BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Design star: how I made Royal, Olympic and Christmas issues





Happy Birthday to Her Majesty The Queen

21 APRIL 2016

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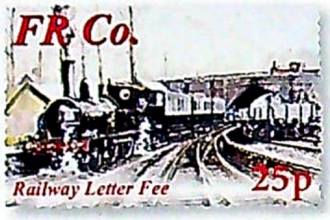
● **Royal Mail Editor** William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw ● Price £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Annual subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address above) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 editions) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 editions) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● The *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps, is available free online ● 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.



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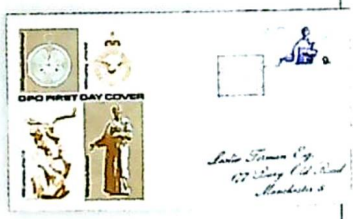
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Above: HM The Queen's 90th Birthday First Day Cover with Tallents House postmark displaying Her Majesty's birthdate

A unique birthday tribute In celebration of The Queen's 90th birthday, a Royal Mail Miniature Sheet features a brand-new Royal Family photograph

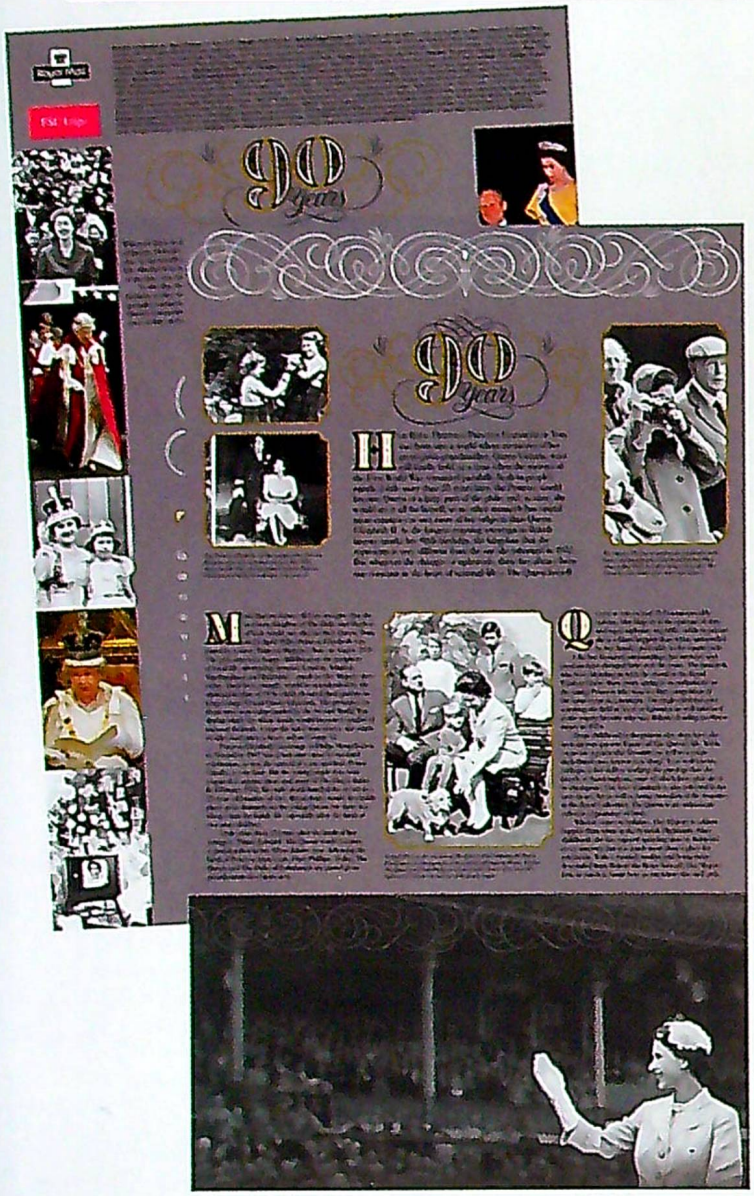
Surrounded by three heirs to the throne Her Majesty is the very picture of the British monarchy's happy continuity. In the photograph specially commissioned for the Miniature Sheet of the HM The Queen's 90th Birthday issue, her public and private life come auspiciously together. Here is Britain's longest-serving sovereign with a lifetime of duty to the nation. Here also is a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

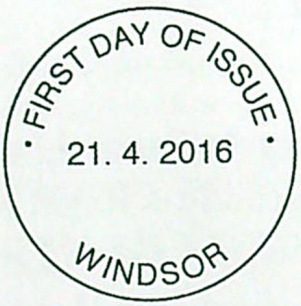
The Miniature Sheet is released on 21 April, the very day of The Queen's 90th birthday. It is accompanied by a set of Special Stamps with six photographs portraying moments from The Queen's childhood through to the present day, all of which must surely hold happy memories for Her Majesty.

Completing this celebratory stamp issue are a Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book, HM The Queen Souvenir Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Stamp Cards, Retail Stamp Book, Special Edition Retail Stamp Book, Framed Miniature Sheet, 90 Glorious Years Frame Stamps and three Coin Covers.

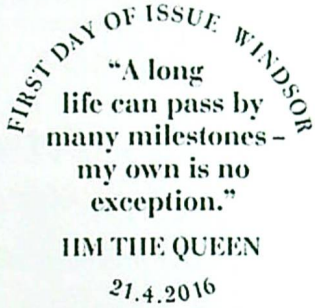
HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Miniature Sheet The specially commissioned photograph by Ranald Mackechnie captures four generations of the Royal Family. While the gilded background is regal and the dress code quite formal as befits the occasion of such a landmark birthday, the presence of the beaming little Prince George lends a happy and relaxed air to the whole group. The image is elegantly translated into a stamp sheet that includes four ▸







FD1613-NP



FD1613-PL

perforated First Class stamps, each bearing an individual royal portrait – of The Queen, Prince Charles, Prince William and Prince George.

The Miniature Sheet First Day Cover has extended availability and is on sale until 21 May. The Stamp Sheet Souvenir is on sale until 21 July. Both contain an illustrated filler card featuring a reproduction of the black and white photograph of the Royal Family, taken at The Queen's Coronation in 1953.

Special Stamps Six mint stamps, three First Class and three £1.52 values, were designed by Kate Stephens. They show photographs of HM The Queen with her father c.1930, attending the State Opening of Parliament in 2012, with Princess Anne and Prince Charles in 1952, visiting New Zealand in 1977, with The Duke of Edinburgh in 1957 and with Nelson Mandela in 1996 – all



Above: family photo, taken on the day of The Queen's Coronation

Right: Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the alternative pictorial postmark

Above right: Tallents House postmark

Opposite: Special Stamps Presentation Pack; plain and pictorial handstamps with the location Windsor

FD1613-TH





S Limbert
128 Manchester Square
Littleham
L2 4TT

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB

Surrounded by three heirs to the throne Her Majesty is the very picture of the British monarchy's happy continuity. In the photograph specially commissioned for the Miniature Sheet of the HM The Queen's 90th Birthday issue, her public and private life come auspiciously together. Here is Britain's longest-serving sovereign with a lifetime of duty to the nation. Here also is a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

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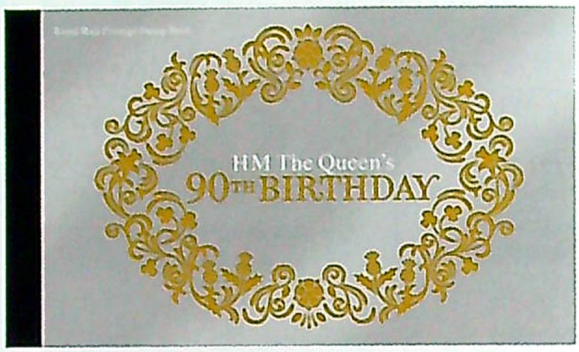
HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Miniature Sheet – Specifications

Date of issue	21 April
Number of stamps	Four
Stamp design	Royal Mail
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	27mm x 37mm
Miniature Sheet size	179mm x 74mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA
Price	£2.56

HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Special Stamp Specifications are on page 196 of the March *Bulletin*







Top: the defintives pane of HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Prestige Stamp Book, with gold foil on the central label in the limited-edition version

Above: the front page and outer sleeve of the Limited Edition PSB are decorated with 22 carat gold foil

Prestige Stamp Book Designed by Kate Stephens (designer of the six Special Stamps) and written by royal correspondent Robert Hardman, the elegant Prestige Stamp Book features a delightful chronological account of the life and reign of Her Majesty The Queen. From her birth in 1926, through childhood, as a young woman, her engagement and marriage, as a mother and monarch – the story is told in words and evocative photographs, as well as through the images on the six Special Stamps and Miniature Sheet Stamps.

