

BRITISH PHILATELIC

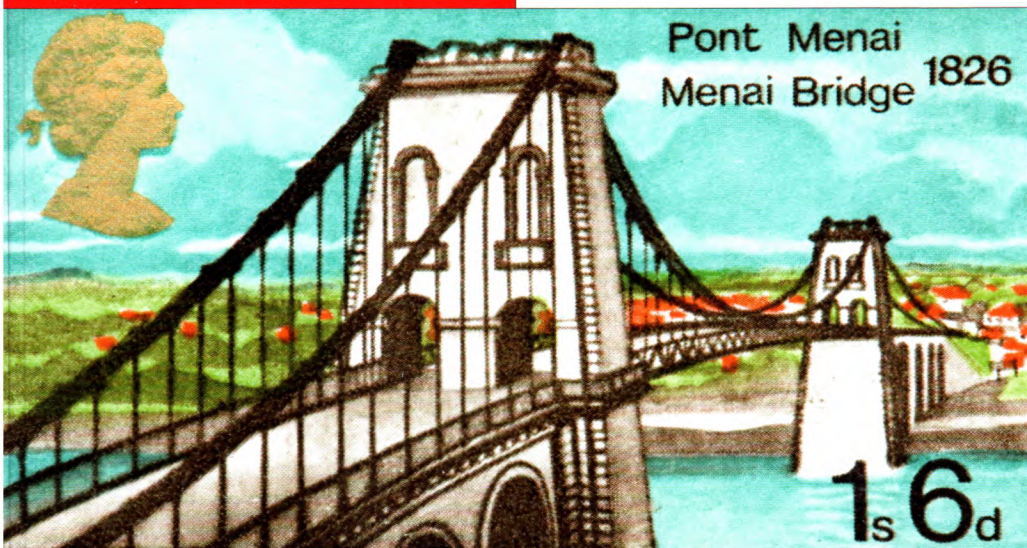
The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 44 Number 7

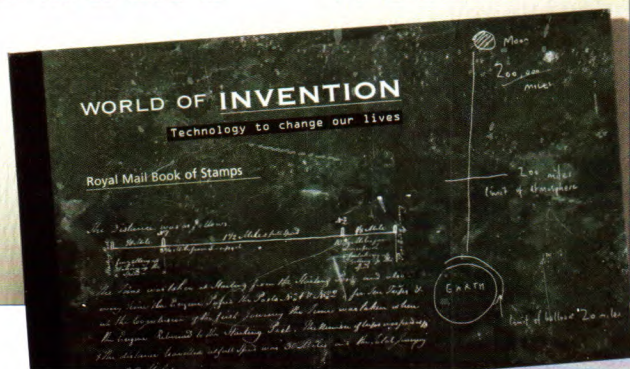
MARCH 2007 £1.20

Bulletin

Grand Prix • Britain abroad
• Inventors • Coffee houses



‘Telford’s is a happy life; everywhere making roads, building bridges, forming canals, and creating harbours – works of sure, solid, permanent utility...’



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover This month, 250 years after the birth of engineering genius Thomas Telford, Royal Mail's World of Invention issue celebrates the engineers and inventors who have changed our lives through technology.

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

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30 - 17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/shop

28 February	Withdrawal Welsh Assembly miniature sheet
1 March	Issue World of Invention stamps, miniature sheet, prestige book ● 'Glorious Wales' Generic and Smilers sheets. Welsh Generic Sheet price £6.95, not £6.55 as stated last month.
6 March	Withdrawal Fun Fruit & Veg Generic and Smilers sheets ● Moving Home, The White Ensign, Stick & Send, and Home & Away Smilers sheets
15 March	Issue Abolition of the Slave Trade stamp cards
20 March	Withdrawal Ice Age Animals stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
22 March	Issue Abolition of the Slave Trade stamps, presentation pack and coin cover
22 March	Withdrawal Brunel coin cover
27 March	Issue Definitives 16p, 48p, 50p (light grey), 69p, 78p, country stamps 48p and 78p for four countries; pack containing new definitives, pack containing new country stamps, business sheets of 50 x 1st class & 50 x 2nd class 'Large' letter stamps (self-adhesive)
31 March	Withdrawal 42p and 68p country stamps and pack containing four 42p country stamps
17 April	Withdrawal The Queen's 80th Birthday stamps, presentation pack, and stamp cards (commemorative document and coin cover remain on sale)
23 April	Issue Celebrating England miniature sheet, pack and stamp cards (five cards in set); Glorious England generic and Smilers sheets, England coin cover
24 April	Withdrawal 12 x 1st, 6 x 1st stamp books issued June 2002; 12 x 2nd stamp book issued June 2004
30 April	Withdrawal Standard airletter, blue paper, issued June 2004

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.20 single copies from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group plc, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any article should be addressed to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon Press • **ISSN** 0953 6119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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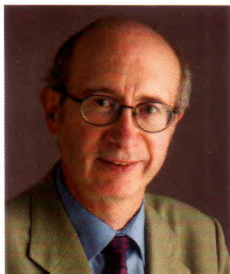
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This month The Editor previews this issue



John Holman, Editor

THIS MONTH we preview the delayed miniature sheet for the new Wembley Stadium, and give details of the new definitives and country stamps being issued at the end of March in preparation for new postal rates from 2 April. The new 16p definitive will be pink – the first use of this Jeffery Matthews colour. The colour of the 50p definitive is being changed for operational reasons. The new 48p and 78p stamps for Northern Ireland will be printed in gravure; previous NI issues have been in litho. The current 2nd and 1st class NI stamps will be reprinted in gravure in due course. All of these changes will be of particular interest to definitive specialists and the Machin aficionados amongst them will have a memorable year with the 40th anniversary of the design being commemorated by new issues, exhibitions, and publications. We are currently totalling your votes in our Favourite Special Stamps and Favourite Bulletin Authors polls for 2006, and will announce the results next month. **JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR** ●

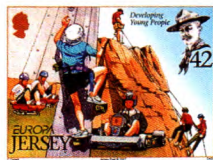
Stamp scene News and upcoming events: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted



Glenn Morgan

SEPAC On 1 October 2007, the Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation will issue their first stamp issue in the new SEPAC collection. Scenery is the chosen theme for 2007, and 11 of the 12 member countries will each interpret the subject in their own way. The 12th country – San Marino – is not issuing a set this year. Look out also for a ‘Beautiful Corners of Europe’ joint issue folder containing one stamp from each of the 11 participants, namely Aland, Faroes, Gibraltar, Greenland, Guernsey, Iceland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Malta and Monaco. Further SEPAC joint issues are scheduled for 2009 and 2011, when San Marino and any additional new SEPAC member post offices may participate ●

