member of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain, whose Scottish section is due to host the Society's biennial long weekend in October 2014 in Glasgow.

Spring blooms quiz Let your stamp knowledge blossom



Test your Post & Go petal power:

1 The Spring Blooms stamps are are the work of which illustrator? a) Julia Trickey. b) Rick Dickey. c) Rose Hippey

2 Which produces a compound that works like anti-freeze to help survive harsh weather?

3 The placename of the pictorial first-day postmark is: a) Primrose Hill b) Violetown. c) Daffy Green?

How to enter: Send your answers, marked 'Spring Blooms Quiz' and/or 'March Xword' to: Bulletin Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Closing date: 18 April 2014. The first six correct entries drawn in each section after the closing date win the Spring Blooms Presentation Pack.

December Stamp Tree Puzzle Solution: Chris Wormell. *Winners* B Messer, London. A Pennington, Berks.

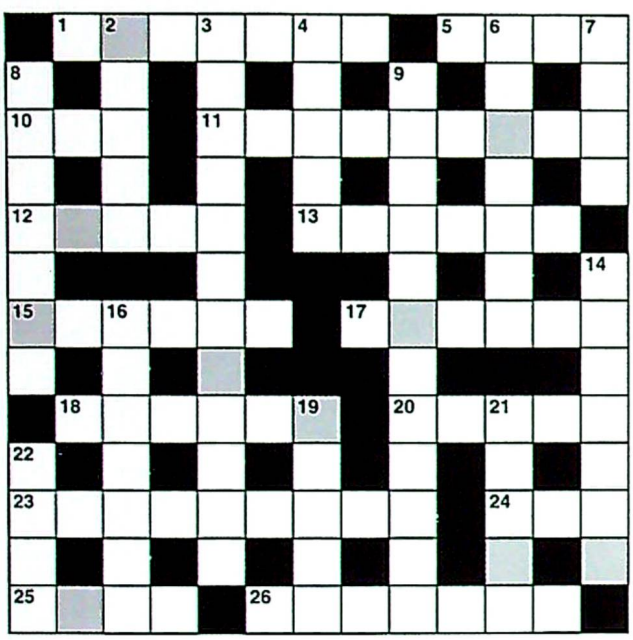
Stampstumper Solution: 10. *Winners* E Guy, N Yorkshire. K Bowcock, W Yorkshire.



Name That Stamp

Can you name and date the stamp from the magnified detail?

Crossword Complete the puzzle below, then rearrange the letters in grey squares to form a stamp-related word. Send that word, with your name and address, to 'March Xword' at the address above. The first six correct entries drawn after 18 April win Remarkable Lives Presentation Packs.



CLUES ACROSS

1 Reader one gives a hand to? (7)
5 Check through The Last Emperor (4)
10 Uphill rubbish (3)
11 Map lines joining island with mother's place (9)
12 Part of gun cleaned for relative (5)
13 Agent works endlessly (6)
15 'Artist in restaurant gets wine from it (6)
17 Light meal taken at home after petty quarrel (6))
18 Recovered right away when united (6)
20 Entire range of silver returned belly up (5)
23 Past eight? Prepare some Italian food (9)
24 Prude not right, the greedy person! (3)
25 Monster–there's but one! (4)
26 Meat that's beginning to smell lies in London (7)

CLUES DOWN

2 Loft's tacit conversion (5)
3 Find megalith vandalised on first journey (6,6)
4 Eat, and mock (5)
6 Disgusting thing to negotiate junction? (4 3)
7 Pungent scent first made by river (4))
8 Beat counter vigorously (7)
9 Vibrant colour very bad to attach to king (8,4)
14 Treading the boards, male only falls into one (2,5)
16 I learnt about trusting (7)
19 Some edit tomes exactly as before (5)
21 Sort of syrup pudding originally eaten by man (5)
22 Notice clairvoyance has unhappy ending (4)

Prize draw rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 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.



PHILATELY FOREVER Fun philately lessons for keen collectors

Fancy some free philately for the kids? Then the BPMA-sponsored Stamps in Schools activity days are perfect. The one-hour sessions, designed for Key Stage 2 classes or year groups, feature a stamp exhibition, a presentation about the Penny Black, and tips for youngsters wanting to start their own collection – and it will not cost the school a thing!

During the stamp days, pupils can choose stamps and take them home, along with other philatelic items. They can also take part in competitions.The exhibition has eye-catching material specially selected to appeal to children. The presentation covers changes to the postal system in the Victorian era.



Many schools launch their own stamp clubs after the visits, and there is an information pack showing teachers how to set one up and containing suggestions for activities. Stamp Active, which runs the days, offers ongoing support for club organisers at www.stampactive.co.uk. •

READ ALL ABOUT IT

If you are running a children's stamp club, the Stamp Active Newsletter is packed with plenty of useful information, news, events, offers and resources. Visit www.stampactive.co.uk to subscribe.



GO FOR GIBBONS

Children are being invited behind the scenes to the fascinating home of British stamp collecting. Stanley Gibbons now offers tours of its famous flagship store on the Strand in London.

'We are delighted to be able to show schools and youth groups around and give them an insight into the world of stamps and collecting,' says store manager Wayne Elliot.