One pane consists of the Miniature Sheet, two carry the Special Stamps and a fourth (shown above) carries four Machin and four regional pictorial stamps around a central label bearing the numeral '90' against a golden background.

Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book A filigree deasign featuring 22 carat gold foil adorns the cover of the Limited Edition version of the PSB, presented inside a pristine white folder which has similar gold foil printing. The central label on the definitive pane is also gold foiled.

Each Prestige Stamp Book is numbered, part of a limited edition of just 1926, and comes with a Royal Mail Certificate of Authenticity. ▷



Archive photographs and expert commentary complement the four stunning stamp panes in the Royal Mail Prestige Stamp Book









HM The Queen's 90th Birthday-Prestige Stamp Book – Specifications

Design	Kate Stephens
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Prestige Stamp Book price	£15.11
Limited Edition price	£59.99
Pane 1	2 x £1.52
Pane 2	3 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.52
Pane 3	8 x 1st Class
Pane 4	4 x 1st Class





Above: a perfect keepsake, the Souvenir Pack contains three limited edition cards with cancelled Special Stamps

HM The Queen Souvenir Pack This beautiful limited edition product was designed by The Chase. An exclusive fold-out poster is included in the full-colour information pack featuring photography of key moments from The Queen's life. The pack holds the HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Special Stamps and Miniature Sheet and the Long to Reign Over Us Miniature Sheet – each mounted on a decorative card and cancelled by a unique handstamp. The cards are individually numbered and are part of a limited edition of 7,500.









Coin Covers Ten thousand Brilliant Uncirculated coins, struck by Royal Mint, carry the HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Miniature Sheet, cancelled by a unique 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' handstamp with the location of Windsor. There are limited editions of 50 Gold Proof and 500 Silver Proof Coins.

First Day Covers Serviced (ie stamped and postmarked) Royal Mail First Day Covers are available by mail order from Royal Mail Tallents House. Orders for Serviced First Day Covers have to reach Royal Mail by 21 May. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House at the address on page 288 for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. Customers who hand in or post stamped Royal Mail First Day Cover envelopes at main Post Offices on the day of issue will receive the pictorial first day postmark.

Alternatively, customers may send stamped envelopes to any Special Handstamp Centres for the pictorial or plain postmark, quoting the reference number of the postmark required, as shown on pages 260 and 261 ●

Please turn to page 286 for accreditation of photographs used with this stamp issue

HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Coin Covers	
Pack design	The Chase
Coin denomination	£5
Diameter	38.61mm
Gold Proof weight	39.94g
Brilliant Uncirculated and Silver Proof weight	28.28g
Prices	
Brilliant Uncirculated	£19.95
Silver	£80
Gold	£1,800



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





13 May Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm, around 25 dealers. Admission free. Nearest tube station: Russell Square. Details: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

13-14 May Salisbury Collectors Show, City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury SP2 7TU. Enquiries: S Beattie, 01722 412100.

13-14 May South of England Woking Postcard Fair, Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 9BA. Friday 10am to 5pm, £3; Saturday 10am to 4pm, £2. Details: 07583 915284, www.postcard.co.uk.

14 May WORPEX, organised by Worcester Philatelic & Postcard Society, Tudor Grange Academy (left), Bilford Road, Worcester WR3 8HN, 10am to 4pm. There will be a regional meeting of the British Thematic Association at 2pm. Details and park and ride directions: www.worpex.com.

14 May GB Philatelic Society meeting. Bob Galland: First Low Value Surface Printed Postage Stamps, 11am; Clive Jones: Travelling Post Offices of GB, 2.15pm. At the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. Enquiries: Peter Tanner, 01753 887755.

21 May South Wales Philatelic Federation Annual Convention, Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ, 10am to 4.30pm. Admission 50p. Enquiries: Neil Prior, 01656 740520, www.fswps.weebly.com.

28 May National Philatelic Society country meeting at Christ Church United Reformed Church, New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0AW. From 10.30am. Further details: www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps.

4 June RINGPEX, Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood BH24 1DW, 10am to 4pm. Many dealers in stamps and postal history. Bacon rolls are available all day. Enquiries: Colin Mount, 01452 474310.

10 June Strand Stamp Fair: see 13 May for details.

11 June SWINPEX, Joseph's School, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR, 10am to 4pm. Hosted by Swindon Philatelic Society, 40 dealers, specialist society meetings and displays.

11 June GB Philatelic Society meeting: The Castle issues of GB 1952-99 by Peter Shaw (11am), AGM and members' displays (2pm), Grosvenor Auctions, 399-401 Strand, London WC2. Enquiries: Peter Tanner, 01753 887755.



11 June National Philatelic Society: The President's Display by Michael Thompson is presented at the Welsh Centre at 7pm, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE. Further information: www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps.

17-18 June Stafford Stamp Fair: the Ingestre Suite, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD. Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Further details: www.jrs-stamp-shows.co.uk ●

2016 Philatelic Congress of GB

28 May-4 June The 98th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at the Belfry Hotel, Cambridge from Thursday 21 July to Sunday 24 July. This will be the sixth time it has been staged in Cambridge; it was previously held there in 1925, 1938, 1967, 1980 and 1990. (By contrast the other premier university city, Oxford, has hosted the Congress only once, in 1985.)

This year's Congress is hosted by the Cambridge Philatelic Society and the theme will be Islands. The provisional programme of talks and displays includes: Cambridge from Simon Kelly; Postal History of College Stamps and their Suppression by the Post Office from Professor Simon Catlin, Newfoundland by Adrian Boggust; Hugh Osborne on South Georgia; Bryan Jones on Fiji; and When Gibraltar was an Island by Professor David Stirrups, Chairman of Congress 2016.

There will be a talk entitled Improving Quality of Displays to Local Philatelic Societies. The subject of the Kay Goodman Lecture, this year given by Rufus Barnes, is Affordable Philatelic Excellence.

As is customary, there will also be local outings on the Saturday – an adventurous punt trip and a walking tour of Cambridge postal history. The RDP reception and banquet take place on Saturday evening at Peterhouse College, Cambridge (right).



The Congress booking form can be downloaded at www.abps.org.uk or contact gerald.marriner@gmail.com for further details.

Profiles of the collectors chosen as Distinguished Philatelists this year will appear in a future edition of the *Bulletin*.

In 2017 Congress meets in Cardiff (27 to 30 July), and in 2018 in Durham (July) ●

Exhibitions

28 May-4 June The latest in a series of major international stamp exhibitions held in the USA since 1913 takes place at the Jacob K Javits Convention Center, West 34th Street, New York NY 10001. Opening hours are 10.30am to 6pm on 28 May, 10am to 3pm on 4 June, 10am to 6pm on other days. Admission free.

The organisers of the World Stamp Show NY2016 are hoping to attract 250,000 visitors. There will be 4,500 frames of exhibits, over 200 dealers and over 50 postal administrations. Around 112 philatelic societies and organisations will have information tables and/or arrange meetings and seminars.

The United States, United Nations and other postal administrations will launch new stamps during the exhibition. The international jury, of over 50 noted philatelists, includes two from the UK – Chris Harman and Brian Trotter, both former presidents of the Royal Philatelic Society London. There will be invited displays by members of the Club de Monte-Carlo de la Philatelie and the world's rarest stamp, the British Guiana 1 cent magenta, will be on show, except for the last day of the exhibition. The stamp is currently on display at the National Postal Museum in Washington until November 2017.