BVI Postal Museum A reception was held on 29 November at Old Government House for the official opening of an extension to the Museum by the Governor of the British Virgin Islands, Mr David Pearey. The new wing features the Quaker and Stamp Rooms. Although the Quaker minutes in the Museum only date back to 1741-61, there is evidence that Quakers established themselves in the Territory from the early 1720s. The Stamp Room features a remarkable philatelic collection of BVI stamps and postal history, from the first stamps of 1866 to date, including covers, varieties, elusive errors and specialised items. In addition to this major exhibit, on permanent loan from the BVI Philatelic Society, guest exhibits will regularly focus on thematic and postal history, offering repeat visitors an incentive to see something new. Exhibits will appeal to both the veteran collector and the general public. *From information supplied by Mellica McPherson.* For more on the BVI museum, see May 2004 *Bulletin*, page 265 ●



Jersey stamps On the 6th of this month the Jersey Post Office issued a set of four stamps celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Scouting movement, which also covered the annual Europa theme. The stamps are sold as singles, but collectors are encouraged to buy complete sheets of 10, and are rewarded with attractive marginal designs that enhance the theme greatly. Sets cost £1.87, packs or FDCs £2.72 and sheets of 10 £18.70, plus postage and packing. April will see a set of stamps on countryside animals and in June a set depicting garden birds will be issued. A continuation of the latest wild flowers definitive series is due later in the year ●

Dealers Candlish McCleery Ltd publishes an interesting 12-page monthly sales listing of British material for sale, including four pages of illustrations. All periods are covered, with emphasis on the pre-QEII era, not that the current reign is ignored. The latest issue can be seen on their website ●

Peter Rapp AG of Switzerland has been a significant stamp auction house for 35 years, with one of the highest turnovers. Thousands of collectors, investors and groups of inheritors have entrusted their philatelic treasures to the company. The first sale was in 1971, achieving revenue of 720,000 CHF, and the company has sold stamps, covers and collections worth a total of 400 million CHF to date. On their website www.rapp-auktionen.ch you can find a detailed, profusely illustrated preview of the exclusive offers of their major 35th anniversary auction, to be held 7-11 May 2007 ●

Jersey Philatelic Bureau

Postal Headquarters, Jersey
JE1 1AB. email stamps@jerseypost.com
or visit www.jerseystamps.com

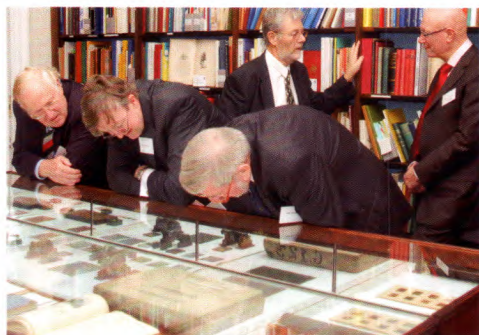
Stamps above are shown at 73% actual size.

Candlish McCleery PO Box 2, Hanley Castle, Worcester WR8 0ZF. Telephone 01684 311771, or see website www.candlishmccleery.com

L&P Stamp Club The London and Provincial Stamp Club has published its Programme for 2007, which includes displays on Bhutan, Falkland Islands, the annual competitions and a Christmas meeting, plus two auctions and bourses. Founded in 1946 and incorporating the City of London Philatelic Society, the society calls itself 'The friendly club for the average collector'. Subscriptions are just £5 per annum, and members will receive a quarterly bulletin and printed auction catalogues in addition to the auctions and bourses, plus three circulating packets covering GB, Commonwealth and foreign countries.

The latest newsletter contains a thought-provoking piece by the chairman of the club, Stuart Henderson, who poses the question 'Where are all the collectors going?'. He recalls how at Stampex in the 1960s there was standing room only at dealers' stands and recounts how the aisles were packed with hundreds of collectors – including many under 40 years of age, unlike now. Stuart has noticed the 'sharp decline' in the past couple of years and asks 'Will there be anyone out there to buy my collections when I want to sell them sometime during the next 20 years?' ●

L&P Stamp Club Membership details are available from the L&P Secretary, Leo Martini-Browne, Cardinham House, Whitehall, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AR.



Royal Centenary exhibition
Fellows and Members enjoying the reception, top, and the Museum Cabinet in the Small Library.

Royal Centenary The Philatelic Society, London was founded in 1869 and was granted the right to use the prefix 'Royal' in November 1906. As 2006 marked the centenary of this event, a three-day exhibition was held. Thursday 7 December was reserved for fellows and members, concluding with the President's reception. The exhibition was open free to the public for the final two days. A superb 40-page colour brochure was given to visitors and all members and fellows, providing details about items on display, the history of the Society and the facilities it has to offer.

The highlight of the exhibition was the display of material from the collection of HM The Queen, from the Society's collections and from members by invitation. The first frame, containing the 'Sandeman Port' letter, bearing a 1d black tied by a complete red Maltese Cross and a Lombard Street Maltese Cross dated 6 May 1840 from the Holyoake Collection, set the tone. This was followed by frames on the 'Birth of Stamp Collecting' and the use of the Royal portrait on British,

foreign and colonial stamps, plus many other fine displays too numerous to include here. The museum curator displayed many fascinating items, and there was a rare opportunity to gain an insight into the activities of the Expert Committee and a display of Society publications. Probably the Society's most ambitious recent publishing project was the scanning of each page of *The London Philatelist*, the Society's journal, onto 12 CDs.

Approximately 500 visitors attended over the three days, and it was a very successful venture, certainly a worthy way of celebrating the Society's 'Royal' centenary. It is hoped that many new members may result, as feedback from the public was extremely enthusiastic ●

Caledonian PS In 1906, collectors met in Glasgow to consider the formation of a philatelic society, electing to be called 'The Junior Philatelic Society of Scotland'. In 1930 it changed its name to 'The Caledonian Philatelic Society', and it has played an active role in the philatelic world ever since, including acting as hosts to this year's Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

On 30 November 2006 a centenary display was given to the Royal Philatelic Society, London with 31 members contributing to a 52-frame display which covered 35 different themes. The Society produced a catalogue of the items displayed, on which a Scottish 1st class stamp had been cancelled by a special St Andrews Day postmark.

The displays included postal history, stamps, thematics, postal stationery, airmails, forgeries and correspondence from well known historic figures in the world of philately. While a third of the displays related to subjects connected with Scotland, there was a good representation of material from

other countries, which included Greece, Russia, Malawi, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia and Zanzibar. 75 Fellows and Members of The Royal and six guests attended the meeting, and nine members of the Caledonian Society (shown right) came from Glasgow to support their display.

The Royal Centenary and Caledonian reports are based on information supplied by Michael Pitt-Payne, the new Press and Publicity Officer at the RPSL, to whom my thanks are extended •



Exhibitions Midpex 2007 will be held on Saturday 30 June 2007 at the Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled, Cromwell Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry. Many societies will be showcased, and lots of dealers have already registered to attend, so it promises to be a successful event, as usual •

From 3-8 May 2008, the ABPS will be holding its 8th annual national philatelic exhibition at the Harrogate International Centre, Hall Q, Kings Road, and the simultaneous Philatelic Congress of Great Britain at the adjacent Holiday Inn Hotel. There will be 500+ frames of material on display, plus over 80 dealer stands. This show will be the final opportunity for exhibitors to qualify for the London 2010 international exhibition •

The WIPA 08 International Stamp Exhibition will be held from 18 to 21 September 2008 at the Austria Centre, Vienna, under FIP recognition and the patronage of FEPA. It will have 12 competitive classes: 1) Traditional Philately; 2) Postal History; 3) Postal Stationery; 4) Thematic Philately; 5) Maximaphilie; 6) Aerophilately; 7) Astrophilately; 8) Revenue Class; 9) Youth Philately (collectors in four age groups to age 21 at 1 Jan 2007); 10) Open Class; 11) Philatelic Literature; and 12) One Frame Class (12 sheets).