If you would like to arrange a visit, email Wayne at welliot@stanleygibbons.com •



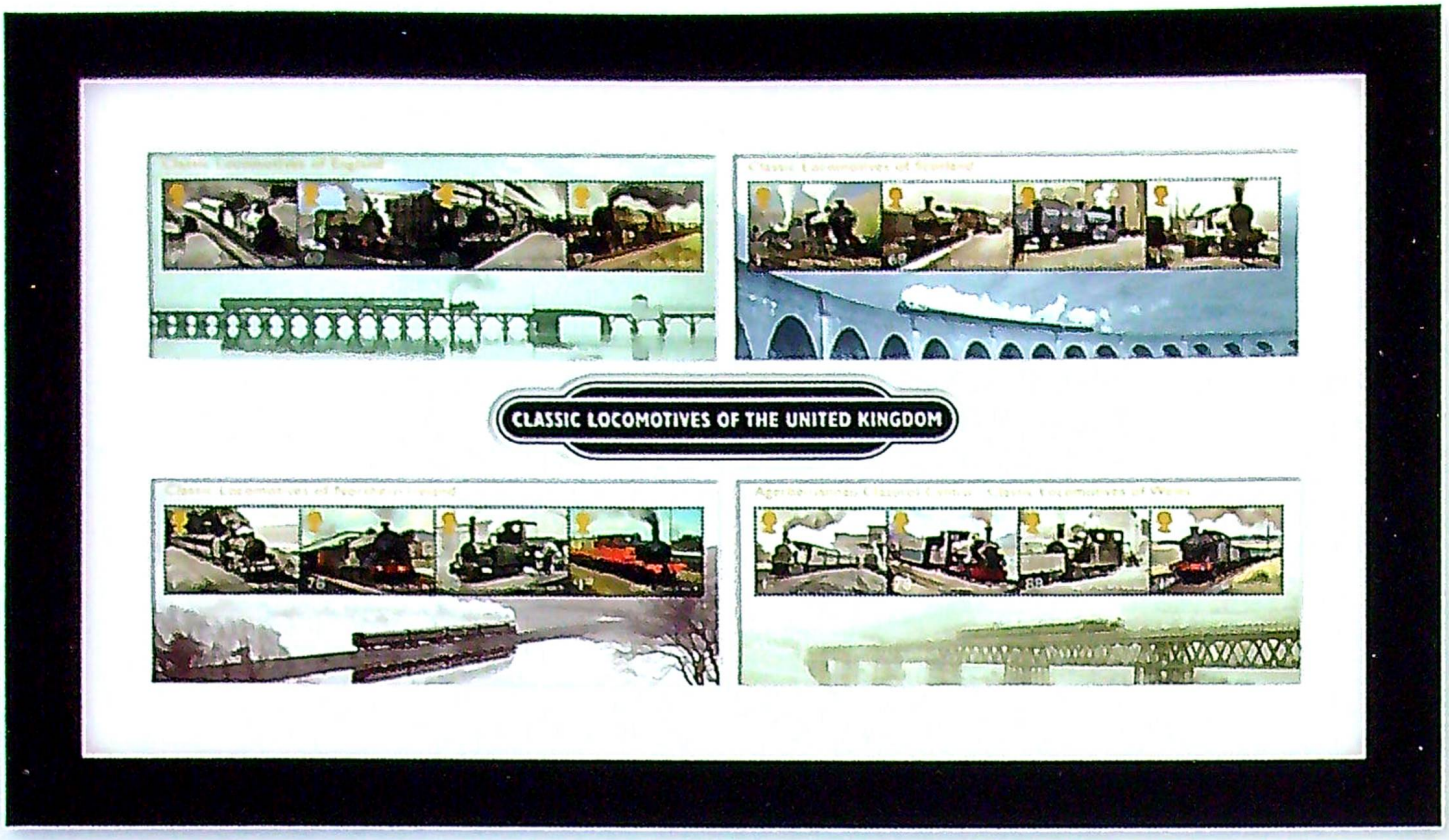
Images: www.stampactive.co.uk; Stanley Gibbons; BPMA



TEACHING RESOURCES GO ON AIR

A new collection of handy teaching activities has been launched to tie in with the Classic Children's TV stamp issue. The aids feature characters from the set, from Bagpuss and Paddington to Peppa Pig and Bob the Builder, and include lesson plans, colouring templates and counting games.

Suitable for Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, the resources also offer two 'Bagpuss songs' exclusively recorded by Sandra Kerr, co-writer of the original tunes from the programme. Download the resources, created by iChild, at www.ichild.co.uk •



Pride of place

This framed set of Miniature Sheets can tell a thousand stories

The Classic Locomotives stamp series recalls in miniature the glory days of steam, its triumphs of industrial engineering and design, and the exciting atmosphere of train journeys in times gone by. Now the four miniature sheets of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are available as a handsome framed set, so you can see them every day.

The overall frame size is 43cm x 27cm and the glass measures 40cm x 24cm. Price, £45.

Royal Mail pictorial stamps and other philatelic items are available at Post Office branches listed on page 162. Order online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or phone 08457 641 641 (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday) and from overseas: +44 131 316 7483.

5 014721 103112