The US Postal Service will issue souvenir sheets featuring intaglio-printed stamps in two colour configurations, the designs based on two stamps issued in August 2015 to promote the exhibition. The stamps and sheets were designed by Michael Dyer. On the first day of the show, Royal Mail issues an FIP Exhibition Sheet – see preview on page 238 in April's *Bulletin* ●



The Postal Museum

The Postal Museum, formerly the British Postal Museum & Archive, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open from Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on the second Saturday of each month (10am to 5pm). The Postal Museum will be moving to new premises nearby in 2017.



Meanwhile a temporary exhibition, entitled Unstitching the Uniform, is on show at Freeling House until 30 June 2016, and the long-running Post Office in the Community exhibition can be seen at the Blists Hill website www.blistshill.org and at the Victorian Town, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire (left, see the *Bulletin* May 2012).

Some 25 online exhibitions can be seen on The Postal Museum website (see below), including Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman and letter boxes.

A tour of the Archive at Freeling House takes place on 1 June, and of the Museum Store at Debden, Essex on 4 May, and 1 and 6 June (see the *Bulletin* August 2013 for feature on the Debden Store). A talk, The GPO Poster Advisory Group: A Short and Colourful History by Matt Tantony, will be held at the Phoenix Centre, alongside The Postal Museum, on 9 June. For details of all events see www.postalheritage.org.uk. Phone 020 7239 2570 or email info@postalheritage.org.uk for a copy of the Events guide or to book for tours and talks.

The first of The Postal Museum's *Update* newsletters was published in February. It includes an eight-page report on the launch of the new Postal Museum identity by TV historian Dan Snow, the latest information on the construction of the new museum building and what will be in its gallery. The exhibition zone will display some of the earliest letters from The Postal Museum's collection, a reconstructed 19th century mail coach, mail guard's frockcoat and a watercolour of Moses Nobbs, one of the longest-serving mail guards. An interactive digital Mail Coach Driver game for children aged eight to 11 years old and families will highlight the dangers of delivering mail in the early years of the service.

Further information on the new museum is given on the Questions page and the Fund Raising page seeks donations by 'sleeper sponsors' to restore and replace worn sleepers on Mail Rail, the former Post Office Railway, which will be a main attraction to visitors to the new museum. Contact The Postal Museum to receive copies of this and future *Update* newsletters.

The Postal Museum's online shop offers a wide range of cards, DVDs and CDs, gift sets, homeware, Mail Rail prints, replica GPO posters, philatelic items, postcards, publications, maps and stationery of interest to philatelists, postal historians and the general public. The Friends of The Postal Museum publish *Cross Post* magazine and arrange behind-the-scenes visits to stamp printers and other interesting places such as the College of Arms, Apsley House and the London Transport Museum. Visit www.postalheritage.org.uk/friends or write to: Friends of The Postal Museum, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL for more details ●

Special Stamp-related exhibitions

Royal Mail Special Stamps marking the 90th birthday of The Queen and the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare go on sale this month.

The By Me William Shakespeare: A Life in Writing exhibition, at the Inigo Rooms, Somerset House (East Wing), London WC2 until 29 May, includes Shakespeare's will.



The British Library's Shakespeare in Ten Acts exhibition includes the only surviving play-script in Shakespeare's hand, two of only six authentic Shakespeare signatures, and the rare First Folio edition. Visit www.shakespeare400.org for details of anniversary exhibitions, performances and talks.

The exhibition, Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style from The Queen's Wardrobe, opens at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh on 21 April. Similar exhibitions will be held at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle in August and September. A Shakespeare and the Royal Library display is now on show at Windsor Castle until 1 January 2017. For details, see the Royal Collection Trust website, www.royalcollection.org.uk.



Stamps featuring landscape gardens will be issued in August, marking the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the most famous landscape gardener of them all. Events include 40 exhibitions by the Embroiderers' Guild. For details of venues and other anniversary events see www.capabilitybrown.org ●

Eighty years on

Alex Shepherd, well-known in Scottish philatelic circles, celebrates his 80th birthday this month. One of his main collections is of 1936 – the year he was born. On 16 June he will be displaying part of this extensive collection to the Berwick & District Philatelic Society, which meets at the United Reform Church Hall in Spittal, Berwick-upon-Tweed at 2pm.







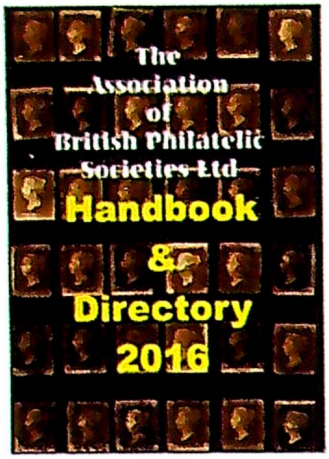
The display will include stamps from around the world issued in 1936, postal history of that year and philatelic material relating to people who were born or died in 1936, including some unique items.

Among the subjects covered in this 1936 display are the short reign of King Edward VIII, the Olympic Games in Berlin, and the maiden voyage of the liner *Queen Mary*. For more details about the Berwick & District Philatelic Society and its programme of activities, contact the Secretary on 01890 781400.

1936 was a good year for philatelists. Also born that year was Dr Alan Huggins MBE RDP, leading authority on postal stationery and a former President of the Royal and member of Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee, and Dr Jeffrey Stone, noted specialist on the stamps of Finland and former President of the Aberdeen Philatelic Society, who has written the Society's history to commemorate its centenary in 2010.

Among deceased philatelists born in 1936 were Dr James Mackay, prolific writer on stamps and postal history, and Franceska Rapkin, an internationally recognised thematic collector specialising in the 1936 Olympic Games ● ▸

Society news



The Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) has published the 2016 edition of its *Handbook & Directory* in a rather more stylish format than previous editions. The 272-page handbook contains a wealth of information of value to philatelic society officials and to the individual collector.

Twenty-seven pages are devoted to the work of the ABPS with details of its history, awards, exhibition judging and a listing of the venues for the Philatelic Congress since 1909. The UK Philately section gives information on the main philatelic magazines (including the *British Philatelic Bulletin*), the Midpex exhibition (the next one is on 8 July 2017), and the ABPS constitution.

There then follows (on blue pages) a listing of regional associations and federations with dates of foundation, number of affiliated societies, and contact details. Similar information is then given for specialist societies (on pink pages) and for ABPS-affiliated local societies (on yellow pages). Also included are nationwide societies and summary listings of specialist and local societies that are not ABPS-affiliated. Collectors will find these listings useful in seeking the appropriate societies to join.

Five pages are devoted to tips when giving a display to a philatelic society, with two cartoons illustrating how and how not to engage your audience.

Details of philatelists giving lectures and displays are found on green pages, with the lecturer's contact details, display subjects and distance they are prepared to travel. Displays on offer cover just about every conceivable subject, from traditional one-country collecting to thematics, postal history, cinderellas, and philatelic terms and history. Among the topics noted are From Posthorse to Postbus, Speedway, Water, Water Everywhere, Spain during the Civil War, Hospital Ships, Disaster Mail and Police Philately. These pages will be of immense value to society programme secretaries.

The *Handbook* concludes with recommendations for a 'model constitution' for philatelic societies and for organising a society or federation conference weekend, and a look at what constitutes 'open philately' in philatelic exhibiting.

There is much to ponder as well as useful data in this book. My only criticism is the rather sombre front cover featuring Penny Reds (although printed in black) – a more colourful cover featuring classic and modern stamps, postmarks and covers would better indicate the great diversity of the hobby. The *Handbook* costs £10, post paid, from Chris Oliver – email communications@abps.org ●

Society publications



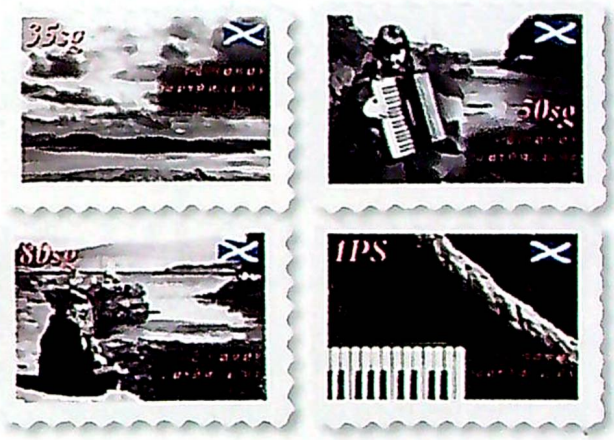
The Spring 2016 issue of the *Letter Box Study Group Newsletter* is, as always, a lively 52-page glossy A4 magazine with high-quality colour illustrations and interesting articles, reports and news – arguably the most professional journal published by a philatelic or postal history society in the UK.