The frames will hold 12 sheets. Entrants with exhibits that have been awarded a Vermeil medal or less at an International exhibition, or who are first-time International entrants, will be allocated seven frames (84 sheets). Entrants with exhibits that have been awarded a Large Vermeil medal, or above, at a FIP exhibition, or at a Continental Federation exhibition, will be allocated 11 frames (132 sheets). The qualification for Youth exhibitors is a Silver-Bronze medal at National level, and for Literature entrants, a Silver medal at National level. Bulletin 1 and an entry form are available from the UK Commissioner (see right). Completed entry forms should be returned to the UK Commissioner no later than 30 October 2007, although early responses would be appreciated •

Midpex Secretary: Colin Searle searlecol@gmail.com

ABPS www.harrogate2008.org.uk or telephone Richard and Yvonne Wheatley, 0113 260 1978, or email them at richyv2@supanet.com

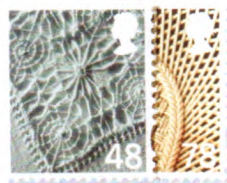


UK Commissioner Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG. Please enclose £1 in postage stamps.

Auction Cavendish's 8-9 March auction will include collections from five world-renowned postal historians from Britain, USA and The Netherlands. The collections are: World War II Worldwide and Later Military Mail in 120 volumes ex John Daynes; British & Transatlantic Mail (Charles Hahn); Southampton Inland/Maritime Mails (Bryan Hunt); Worldwide 'Beyond the Letter Box' Postal Ephemera (Robert Johnson); and the Enschedé Collection of World War I Censorship Mails belonging to Hans Aitinks •

Enquiries Contact Cavendish Auctions, Cavendish House, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY, or telephone 01332 250970.

Royal Mail news New issues and products



On sale 27 March: eight new Country stamps and five new definitives. The 46p (old gold) definitive returns to general use for overseas surface mail.



New definitives New postal rates will come into effect on 2 April. The basic 1st and 2nd class inland rates (standard size to 100g) will increase by 2p and 1p to 34p and 24p, letters to Europe and worldwide airmail, both by 4p to 48p and 54p respectively. Five new definitives will go on sale on 27 March: 16p pink, 48p rhododendron, 50p light grey, 54p rust and 78p emerald green. The 50p is in a new colour, to avoid confusion with the 1st class stamp. The names of the colours will, for the first time, be printed in the sheet margins, except 50p sheets.

The 46p stamp (old gold) will return to general use for overseas surface mail rate. New 48p and 78p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will also be issued on 27 March; the Northern Ireland stamps, like the others, will now be printed in gravure, not litho.

Two new packs will be available, one containing the new definitives (excludes 46p), and one the eight new country stamps, price £3 and £5.55 respectively.

Serviced FDCs will cost £3.37 UK/£2.87 overseas for definitive stamps (Tallents House or Windsor postmarks) or £1.96 UK/£1.67 overseas for each of the four country issues (TH or country capital postmarks). Collectors can send stamped covers on the day of issue to Tallents House for its postmark or to any of the Special Handstamp Centres for the other postmarks. Please quote reference numbers: FDO713 Tallents House, FDO714 Windsor, FDO715 London, FDO716 Edinburgh, FDO717 Cardiff, and FDO718 Belfast. These postmarks can be applied to any of the new stamps issued on 27 March. Standard Royal Mail first day envelopes for definitives (coat of arms) and each of the country stamps (scenery) will be available at main Post Office branches in each country (and from philatelic outlets and Tallents House), price 30p each. There will be no new stamp cards.

The 9p, 12p, 42p, 44p, 50p (sand) and 72p definitives, also 44p and 72p country stamps, will be withdrawn from sale at Post Office branches on 31 March (1 April if open on Sunday). They will remain on philatelic sale until further notice.

The rate increase will result in all existing 2nd and 1st class standard stamps (definitives, country and special) being sold at 24p and 34p respectively. The 'Large' stamps – definitives and Christmas – will now sell at 48p 1st class and 40p 2nd class. The Universal overseas rate stamps (sold in books and singles from Tallents House) will now cost 54p (postcards), 69p (Europe to 40g), and £1.24 (worldwide to 40g). The increase also applies to miniature sheets containing 2nd and 1st class stamps.

Books of six standard-size 1st class stamps will cost £2.04, books of 12 2nd and 1st class £2.88 and £4.08 respectively. Books of four 'Large' 1st and 2nd class definitives will cost £1.92 and £1.60 respectively. The standard air letter (aerogramme) remains 48p •



Wembley Stadium miniature sheet The delayed miniature sheet for the new Wembley Stadium will be issued on 17 May. It bears the crowned lion stamp of the 2002 World Cup issue (without the World Cup inscription) and two each of the 2nd class and 78p English country stamps, separated by a label showing the Wembley Stadium logo, below in a horizontal se-tenant strip. The background features the new stadium's arch. The sheet, price £2.38, measures 113 × 103mm, and was designed by Roundel of London, who designed the Steam Locomotives, Airliners, and Modern Architecture issues. The sheet was printed by De La Rue in gravure. A Royal Mail first day cover envelope will be available (30p) and serviced FDCs can be ordered from Tallents House, price £3.27 UK, £2.79 overseas. Please state if Tallents House or Wembley postmark required. Orders must be received by the day of issue. Collectors wishing to service their own covers should send them on the day of issue to Tallents House for the Tallents House postmark or to a Special Handstamp Centre for the Wembley postmark, requesting postmark NO FDO707 (TH) or FDO708 (Wembley). There will be no presentation pack or stamp cards for this Wembley Stadium issue.

The Wembley Stadium miniature sheet will be shown here next month.

A Wembley generic sheet will be available containing 20 of the 1st class Crowned Lion stamps, price £7.35. Eighteen of the 20 labels tell the story of the old Wembley Stadium, featuring some of the great events held there; the final two labels feature the new stadium •

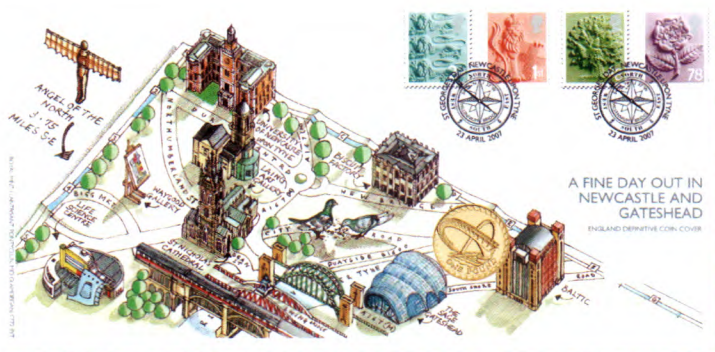
Dates of withdrawals Ice Age Animals stamps, pack, and stamp cards: 20 March. Brunel coin cover: 22 March. 42p and 68p country stamps (also the pack containing the four 42p country stamps): 31 March. The stamps, pack and cards for The Queen's 80th birthday: 17 April. Standard airletter (June 2004, on blue paper): 30 April. Various Generic and Smilers sheets are to be withdrawn – see page 203 •

Scouts stamps Six stamps marking the centenary of the Scout Movement go on sale on 26 July; they feature: a camp fire (1st class), rock climbing (46p), planting trees (48p), archery (54p), gliding (69p), and a group of Scouts (78p). The 1st and 48p stamps include the EUROPA symbol. The stamps were designed by The Workroom design group, using illustrations by Gez Fry, and printed in litho by Enschedé. Further details next month •

Celebrating England Due to the new postal rates, the Celebrating England miniature sheet (23 April) will now cost £2.24, and pack £2.75. Serviced FDCs will now be £3.11 UK, £2.65 overseas (replacing prices in the January *Bulletin*). The Glorious England generic sheet will now cost £7.35 (see p203). The miniature sheet was printed in printer's sheets of 15 (3 × 5) before being guillotined into individual sheets. Six colours were used: magenta, yellow, cyan (blue), black, grey, brown and silver; no cylinder numbers were shown in the printer's sheet margins. For collectors interested in the hidden date on the stamps – the two 78p stamps in this sheet have '2007' reversed out of the phosphor band at bottom right ●

The England definitive coin cover (right, £13.50) bears the England country stamps and a £1 Millennium Bridge, Gateshead coin.

The three earlier covers (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) are still available, price £13.50 each. The four covers will be available together in a collection folder from 25 May, price £54.



Medal and Coin Covers A coin cover for the Abolition of the Slave Trade issue (22 March) will bear the six stamps cancelled by a special Liverpool postmark, price £15.50. The filler card includes a timeline of the history of slavery, illustrated with some West African objects of the 19th century. The £2 coin features the year '1807' with a broken chain motif.

The last of the four country coin covers goes on sale on 23 April (above). Further coin/medal covers during 2007 include the Machin Anniversary, Scouts and Queen's Diamond Wedding issues. The 2006 Brunel coin cover will be withdrawn from sale on 22 March; order now from Tallents House, price £15.95 (order code AX042) if you still need this for your collection ●



Generic & Smilers sheets A new generic sheet, entitled 'Glorious England', containing 20 England 1st class stamps and adjoining labels showing English scenery will be available from 23 April, price £7.35. Both stamps and labels are self-adhesive. The stamp will also be available in a Smilers sheet with the customer's own image printed on the adjoining labels.

The Generic and Smilers sheets of Fun, Fruit & Veg stamps will be withdrawn on 6 March, also the following Smilers sheets: 'Moving Home' (20 Moving Home Occasions stamp 2002), 'The White Ensign' (White Ensign stamp originally issued 2001), 'Home & Away' (Aeroplane and Postman Occasions stamps 2004), and 'Stick & Send' (Face, Duck, and Baby Occasions stamps 2004). All stamps in these Smilers sheets are printed in litho. Following the withdrawal of these sheets, all remaining Smilers sheets have definitive-size stamps and the new larger labels (double definitive size).

Generic sheets are defined as those with pre-printed labels; Smilers sheets have a customer's image printed to order •

New business sheets Sheets of 50 'Large' Letter definitive stamps will be available from 27 March, price £24 1st class, £19.20 second class. The stamps are self-adhesive, printed by Walsall •

Postcode stamp book A book of six 1st class stamps with a postcode message on the inside front cover is now available, price £1.92 (£2.04 from 2 April). It was printed by Walsall using cylinder w1 gold w1 phosphor •

British Postal Museum & Archive Tours of the Archive take place on the last Thursday of each month at 14.00; advance booking is necessary. An Open Day will be held on 15 September, 10.00-17.00. Talks will include Postal History of a Railway (22 May, 19.00), Women Workers in the Post Office 1914-39 (19 June, 13.00), and The Machin Design (26 July, 19.00) •

For details of how to order Smilers sheets phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7483 (overseas) or see a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch. Orders using digital photos can be placed over the web: www.royalmail.com/smilers

One Smilers sheet of 20 1st class stamps costs £14.95, two-four sheets £13.95 each, and five-nine sheets £11.95 each. Enquire for prices of larger quantities.

For further information see website www.postalheritage.org.uk or write to the BPMA at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, for an 'Events Guide 2007'.



Above and opposite: stamps from the Isle of Man's Beatrix Potter miniature sheet issued 11 October 2006. Portrait: Beatrix Potter (Mrs Heells) by Delmar Banner (© National Portrait Gallery London).



Britain abroad Introducing a new series by James Mackay

HELEN Beatrix Potter was born at 2 Bolton Gardens, West Brompton, London on 28 July 1866, the elder child born to Rupert and Helen Potter. Rupert had trained as a barrister but never practised, as both he and his wife had inherited large fortunes from parents and grandparents who had prospered in the Lancashire cotton industry.

Beatrix had a solitary childhood, her only companions being her brother Bertram, six years her junior, and her Highland nanny, Fiona Mackenzie. The children led a quite separate existence from their parents, who took hardly any notice of them. The children never attended any school, being educated by a succession of governesses, and had no friends their own age. From early childhood both children were gifted artists, with a keen appreciation of all aspects of nature. Up to the age of 14, Beatrix spent the summer months at Dalguise near Dunkeld, and an unlikely friendship with the village postman influenced a more scientific approach to nature. In 1896 she contributed a paper on 'The Germination of the Spores of Agaricaceae' to the Linnean Society, but her interests extended far beyond fungi.

John Everett Millais was a family friend who encouraged her painting, especially from 1881 onwards, when the Potters habitually rented a house in the Lake District each summer. Beatrix was an accomplished watercolourist, and created numerous place cards and greetings cards for her own family, but in 1890 she submitted some of her sketches to Hildesheimer & Faulkner, publishers of greetings cards. She received a cheque for six pounds and a request for more pictures, some of which were used to illustrate Frederic Weatherly's book of verse *A Happy Pair*.