The magazine opens by recalling the founders of the Letter Box Study Group (LBSG) – Ron Hall, Loudon Morton and Ian Wilkinson who 40 years ago placed notices in the *Bulletin* and other philatelic magazines suggesting the formation of a study group. They expected responses from a handful of enthusiasts, but were inundated with enquiries, and on 1 June 1976 the LBSG was born. A two-page feature about the work of the LBSG was published in *The Sunday Telegraph* on 3 January 2016, and the Group has also featured on *BBC Breakfast*. The magazine reports on letter boxes in Cheltenham, and there

are articles on Penfold boxes, the Scottish crown on boxes north of the border, new ROMEC boxes, a resumé of boxes in many parts of the country by Gerry Cork in his Over the Wires... feature, special handstamps depicting or relating to post boxes, and an update on miniature boxes and other collectable items of interest to letter box enthusiasts. The recent Royal Mail 500 Miniature Sheet (two stamps feature letter boxes) is reproduced on the inside back cover. The *Newsletter*'s front cover shows a Penfold box painted red; one in green on the Royal 500 First Class stamp adorns the back cover. For LBSG details contact Val Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Birmingham B20 1ES, email membership@lbsg.org, or visit www.lbsg.org ●

New local stamps

Four new local stamps (local carriage labels) were issued by the Summer Isles, off the north-west coast of Scotland, on 26 February. The stamps feature island music. The 35sg (35p) stamp features a view of Tanera, the main island in the group; 50sg a young girl playing an accordion; 80sg the quayside on Tanera; and 1PS (£1) a keyboard and is entitled 'A Tanera Talisman'. The stamps were inspired by local musician Maireard Green, who has been writing an album called *Summer Isles*. The photographs for the album and the stamps are by local resident Peter Haring. The face values of the stamps are in Gaelic: sg = sgillinn (penny) and PS = Punnd Sassanach (English Pound). Mint sets of stamps cost £2.65, miniature sheet £3.20, FDC with Summer Isles stamps £5, FDC with Summer Isles and Royal Mail stamps £6. Post and packing £2.50 UK, £3.50 Europe, £4.50 rest of world. Orders and enquiries: Summer Isles Post Office, Tanera Mor, Achiltibuie, Ullapool, Ross-shire IV26 2YN. A feature article on the Summer Isles was published in the *Bulletin* in September 2010 ●

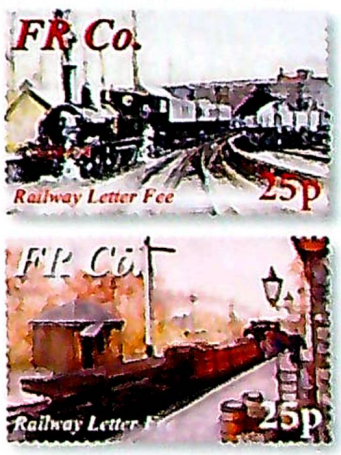


cx v2

The narrow-gauge Festiniog Railway in north Wales will issue two new railway letter stamps on 19 May to mark the 60th anniversary of the reopening of Minffordd railway station. The designs reproduce paintings by Edward Paget-Tomlinson: *Two Palmerstones at Minffordd Station 1889* and *Prince on a P-Way Train 1892*.

The stamps are printed in sheets of nine, comprising six of one design and three of the other, price £2.50, plus £1 postage. Orders to: Railway Letter Service, Festiniog Railway, Harbour Station, Porthmadog LL49 9NF.

The Nene Valley Railway, near Peterborough, marked the Royal Mail 500 stamps in February with a special cover bearing the NVR Travelling Post Office stamp of 2010 cancelled by a 'Royal Mail 500' handstamp, and Royal Mail's Royal Mail 500 stamps cancelled with a Royal Mail Street Birmingham special handstamp. Price £11.70 with full set of Royal Mail stamps, or £12 for set of three covers each with Royal Mail First Class stamp. Postage £1. A new stamp honouring 92 Squadron is planned for issue in May or June. Enquiries: Railway Letter Service, Nene Valley Railway, Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR ●





1



2



3

Queenly quiz

Travel back in time to answer these brainteasers on the stories behind some of the Special Stamps celebrating the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth

1920s

1 From the HM The Queen's 90th Birthday issue, in a 1929 photo the toddler Princess Elizabeth hugs her father. He would become George VI, but what was his first name?

a) James
b) Albert
c) Charles

1930s

2 It is 1931 and, now aged five, the Princess shares a loving moment with her mother in an image from the 80th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II issue. What was her mother's title at the time?

a) Duchess of Gloucester
b) Countess of Norfolk
c) Duchess of York

1940s

3 Appearing in 1986's 60th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II set, this Cecil Beaton portrait was taken in 1942 upon the appointment of Princess Elizabeth as Colonel-in-Chief of which elite regiment?

a) Coldstream Guards
b) Grenadier Guards
c) Irish Guards

1950s

4 Here is Her Majesty wowing the crowds during a 1957 visit to Virginia, USA on one of the HM The Queen's 90th Birthday stamps. Who was in the White House then?

a) Eisenhower
b) Truman
c) Kennedy

5 In the same stamp issue The Queen relaxes with Charles and Anne in a garden. Where is it?

a) Sandringham
b) Windsor
c) Balmoral

1960s

6 In this stamp from the 2007 Diamond Wedding Anniversary issue The Queen and Prince Philip attend the 1961 premiere of which film?

a) The Guns of Navarone
b) Carry On Cabbie
c) To Catch A Thief



4



5

6



9





7



8



10



11

1970s

7 During an official trip abroad in 1977 The Queen wears a rather unusual traditional cloak presented by her hosts. What is it made of?

a) Ferns
b) Duck down
c) Kiwi feathers

1980s

8 On one of the Diamond Jubilee £1.28 stamps Her Majesty is clearly enjoying the great sporting event she is attending in 1982. What is it?

a) FA Cup Final
b) Commonwealth Games
c) Wimbledon

1990s

9 Which leading royal photographer took this 1996 shot of The Queen, chosen for the 2002 Golden Jubilee Special Stamps issue?

a) Lord Snowdon
b) Patrick Litchfield
c) Tim Graham

2000s

10 The Queen's portrait formed part of a Miniature Sheet with three other members of the royal family in 2000, celebrating someone else's birthday. Whose was it?

a) Prince Charles's
b) Prince Philip's
c) Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's

2010s

11 On this HM The Queen's 90th Birthday issue First Class stamp The Queen makes her way from Buckingham Palace in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach for a very special occasion in 2015. What is it?

a) The State Opening of Parliament
b) The opening of Chelsea Flower Show
c) The christening of Princess Charlotte

Answers 1b, 2c, 3b, 4a, 5c, 6a, 7c, 8b, 9c, 10c, 11a



Post & Go update Martyn Fry reports on Post & Go activity across the Tay and across the Pond

Scottish Congress The Dewars Centre in Perth hosted the 87th Scottish Congress over two days in April and Royal Mail Post & Go machines A011 and A012 were in attendance along with the Jersey Post JE01 machine. The Heraldic Lion, Machin and Union Flag designs carried the '87th Scottish Congress 2016' overprint. The Crest of Jersey and the Jersey Flag designs carried the same overprint.



New York, new overprint The New York skyline design from the Sea Travel set, issued last September, and the Union Flag designs will carry the Post & Go banner into the USA later this month for the World Stamp Show New York 2016 (NY16). The Royal Mail stand will have A011 and A012 machines accompanied by Jersey's JE01.

Also at the show in New York will be Gibraltar's GI01 and Guernsey's GG01 machines. Royal Mail will be offering the customary GB printed versions of the Show overprint from Tallents House.