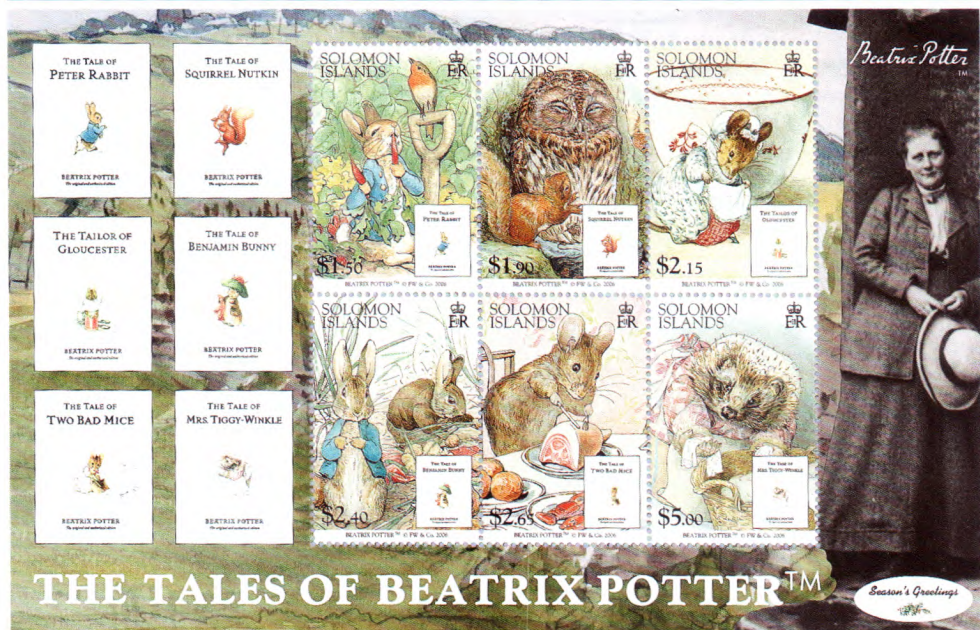
Three years later she began writing letters to entertain Noel Moors, the son of a former governess who was convalescing after scarlet fever. One of these told a story about a naughty rabbit called Peter, illustrated with little watercolour sketches. Out of this came *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, which Beatrix published privately in December 1901 in an edition of 250, with black-and-white line drawings.

The following year she made contact with Frederick Warne. His younger brother Norman, just starting with the firm, undertook to publish *Peter Rabbit*, which was launched on 2 October 1902. The total edition of 8000 copies was pre-sold and was reprinted again and again, establishing her reputation almost overnight.

The Tailor of Gloucester appeared in 1903, and *Squirrel Nutkin* three months later. Eventually Beatrix would produce 23 of these charming tales of humanised animals, amassing an immense fortune in royalties and even more from the merchandise associated with the lovable characters she created. Generations of children – and adults – have been enchanted by them for more than a century. On a personal note, the first book I ever read was *The Tale of Jeremy Fisher*, while my German-born wife Renate learned her first words of English from *The Tale of Johnny Town-Mouse*. ►



In reply to readers' requests for further information concerning British people, inventions, buildings, institutions, etc on stamps of other countries, we introduce a new series. Our first subject is Beatrix Potter, much in the news for a film and a new biography.



This 2006 Solomon Islands miniature sheet is the first in a series which will feature all 23 of Beatrix Potter's books.

Beatrix formed a relationship with Norman Warne which went far beyond that of author and publisher. In 1905 he proposed marriage and 39 year-old Beatrix accepted. Her parents strenuously opposed the match, but agreed to a waiting period. If, at the end of the summer away from London in the Lake District, Beatrix still felt the same, the marriage could go ahead, but sadly Norman died suddenly.

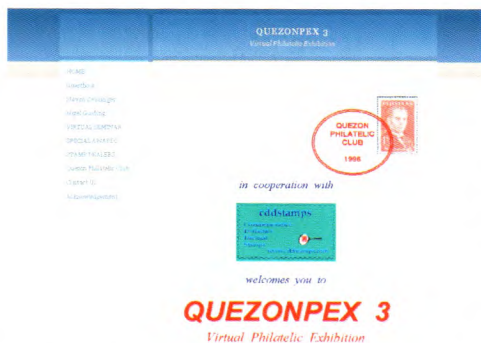
Beatrix now decided to leave her parents' home and settle down on her own. She purchased Hill Top Farm near Sawrey and thereafter spent most of her life in the Lake District. Anxious to prevent developers from spoiling her beloved countryside she eventually purchased more than 4000 acres which she put in trust. In 1913 she married William Heelis, the Ambleside solicitor who handled her business affairs.

Beatrix played a prominent role in the Lakeland scene, becoming a working farmer and accomplished sheep-breeder, continuing until her death in December 1943. Her husband died two years later and her estate was then passed to the National Trust.

On 4 December 2006 the Solomon Islands released a set of six stamps and a matching miniature sheet (above), the first in a series which will eventually feature all 23 books. The stamps show characters from the earliest titles, with the book jacket inset in each case. All six jackets are also reproduced in a larger format in the left-hand panel, while a full-length photograph of Beatrix appears on the right.

Peter Rabbit has, of course, been depicted on two British stamps – a 9p for International Year of the Child (1979), and a greetings stamp of 1993. The centenary of the letter which started such an illustrious career was celebrated by a prestige booklet in August 1993 •

Philately online Ron Negus explores a new way to exhibit



www.freewebs.com/maeca68 The Quezon Philatelic Club invites further exhibits for this on-line exhibition. Collectors who are interested are invited to send a 16-page scanned exhibit, in its original size, as a JPEG file with at least 300 dpi resolution, on a CD-R, or by e-mail, to the contact address shown on the site.

nifies the screen display to show the original page as scanned, and allows its stamps and covers to be examined in detail.

Quezonpex 3 was a non-competitive exhibition, although a Certificate of Participation was on offer. The sponsors hope it will attract further entries which will increase its appeal. Michael Dodd wrote a foreword for the new site in which he stated '...to enter exhibitions overseas, or in your own country for that matter, requires a lot of planning and hard work on the part of the organisers to get material safely and securely displayed for the public to see. Often I think people don't enter for that very reason and the number of exhibitions is limited to once a year in major cities, and then only for a few days at a time. So what a brilliant idea to have a "Virtual Exhibition" using the internet as the exhibition hall, and us exhibitors just sending a few files which can be displayed in exhibition format on a web site. The display is easily loaded to the web site and is available to us all, wherever we are in the world.'

The second site I have seen that has adopted this idea is at www.asdaonline.com which is the website of the American Stamp Dealers Association. This organisation set up a virtual exhibition at its autumn show, called the ASDA Mega Event, in October 2006 at Madison Square Garden, in New York. Some outline details about it are provided on the website, under the heading 'Digital Philatelic Studies'. They include the winning exhibits in what was a competitive on-line exhibition. The website says this exhibition received 19 entries, and it is planned to exhibit them again at the Spring 2007 ASDA Mega Event to be held in New York in March. I hope to obtain more information about this, and will review it in a column in the future.

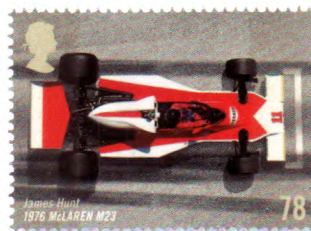
It will be interesting to see how this alternative approach to exhibiting will develop ●

OVER THE YEARS, I have reviewed a number of sites where individuals have used the internet to display a part of their own collections. The collectors involved have needed to design and implement these websites themselves to allow their material to be seen by visitors. Recently, however, I have come across a couple of sites that are effectively virtual stamp exhibitions. These allow scans of complete displays to be submitted. The displays are stored centrally, and become available for viewing in the same way as at a conventional exhibition.

The first is operated by the Quezon Philatelic Club in the Philippines (address above). In conjunction with Australian stamp dealer Michael Dodd, the club has launched an exhibition which is called QUEZONPEX 3 on the site. This began in November 2006, and at the launch attracted 33 exhibits. They were submitted by collectors in the USA, the UK, Europe, South America and South Africa. A number of philatelists from the Philippines also exhibited, as the event was given most publicity in that country.

The invitation to exhibit here requested that 16-page entries be submitted, scanned at full size, in colour. Each of the displays was added to the website in a standard layout. The opening screen of each one shows the first 12 pages and a continuation screen displays the remaining four pages. By clicking on any particular page, its scanned image can be viewed in a new window as an enlargement. At the bottom of this new window, a 'full size' button is provided. Selecting this mag-

Grand Prix Six special drivers and their cars



Technical details

Printer Cartor Security Print

Process Litho

Stamp size 41 × 30mm

Sheets 25 and 50

Perforation 14.5 × 14

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

SIX STAMPS featuring racing cars go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 3 July. The issue marks the 50th anniversary of the British Grand Prix, this year held at Silverstone. The stamps feature: Stirling Moss in 1957 Vanwall 2.5L and Graham Hill in 1962 BRM P57 (1st class); Jim Clark in a 1963 Lotus 25 Climax and Jackie Stewart in 1973 Tyrrell 006/2 (54p); and James Hunt in a 1976 McLaren M23 and Nigel Mansell in a 1986 Williams FW11 (78p). The stamps were designed by True North, Manchester. The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25, but sheets of 50 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House. The stamps are issued in separate sheets, not in se-tenant pairs. A hidden '2007' is printed in microtext on the cars or the drivers.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 3 July. The cover is designed by True North. The filler card features the circuits at Silverstone, Aintree, Donington, and Brands Hatch. Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Stamped covers may be sent on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark) or the nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Silverstone postmark) with the outer envelope marked 'FD0723' or 'FD0724'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Silverstone postmark.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack has been written by Sir Stirling Moss, who reminds us that 'it sounds crazy now, but the danger was part of what made racing special'. The pack gives details of the careers of the six drivers commemorated on the stamps. The pack was designed by Iris Associates and printed by Walsall Security Printers. A Medal Cover will be produced – details to follow •

Grand Prix prices

Set of stamps	£3.32
Presentation pack	£3.85
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£4.38
Serviced FDC (overseas customers)	£3.73
Stamp cards set	£1.80



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorber Road
Ilkerton
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

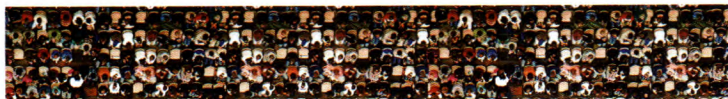
ROYAL MAIL, TALLENTS HOUSE, 21 SMITHFIELD GARDENS, EDINBURGH EH7 5HT

GRAND PRIX

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER



First day postmarks Union flag and winner's garland, and Union and chequered flags.



The statistics, though remarkable, are only a fraction of the story. It was the way Stirling Moss raced, the sheer character of the man, which so endeared him to the British public. To say he approached every race as though it was his last might sound like, but in an era when for many drivers the race card really was their last, Moss always, but always, drove to win.

And that of course is one of the reasons he never won the F1 world championship. Finishing second four times, when other, lesser, drivers did. Not for Moss the long view, the careful picking up of points for third and fourth-place finishes.

"For me, that isn't racing. I understood the reasoning, but couldn't bring myself to do it. I loved what I did because I loved to race, simple as that. I loved the people, the circuits, the cars, the atmosphere, everything about it, including – in fact especially – the danger. It sounds crazy now, but it was part of what made racing so special."



There was more. Moss drove hard, and to finish first, but he drove fairly. He was – another old-fashioned word – a sportsman.

the privateer Rob Walker, he turned down a lucrative approach from Ferrari, in most people's opinion it cost him at least one world championship.

More than 40 years after he retired, Moss is still as competitive and active as ever, watching every Grand Prix with a keen and technical interest.

"I'd like to say excitement, but I can't. I know it's not as much fun now, though I'd love to see what these fine modern drivers could achieve in cars that didn't have so many electronic controls. They should put a one-foot wall around each track, so that if they mess up, they stuff the car up too."

"I spoke to Michael Schumacher and asked him why they didn't insist on taking things like traction control off the cars to make it more of a contest between drivers, not just machines. He said he liked things like that, thought they were part of the sport." Sir Stirling Moss laughs, shakes his head. "We had to agree to differ."

"Concentration was the key for me. Whenever I wanted to go faster in a race, I just concentrated harder."

And there was his patriotism, his preference for driving British-made cars, though he spent his early career as number two to Juan Manuel Fangio at Mercedes. Later, having given his word he would race for

achieve in cars that didn't have so many electronic controls. They should put a one-foot wall around each track, so that if they mess up, they stuff the car up too."

STIRLING MOSS. BRITAIN'S PRIDE. AND JOY.

"IT SOUNDS CRAZY NOW, BUT THE DANGER WAS PART OF WHAT MADE RACING SPECIAL."

STIRLING MOSS

STIRLING MOSS | 1957 | VANWALL 2.5L

For a decade the wonderfully versatile Briton was the man every other racing driver in the world wanted to beat. Moss had a calm, unfussy style but never failed to give every race his all and beat the best in F1, rallying, sports cars, touring cars, T2 and F3, sometimes driven in four or five categories at a single meeting. Records



STIRLING MOSS

GRAND PRIX	74
VICTORIES	36



World of Invention Dave Warriner looks at



On 1 March Royal Mail will issue six stamps to celebrate the 250th birthday of Thomas Telford, 'the Colossus of Roads'.

THE WORLD OF INVENTION stamps take a humorous look at some of the great British engineers and inventors who created much of the communications infrastructure of the modern world, with a preview into the future, as seen by the illustrator by Peter Till.

The first stamp (1st class) features Thomas Telford, builder of many of the roads, bridges, docks and canals that paved the way for Britain's 19th-century industrial growth. Born into a poor West-kirk family in 1757, Telford was apprenticed to a stonemason at 14. In 1784 he moved to Portsmouth to design the dockyard. By 1787 he was Shropshire's Surveyor of Public Works working on various buildings including Shrewsbury Castle. He was also responsible

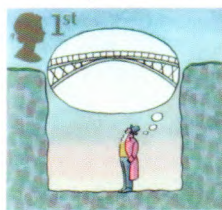
for bridges, designing his first over the Severn at Montford. After linking Wrexham to Chester with the Ellesmere Canal, his reputation led to more projects including 1000 miles of roads and over 1000 bridges in Scotland.