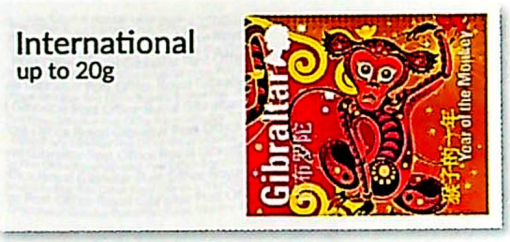
A point to note for print string collectors is that the NY16 extends from May into June and so print strings will change accordingly. Unlike recent single design reels, the New York skyline stamp was produced in gravure alongside the original set and predated the digital production capability.

Digital query Several collectors have asked about the digital production process and how it differs from the usual gravure process.

Both processes use the same thermal paper laminate but, whereas gravure inks can be printed straight to the web, the digital inks need to have a Digiprime coating applied to allow better adhesion. The phosphor is still applied by gravure but this will eventually be incorporated into the digital press production line. The digital inks have a higher gloss than the gravure inks, so this is dulled by the application of phosphor, in the case of Royal Mail stamps and by the matt varnish in the case of the recent Gibraltar Year of the Monkey design •

Post & Go updated prices

1st Class	64p
1st Class Large	96p
Europe 20g (Euro 20g/World 10g)	£1.05p
Europe 100g	£1.52
Worldwide 20g	£1.33
Worldwide 100g	£2.25
2nd Class	55p
2nd Class Large	75p
1st Class Collector Strip	£7.75
1st Class Collector Set	£46.50



Post & Go Exhibition Programme

World Stamp Show NY2016, New York USA	28 May–4 June
Autumn Stampex, London	14–17 September

Note: exhibitions may be added or removed and stamp listings for individual shows may change



Master of art

David Hillman art directed a sexy Sixties magazine, turned The Guardian into a design icon – and makes beautiful stamps. Andrew Neish meets the master

He doubled as the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace to size up the perfect shot of The Queen and her husband for the Diamond Wedding Anniversary issue. He scandalised both Spike Milligan and legendary *Evening Standard* editor Max Hastings with his ground-breaking Eighties redesign of *The Guardian* newspaper. He directed Helmut Newton's raunchily revolutionary photoshoots for iconic, edgy Sixties magazine *Nova*.

Innovative, inventive, mercurial, David Hillman is a Renaissance man of design. And the experience he gained in a career spanning over half a century helped him deliver the stunning Christmas 2015 stamp set. David (pictured above) has other high-profile issues in his Royal Mail portfolio: the 2000 Millennium stamps and the three Olympic and Paralympic Games collections from 2009 to 2011.

Now living in the immaculate silence of a tiny Wiltshire village, David, 72, might seem miles away from his days in Sixties London art directing for *Nova* and in Seventies Paris designing *Le Matin de Paris* newspaper. (His ▸

design commissions and clients also include the Tate galleries, *Times Educational Supplement* and the V&A.)

But, dressed in denim and David Hockney specs, the former partner at design colossus Pentagram cuts a youthful figure. And exudes can-do energy. Fifty years in media has not blunted his edge. On the contrary: he was selected to design last year's Christmas stamps, always a prestigious commission in any designer's portfolio.



Above: David's stylish designs promoting a Modernism show at the V&A in London

And intriguingly, his design strategy for the 2007 Diamond Wedding Anniversary set – of showing The Queen as a private individual as well as the world's most famous head of state – is echoed by the just-released HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Miniature Sheet (see page 259). For the Sheet The Queen is photographed with her three heirs: Prince Charles, the Duke of Cambridge and Prince George. Yet this is also a jolly family portrait of a woman with her son, grandson and great-grandson.

Indeed the six-stamp Diamond Wedding Anniversary set is a beautifully intimate portrait of The Queen and Prince Philip's long and successful marriage, thanks to David's skilful composition of the stamps. The original images are from library photographs of very public engagements where Her Majesty and her husband are surrounded by hundreds of people. Yet David's smart cropping zeroes in our attention on the happy couple. The pictures could have been taken by friends and family.

Below: Presentation Pack and stamps from the Diamond Wedding Anniversary set



'Without being *Woman's Own* about it, I wanted to show The Queen as a human being, someone with a happy marriage and family and not solely as a public figure. I wanted this to be an affectionate portrait,' explains father-of-two David, who lives with his wife Jennie, 59, a typographer-turned-yoga teacher, in the Cotswolds village of Upper Wraxall.

And affectionate it is. While the stamp set focuses on husband and wife, the Miniature Sheet stamps make up a warm family photo album of the couple with their children and grandchildren.

The Sheet is crowned by the contemporary shot, on one of the First Class values, of The Queen and Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace, commissioned to leading society photographer Lord Snowdon.







DESIGN FOR A LIVING: HILLMAN ON WORK

'I may design stamps and lay out books and magazines and newspapers on a computer but I still think in paper and pencil.'

'I get up at 7am, and do half an hour on my bike which is on a set of rollers in the bedroom. Then I do weights and stretches, have breakfast and am in the studio by 10. That's okay as our business doesn't wake up until then, except when you're working for German clients – they're on the phone at 7am.'

'Living in the country is better when you want to think because you can sit and contemplate a project in a big green field rather than in a darkened office.'

'I never treat a photograph as a space filler. It's got to tell a story.'

David explains how he produced a preliminary test shot with Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles Design Manager Catharine Brandy, which would guide Lord Snowdon for the subsequent photoshoot.

'Catharine and I and Snowdon's assistant went on a "recce" of the Palace, found the location overlooking the garden and took the picture of how we thought it should be. When we shot our test shot Catharine was The Queen and I was the Duke of Edinburgh and Snowdon's assistant took the Polaroid. And then we agreed that's how the image should be.'

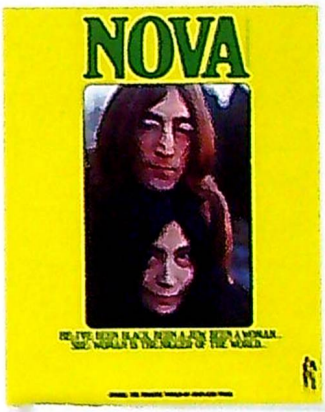
In his design of the Presentation Pack David created a tableau of photos and magazines from the Royal couple's wedding day around a central picture of the bride and groom, as though on an occasional table at Buckingham Palace. (David actually had the set-up shot at Pentagram's London studio.) As with the Special Stamps, David's finely tuned aesthetic sense creates an intimate scene without straying into sentimentality.

But what does he feel The Queen thought about his work, considering she signs off every Royal Mail issue? 'I've honestly never thought about that,' he muses, but jokes, chuckling: 'I suppose she may have thought: "I've got some better pictures than these!"'

He is too modest. When planning a commission David combines clarity with conviction. His strategy for the 2015 Christmas issue was clear: 'The issue artist David Holmes and I agreed that nowhere on the stamps would there be a close-up painting of the baby Jesus. It's just too sentimental.

'After all, designing anything credible around the Christmas theme can be tricky. You're constantly steering a path between naff Christmas cards and doing a pastiche of Rubens.'

Designer David selected artist David because he had seen one of his ▸





Above: David Hillman worked on iconic Sixties magazine *Nova* and redesigned *The Guardian*

THE FUN OF PHILATELY: HILLMAN ON STAMPS

Making stamps makes me happy 'The pleasure of designing stamps is the feeling I had when I redesigned *The Guardian* and I sat on the Tube, and saw people reading what I'd done. It's the same idea of knowing people are going into the post office and buying stamps you designed, and sticking them onto letters to loved ones or even the tax man.'

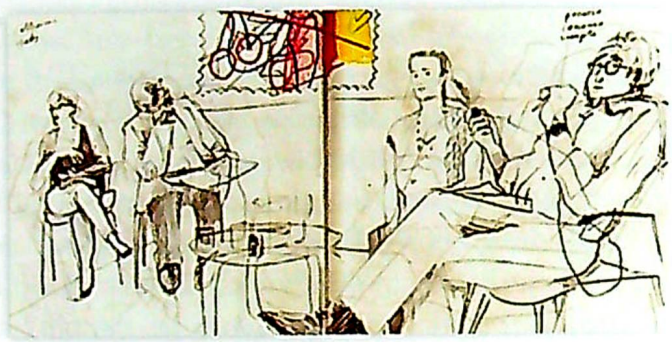
Stamps are little treasures 'Each stamp is individual and it's a bit like designing a beautiful art book. People will throw newspapers and magazines away but they don't throw books or stamps away. For many, stamps are their life and I like the idea of people treasuring them.'