Telford's greatest legacy is the London to Holyhead Road. From Shrewsbury much of it was built from scratch. Notable features are the iron bridge at Betws-y-Coed and Telford's crowning achievement the Menai Suspension Bridge linking Anglesey to the Welsh mainland. At over 1000 feet long it was the longest suspension bridge the world had ever seen, and allowed 100 feet of clearance below the roadway for sailing ships to pass beneath.

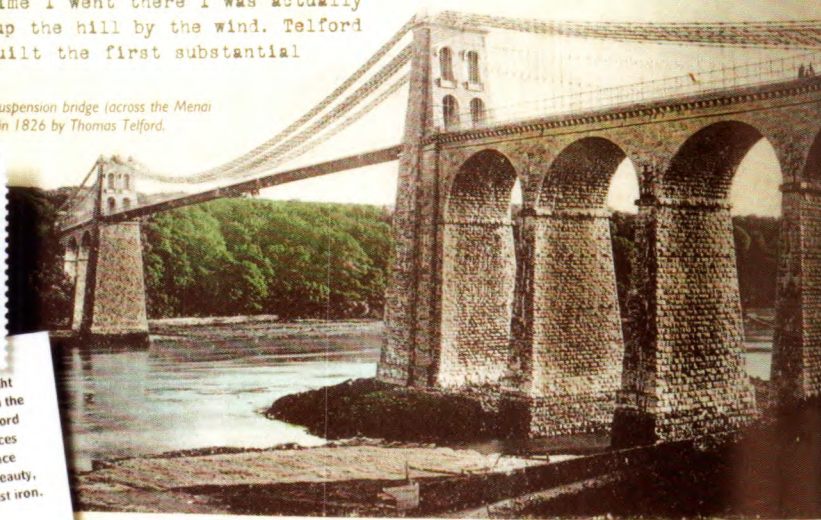
So skillful was his surveying that even through Snowdonia the gradient never exceeds 1 in 20, which means that even cycling uphill is easy – indeed the last time I went there I was actually blown up the hill by the wind. Telford also built the first substantial

suspension bridge in the UK – the Menai Bridge, completed in 1826, which still carries road traffic to Anglesey and thence by ferry to Ireland.

The Menai suspension bridge (across the Menai Straits) built in 1826 by Thomas Telford.



It took a man who thought like a bridge to transform the landscape. Thomas Telford (1757–1834) linked places not just for convenience but with elegance and beauty, using a new material: cast iron.



the subjects of this new special stamp issue

George Stephenson's (1st class) achievement was to usher in the age of mass transportation. Stephenson was born in Wylam, Northumberland in 1781. In 1802 he was working the steam engine that pumped water out of Wylam Colliery. Colliery ponies hauled the coal in trucks on wooden rails, and this may have given Stephenson the inspiration for a steam-powered railway. By 1814 he was building his first locomotive, *Blucher*, named after the Prussian general from Waterloo. *Blucher* was the first successful locomotive using the adhesion of flanged wheels to the rail for traction, and could haul 30 tons of coal. Stephenson built 16 similar colliery engines up to 1820.

The following year Stephenson was hired by the Stockton and Darlington Railway. On 27 September 1825, he drove his own engine *Locomotion* on its nine-mile track hauling 80 tons of freight and, behind in *Experiment*, the first purpose-built passenger coach, the first-ever rail passengers.

Having seen that railways were more efficient on level ground, Stephenson drove the Liverpool and Manchester Railway's track through cuttings, embankments and viaducts. He won the competition to design its first locomotive, and on 15 September 1830 *Rocket* made the first official inter-city rail journey; its performance was so impressive that Stephenson's design became the international standard railway gauge at four foot, eight and a half inches (1435mm). ▶

Below: the World of Invention prestige stamp book, with two of the new stamps and the Stephenson's *Locomotion* stamp of 1975. The World of Invention stamps include text on the reverse of the backing sheet, as shown here and on one of the stamps overleaf.



Richard Trevithick (1771-1833) was on the right track with his Puffing Devil, but railways really took off when George Stephenson's (1781-1848) *Rocket* steamed along the 35 miles from Liverpool to Manchester.



the Britannia Tubular Bridge over the Mersey, constructed to provide trains of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway.

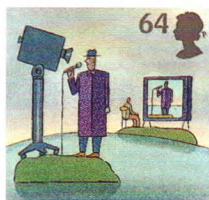
1826 - 1842

Wren builds the first submarine tunnel, under the Thames.

1860 -

German, August O. patented on which is based.

John Logie Baird (1888–1946) first turned on his television in 1925. Now you can stay in and see a whole world of broadcasts every night, right in your living room.



John Logie Baird (64p stamp) was born in 1888, in Helensburgh (Scotland). He went to the University of Glasgow, but never finished his degree because of the outbreak of the First World War. A successful salesman, he began to experiment with methods of transmitting pictures using radio waves when recovering from an illness. Although the development of television was the product of

many inventors, Baird was the first to produce a live moving image, which he demonstrated with the silhouette of his wiggling fingers at London's Selfridges Department Store in 1924.

This early success attracted financial backers, and by 1927 Baird was transmitting television signals between London and Glasgow, followed by the first transatlantic signal in 1928, and the first colour signal and TV show for the BBC the same year. Despite the BBC's decision to drop the Baird system for a rival in 1936 Baird remains the first person to transmit a discernible TV image. Additionally a patent he filed in 1926 gives him some claim as the effective inventor of radar. Baird died following a stroke in 1946.

Alexander Graham Bell (64p) was born in Edinburgh in 1847. His father taught elocution and his mother was deaf, and both of these factors had a profound effect upon his work in the future. After graduating from University College London, Bell emigrated to Canada with his family, where he turned his attention to communications machinery. One of his first inventions was a piano that could transmit music by electricity.

Later, after gaining the position of Professor of Vocal Physiology at Boston University, Bell's research led him to experiment with methods of transmitting speech down a wire by causing electrical undulations similar to the vibrations of the air that transmit sound. This was one of the first telephones and, although many of Bell's contemporaries also claimed to have invented the technology, Bell was the first to patent it, and successfully fought off around 600 lawsuits. The Bell Telephone Company was formed in 1877 and in less than ten years

150,000 people in the United States owned a telephone, making Bell a millionaire – which is interesting when you consider that one of the basic aims of the experiment was to make it easier for him to communicate with his deaf mother.

Bell's invention was not confined to telephones; he also experimented with phonographs, kites, aircraft, hydrofoils, composting toilets and air conditioning. He is also credited with inventing the metal detector in an effort to locate the bullet that killed us President James Garfield; the detector worked, but the corpse had been laid out on a metal-framed bed, confusing the mechanism. Before his death in 1922, Bell became interested in the idea of using solar power to heat houses. He is shown at left in an engraving of 1895.