Special Stamps are special projects 'Producing a stamp set is one of those jobs that when it's given to you it's an honour. They don't hand out these projects easily. A stamp is the language of Britain and as the designer you've got an opportunity to articulate the voice and that's special.'

paintings of a figure on a hilltop – tiny yet full of detail. Given the designer's determination not to 'spoil' the set with a close-up, David Holmes was the ideal man to create images with meaning but without a rosy-cheeked portrait of the Messiah. The two Davids achieved this with a smart visual strategy. In a previous interview with the *Bulletin* David Holmes has revealed how the Nativity tale was told through the medium of the sky, since many chapters of the story happened there: the star, the Annunciation, the angels. David Hillman takes up the theme: 'The sky became the superhero and painted "big". Everyone else receiving news of this story – Mary, the shepherds, the wise men – were smaller, yet detailed, silhouettes. I'm pleased with the result, I think it worked well.'

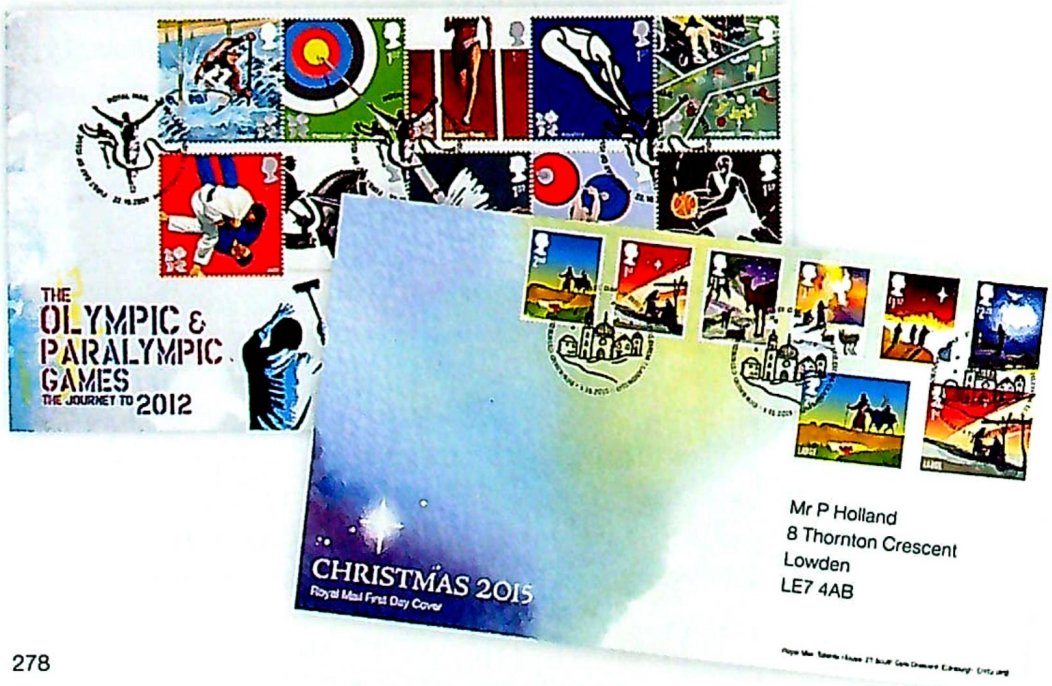
David couples this sense of modesty with calm self-belief, even in the face of the doubters: recalling his revolutionary 1988 redesign of *The Guardian*, he says: 'Spike Milligan wrote to the editor and said: "I think you've had one meeting too many." Max Hastings phoned me up and asked how I felt about being responsible for the death of a newspaper." He shrugs. 'Well, you can't please everyone.'

Well, Spike and Max were in the minority. David's redesign is rightly regarded as a spectacular visual coup: the masthead pushed to the right, the introduction of a stylish new font, the promotion of big, powerful pictures to the page without sacrificing story count. Overnight he changed *The Guardian* from a traditional broadsheet into a dynamic, modern paper that is of course very much alive today. David's smart visual instinct has served



Right: a sketch of Royal Mail's Catharine Brandy (near right) and David Hillman (far right) at an AOI forum on stamp design in 2013. The other figures are illustrators Andrew Davidson and Lara Harwood

Below: Olympics & Paralympic Games – The Journey to 2012 First Day Cover and Christmas 2015 First Day Cover





2000 Millennium Projects Above And Beyond stamps



2000 Millennium Projects Fire And Light stamps



2000 Millennium Projects Water And Coast stamps

him well in stamp design. 2009's Olympic & Paralympic Games: The Journey to 2012 issue – following two sets in 2010 and 2011 – was a design challenge to bring visually different sports together to create a pleasing cohesive set. (He also had to accommodate the Olympic logo and the name of the sport as well as the value and Queen's head but still make the image stand out.)

Yet David made a virtue of the variety by commissioning a different artist for every stamp, including Julian Opie and woodcut illustrator Andrew Davidson, whose pictures have appeared on a number of Royal Mail issues.

Cohesion was achieved by strong colourways in the illustrations linking individual stamps together. David added drama with bold cropping of athletes' bodies that focus one's attention on the essential action in each race or match on the stamps. 'For me every sport has its own personality,' David explains, 'so you have to show the character of different sports by having different types of illustration on each stamp. For example, sailing is elegant and pristine and beautiful; wrestling is sweaty and tough.'

So, The Queen's diamond wedding, the Olympics, the flagship Christmas issue, the colossal 48-stamp Millennium set. David's Royal Mail work has always covered high-profile events and special anniversaries. Is that a huge pressure? 'No, not at all,' he says. 'Creating an eye-catching design at such a small scale is always a challenge but it's fantastic when you pull it off' •



The death toll rises The third issue in Royal Mail's series of First World War stamps charts the bloody events of 2016 as the conflict escalates

IT WAS THE YEAR OF THE SOMME. A YEAR OF SLAUGHTER and sacrifice and uncertainty on the battlefield that put huge pressure on the home front. In 1916 the four-month Somme struggle gave the British almost half a million casualties. Allied troops evacuated the Dardanelles after the Gallipoli disaster. The Royal Navy won only an indecisive battle against the Germans at Jutland. The introduction of conscription brought the reality of the war into cold perspective: sacrifice was now a duty, not a choice, and women entered employment in large numbers as men went to the front. This year of change is captured in the poignant First World War 1916 set, from Royal Mail's five-set series marking the centenary of the war. It is accompanied by a Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards and Coin Covers.



FD1619NP

The First World War 1916 Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	21 June
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Hat-trick
Words	Ian Kikuchi
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Number per sheet	25/50
Phosphor	bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Stamp by stamp The six First World War 1916 stamps released on 21 June are a mix of three First Class and three £1.52 values. The Miniature Sheet has two First Class and two £1.33 stamps. *Battlefield Poppy, G Revell* Photographer Giles Revell created this image of a poppy, symbol of sacrifice, by placing it in a water tank and adding coloured dyes to create the background of smoky swirls evoking a First World War battlefield. First Class. *To My Brother, V Brittain* This poignant line is taken from Vera Brittain's poem, in which she lauded her army officer brother Edward's bravery at the Somme. In it she also wrote: 'May you endure

Stamp designs © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2016.



Above: Stamps First Day Cover with pictorial postmark; First Day Cover for Prestige Stamp Book Pane 1 with Tallents House postmark

Left: Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with Tallents House postmark

to lead the last advance.' Four days later he was killed in action. First Class. *Munitions Worker Lottie Meade* Charlotte 'Lottie' Meade was one of millions of women who worked in roles vacated by men now fighting at the front. But the munitions industry could be dangerous and Meade died of TNT poisoning on 1916, leaving a husband and four young children. First Class. *Travoys Arriving with Wounded, S Spencer* Stanley Spencer's painting was inspired by his experiences serving with a field ambulance unit at Smol in ▸

Right: the Presentation Pack features a painting by John Hodgson Lobley, entitled *Outside Charing Cross Station, July 1916*



Macedonia. The Christian artist saw the arrival of wounded in religious terms: the doctors' life-saving work reminded him of the Resurrection. £1.52. *Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France* The location for this memorial to 72,253 British and South African troops who died with no known grave is fitting: the village of Thiepval was a strategic point at the Somme battles. Fought over many times, it was finally captured by the British in late September. £1.52. *Captain AC Green's Battle of Jutland Commemorative Medal* Unofficial medals marking the Battle of Jutland were sold to raise money for naval orphanages. This one belonged to Captain AC Green of the Royal Marines. £1.52.

The First World War 1916 Stamps – Prices	
Stamps – 3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52	£6.48
Presentation Pack	£10.95
Miniature Sheet – 2 x1st, 2 x £1.22	£3.94
Prestige Stamp Book	£16.49
First Day Cover Stamps	£8.20
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£5.15
First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane	£6.56
Stamp Souvenir	£8.25
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£5.20
Stamp Cards	£4.95
Framed Special Stamps	£29.99

Also in this issue The Presentation Pack features a sharply written analysis of the major events of 1916 at the front and at home, accompanied by a timeline.

A four-stamp Miniature Sheet marks the efforts of the Post Office during the war. The stamps show men of the Post Office Rifles; a coach and horses delivering mail; the Home Depot in Regent's Park devoted to sending 12 million letters and one million parcels a week to servicemen; and a soldier at the front writing a letter home. The Prestige Stamp Book is shown on the facing page, and more details of three Coin Covers will feature in a future *Bulletin*.



The Prestige Stamp Book features striking background images of British troops. The four panes are shown below. A First Day Cover is available with the definitive stamps pane (see page 281)

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 21 June. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (address on page 288 – please quote the *Bulletin* code CDP) for the Tallents House postmark, which features an excerpt from a proclamation by Prime Minister David Lloyd George to Britain's dominions calling for help.

The alternative postmarks (shown on page 280 and 281) have the locations Lyness and Stromness, where British dead from the Battle of Jutland are buried. The alternative pictorial version bears a contemporary newspaper headline about Jutland: 'Great naval battle: huge British and German losses' •

Please turn to page 286 for accreditation of photographs used with this stamp issue

This month in history

John Holman explores the 1968 issue that marked four different anniversaries of great significance to the UK

On 29 May 1968 the Post Office issued the first of its Anniversaries issues – four stamps marking trade union and political campaigning, the RAF, and the voyage of a great explorer. The stamps were originally intended for issue on 1 June, a Saturday (before a Bank Holiday); both operational reasons and requests from philatelists caused the date to be advanced.





Above: photographs of designers David Gentleman and Clive Abbott, as they appeared in the 1968 Presentation Pack

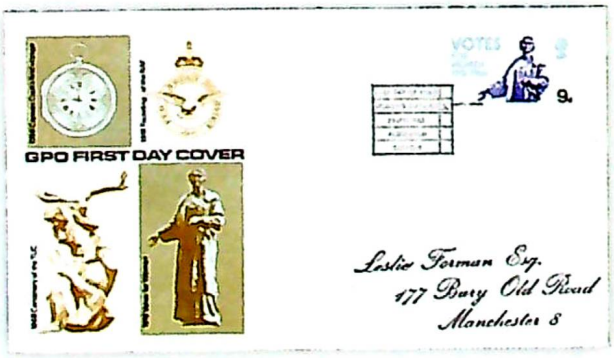
Below: Post Office first day cover with 9d Votes for Women stamp cancelled by Aldeburgh handstamp

The 4d stamp, designed by David Gentleman, features the faces of three trade unionists set within the letters TUC to commemorate the centenary of the Trades Union Congress. The new bas-relief (half-tone) head of The Queen, devised by Arnold Machin, rests in a rectangular panel at top right with the value below.

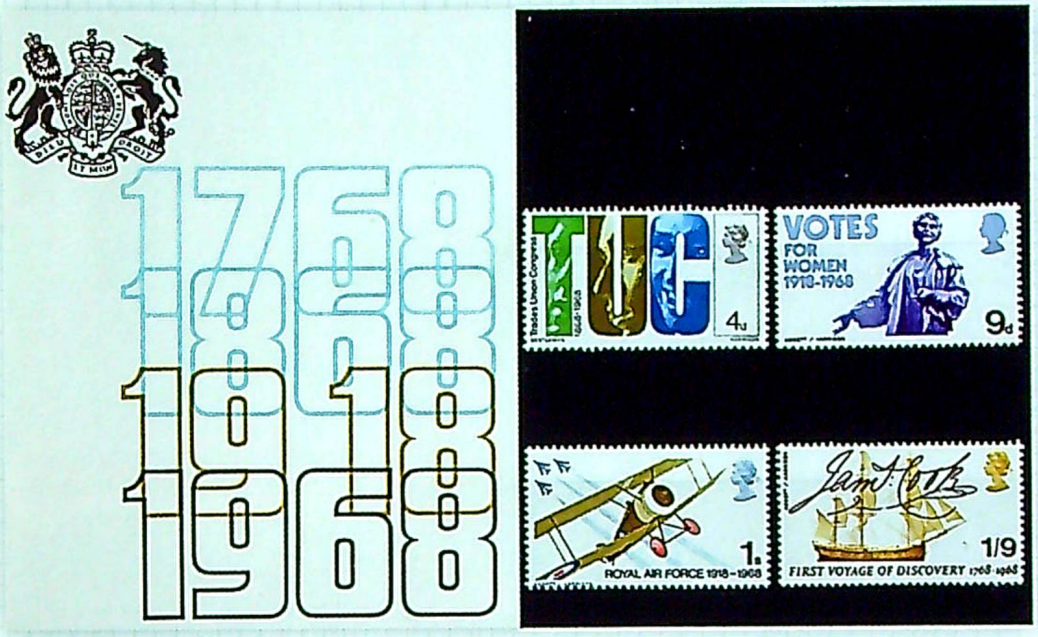
The other three stamps were the work of Clive Abbott. The 9d shows a statue of Emmeline Pankhurst with the bold inscription 'VOTES FOR WOMEN 1918-1968', commemorating the centenary of female suffrage. The 1s stamp depicts Sopwith Camel and English Electric Lightning fighter planes with the caption 'ROYAL AIR FORCE 1918-1968'. Finally the 1s 9d stamp shows a profile of Captain James Cook's famous ship *Endeavour* superimposed by his signature and bears the legend 'FIRST VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY 1768-1968'. The 1s and 1s 9d stamps both carry the bas-relief head of The Queen; the 9d stamp, however, was the first to use the silhouette version (printed in bluish grey) which is now the norm for Royal Mail special stamps; the last use of the bas-relief head was on the Robert Burns stamps of 1996. James Mackay in *British Stamps* (1985) notes that Abbott's stamps lacked the vertical panel used by Gentleman, having The Queen's profile, value, captions and vignette on a plain white background without any frame-line. Mackay described this as 'the ultimate in "open-plan" stamp design'.

The four stamps were printed by Harrisons in photogravure in the usual sheets of 120, double-pane of the 4d and single pane for the others. Five colours were used for the 1s, four for the 4d, three for the 9d and just two for the 1s 9d. The stamps bear two phosphor bands, which on some sheets of the 4d are so difficult to distinguish that examination under a UV lamp may be necessary to establish their presence, and that non-phosphor errors should only be accepted after checking under such a lamp.

No major errors are recorded in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, but all are listed with phosphor omitted; three are of modest catalogue price and the 1s 9d is scarce. The 9d stamp with one broad band is worth considerably more than the stamp with no phosphor at all. Constant varieties are listed on the 4d and 1s 9d stamps in the *SG Specialised* catalogue.



The Post Office provided a first day cover serviced with the Philatelic Bureau's First Day of Issue handstamp. Special first day handstamps were provided at places connected with each value: Manchester where the TUC was founded; Aldeburgh, Suffolk where suffrage



Left: the Anniversaries Presentation Pack with all four of the stamps

Below: Post Office commemorative cover for TUC centenary with the special 1 June Manchester handstamp

campaigner Millicent Fawcett was born; London NW4, location of RAF Hendon; and Whitby, Yorkshire, birthplace of Captain Cook. These cancels were used mostly on covers bearing only the appropriate stamp. Special sponsored handstamps relating to the RAF were used on the day of issue, but none for the other three anniversaries, though there was one for the Post Office Engineering Union used at Ealing. Covers are also sought bearing Hendon circular datestamp and RAF and Forces Post Office handstamps.

Also look out for covers with a Captain Cook bicentenary slogan postmark (designed by a local schoolgirl), used at Whitby from the day of issue until 9 January 1969. A TUC centenary slogan was used at 14 offices from 1 to 22 June, starting too late for the (revised) day of issue. A special TUC handstamp was used at Manchester on 1 June on Post Office commemorative covers. Bulk mailings of FDCs, usually with a single stamp, can be found with London W2, Hounslow and Manchester First Day of Issue machine postmarks.

A Presentation Pack containing one of each stamp cost 4s 10d, one shilling over the face value of the stamps. The *British Presentation Packs* catalogue records this missing the gold royal coat of arms and black text, but the error is not priced.

The stamps were withdrawn one year after issue, numbers sold ranging from just over six million of the 1s 9d to nearly 98 million of the 4d basic UK letter rate stamp. Some 67,639 Presentation Packs were sold. The issue was well covered in the *Bulletin* at the time: the stamps were previewed in May, with special features on each anniversary in March (women's suffrage), April (Captain Cook), May (RAF) and June (TUC). Twelve unaccepted designs by Clive Abbott, David Gentleman, M C Farrar Bell and Jeffery Matthews were reproduced in June. The July issue carried an interesting report on first day postmarking at Whitby. A 200-yard queue formed outside Whitby Post Office which handled some 20,000 FDCs that day, 8,000 of which had been ordered through the Philatelic Bureau and sent to Whitby for cancellation. The old telephone exchange was brought into use to help cope with the datestamping and sorting of covers ●



Coming next month...

STAMP TRIBUTES

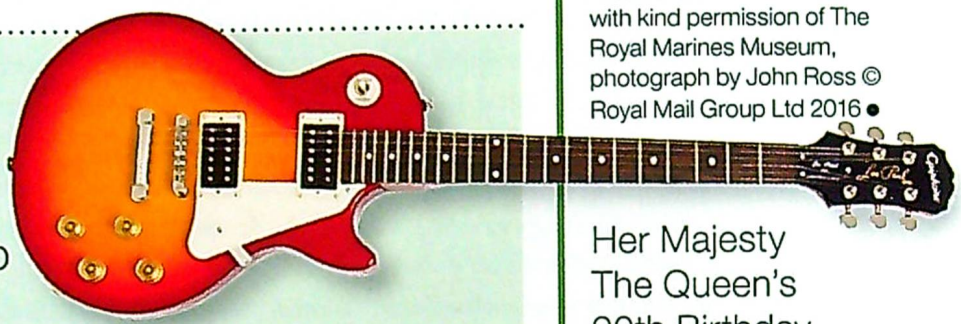
- First World War 1916 Specials: a brutal year



- West Ham StampSheet

STAMP PREVIEWS

- Music Giants: bop along with world-famous legends of British rock and pop





- The Beatrix Potter story: enter the magical animal kingdom of one of Britain's best-loved children's authors

STAMP POLL RESULTS

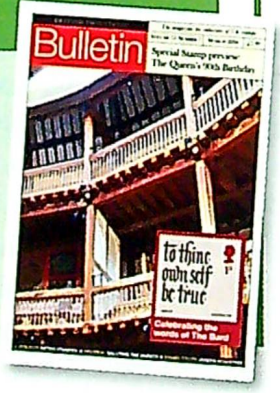
- Your votes are counted! Favourite UK stamps and stamp sets of 2015 revealed



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First World War 1916 Special Stamps – acknowledgements

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Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday Special Stamps – acknowledgements

HM The Queen with her father c.1930, photograph by Marcus Adams © Camera Press London.
HM The Queen attends the State Opening of Parliament, 2012 © Peter Macdiarmid/Getty Images.
HM The Queen with Princess Anne and Prince Charles, 1952 © Lisa Sheridan/Studio Lisa/Getty Images.
HM The Queen visits New Zealand, 1977 © Anwar Hussein/Getty Images. HM The Queen with The Duke of Edinburgh, 1957 © AP/PA Images.
HM The Queen with Nelson Mandela, 1996 © Julian Parker/UK Press via Getty Images. Typographic elements by Mike Pratley ●

ROMEO AND JULIET PRIZE DRAW

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- Top-price seats at the historic Garrick Theatre for Kenneth Branagh's enchanting production of *Romeo and Juliet* featuring Richard Madden, Lily James, Meera Syal and Sir Derek Jacobi
- Two nights of luxury at the five-star Royal Horseguards Hotel in the heart of the capital









To mark the Shakespeare anniversary celebrations of 2016 we have joined forces with the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company and Guoman Hotels to bring you the chance to win an exciting two-night theatre break in London. Win our competition and you and a companion will enjoy top-flight seats for Kenneth Branagh's much-anticipated production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Garrick. Afterwards you can treat yourself to the comfort of your luxurious room at the five-star Royal Horseguards Hotel.

In a splendid location facing the River Thames, the hotel is a ten-minute stroll from the Garrick and ideal for exploring London – though you might want to linger at the Horseguards for the award-winning afternoon tea and discover its fascinating history: it was the HQ of MI6 in the First World War and guests have included Gladstone, Churchill and H G Wells.

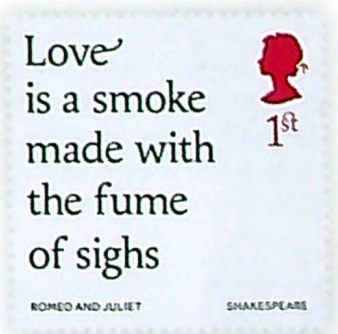
For your chance to win, simply answer this question: *In what year was the The Rose theatre first built in London?* Clue: search on a bygone Bulletin folio of month that recently 'hath put a spirit of youth in everything'.

HOW TO ENTER Send your answer, with your contact details, marked 'Bulletin/Romeo and Juliet', to Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or by email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.

CLOSING DATE 1 June 2016. Terms and conditions apply; see overleaf ●

Above: the *Bulletin* theatre break includes a visit to the Garrick for Branagh's *Romeo and Juliet* and a stay at the Royal Horseguards Hotel

Below: a quote from Romeo in the Shakespeare Stamp set





Royal Mail stamp issues and withdrawals

21 April — **Issue** HM The Queen's 90th Birthday: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52, 2 x se-tenant strips of three), Miniature Sheet (4 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, Press Sheet, Prestige Stamp Book, Limited Edition PSB, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Stamp Cards (11 in set), 3 x Coin Covers all with Mini Sheet, Commemorative Document. Details: pages 196 and 259.








25 April — **Issue** Anzac Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class). Preview: page 218.

6 May — **Withdrawal** 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black Miniature Sheet (2 x Penny Black, 2 x Two Penny Blue), Press Sheet (15 x Miniature Sheet).

13 May — **Withdrawal** FIP Exhibition Sheet – London Europhilex.



17 May — **Issue** Animail Miniature Sheet: 6 die-cut Special Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1, 2 x £1.33), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (7 in set). Preview: page 228.

28 May — **Issue** 2016 FIP Exhibition Sheet – New York (20 x 1st Class). Preview: page 238.

28 May — **Issue** Post & Go New York and Union Flag, overprint 'World Stamp Show NY2016'.

2 June — **Withdrawal** Magna Carta: 6 x Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (6 in set).

18 June — **Withdrawal** Battle of Waterloo: Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, PSB, Stamp Cards (11 in set).

21 June — **Issue** First World War 1916: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33), Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Stamp Cards (11 in set), 3 x Coin Covers, Framed Stamps. Preview: page 278.



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WIN a spectacular London theatre break SEE PAGE 287

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