It's hard to imagine that we have only really been using the world wide web for a little over 15 years. The internet was the brainchild of Tim Berners-Lee (72p) who was born in 1955, to parents who were both mathematicians who had worked on one of the world's first computers, the Manchester Mark 1. By 1989 Berners-Lee had devised the global hypertext system now known as the World Wide Web. In 1994 he founded the World Wide Web Consortium (www.w3.org), which regulates the web and oversees new developments.

The last stamp takes a speculative look into the future for holidays in space (72p). It's not as far-fetched as you might think: the first space tourist, Californian millionaire Denis Tito, joined Russian cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station in 2001. Tito proved that extra-terrestrial leisure travel is no longer science-fiction, and today companies such as Virgin Galactic offer trips to the final frontier. Booked your ticket yet? ●

Text © Dave Warriner 2007



Treasures of the BPMA A slave's life, by Martin Robinson

THIS MONTH Royal Mail will issue a set of stamps to commemorate the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire by an act of Parliament in 1807, and to celebrate some of the leading characters in the long struggle towards abolition.

Some years ago the National Postal Museum, as it then was, purchased some early 19th-century correspondence from Jamaica, for its interesting maritime postal markings. Later it was found that the correspondence itself threw some light on slavery in the island. One document is a valuation undertaken in 1818 of the slaves and other property on the Dundee Estate, a sugar plantation which, its name suggests, was founded by a Scottish Jacobite exiled after the battle of Culloden in 1746. It was enclosed in a wrapper dated 11 April 1818, from Montego Bay to Edinburgh. At 1 oz, it cost 12s 1d to send, and was carried by the PO packet *Chesterfield*. (Covers containing the correspondence are housed in PH 96/09.)

The document lists all the slaves by name, plus stock, buildings etc and land to a total of £63,299 10s, which is the equivalent of many millions of

pounds today. Of this sum, the slaves account for almost a third, £20,515. The list, and my analysis which follows, make for rather chilling reading as it brings home the fact that all these men, women, boys and girls were considered as mere property. However, it is clear that the slaves were cared for as valuable items, for among the buildings a Hospital, value £400, is listed along with 64 'Negro Houses', valued at £30 each, as compared with the Overseer's House which, with its 'Out Offices' is valued at £800.

The slaves are listed as Males (73), Male Children (22), Females (83) and Female Children (28), a total of 206, making their average value nearly £100. Some of the males were skilled and are listed as Carpenters, Coopers or Blacksmiths, with the rest under the heading 'Field Men, etc'. Men and boys are valued at between £210 for William Howd, a skilled mulatto carpenter, and £20 each for Chas Walker and Jas McFarlane, who are both described as 'old'. The most highly valued women and girls are worth between £180 each for Judith and Mary Brown, Ann Burwood, Eliza Clark and

others. Least valued are Jenny Campbell ('old') and Lucy ('bad ulcers') at £15 each and two little girls, Elizabeth and Jenny, at £10 and £5. The 95 males are valued at £10,530 (average c£111) and the 111 females at £9,985 (average c£90).

Most of the slaves are given a first and family name, although some have only a first name. The names Campbell, Gordon, McGhie, Schaw and Stothert recur and are well known among Jamaican planters; and the Dundee Estate had been owned by James Stothert or Stothart in 1800. It was accepted that planters and overseers lived with slave women and had children by them.

Some names in the list are accompanied by a description which often accounts for their valuation: 'head driver', 'head boiler', 'elderly muleman', 'elderly midwife', 'elderly, weakly', 'insane', 'bad eyes'. One male and one female are listed as runaways – perhaps they went off together?

Among the other property is stock – some 180 steers, heifers, bulls, cows, calves and mules – valued at £3,564; buildings, etc – boiling house, curing house, cooling shed, still houses, trash house,

overseer's house, hospital, workshops, carts, wagon and 64 'negro houses' – valued at a total of £6,680; and 1,445 acres of land including 175 acres of cane and the rest grass, 'negro grounds' woods or 'ruinate', valued in total at £23,340 10s.

Slavery endured long in Jamaica, the Spanish having imported the first Africans in 1517. Britain took the island in 1657, gaining formal possession in 1670. For the next 150 years, the cultivation of coffee and sugar cane by slaves made it one of the most valuable possessions in the world; by 1800 the 300,000 slaves outnumbered their white masters by ten to one. The Abolition Act of 1807 had little effect in the island, as its distance from England made it easy for colonists to turn a blind eye. Slaves were smuggled in until an 1827 Act of Parliament declared the smuggling of slaves a form of piracy, punishable by death. In 1834 slavery was outlawed in the British Empire, but Jamaican slaves remained bound to their masters for another four years under the 'Apprenticeship System', which allotted them a quarter of their time to work for themselves ●

Text © Martin Robinson 2007

A page from the Dundee Estate valuation, and a cover sent from the estate to Edinburgh, carried on the PO packet *Chesterfield*.

Valuation of Slaves on Dundee Estate

Names	Value	Names	Value
<i>James Bowers, Carpenter, elderly weakly</i>	135	<i>brought forward</i>	£4820
<i>William Bowers, mulatto</i>	210	<i>Hayard elderly</i>	70
<i>John Stothert weakly an elder</i>	135	<i>Henry</i>	165
<i>Sam Stennick Malt^r, Elephant</i>	45	<i>Isa Kelly elderly disordered</i>	50
<i>Robert McGhie</i>	210	<i>Isa Kelly elderly</i>	20
		<i>Isa Kelly elderly</i>	170
		<i>Isa Kelly elderly</i>	60
		<i>Isa Kelly elderly</i>	45
		<i>Isa Kelly elderly</i>	130
		<i>Isa Kelly elderly</i>	55
		<i>Isa Kelly elderly</i>	135
		<i>Isa Kelly elderly</i>	55
		<i>Isa Kelly elderly</i>	130
		<i>Isa Kelly elderly</i>	175
		<i>Isa Kelly elderly</i>	145

1/4 B
John Russell Esq
95 George Street
Edinbro
000
Chesterfield
MAY 21 1818

Book review A new stamp encyclopedia by James Mackay



The World Encyclopedia of Stamps and Stamp Collecting by James Mackay. Published in 2006 by Anness Publishing Ltd, Hermes House, 88-89 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8HA. ISBN 100754815307. 256 pages. Hardback. Price £16.99. Available from good bookshops.

In a recent biography (*Bulletin*, November 2006), mention was made of James Mackay's vast worldwide reference collection of stamps, postmarks and postal stationery. He refers to this regularly for the many books and articles that he writes on philatelic subjects. Now he has drawn upon this large resource again to produce this new title that will appeal to collectors of all ages, from beginner to specialist.

The first 80 pages of the book are devoted to 'A Guide to Collecting Stamps'. This section begins by describing the various types of stamps that exist and gives a brief historical background of the origins of postal services. It is followed by 'How to Collect Stamps'. Guidance is provided here on the tools and techniques of collecting, with descriptions of the different approaches that can be adopted when forming a collection. For example, the latest method, known as Social Philately, is covered here. Other aspects of the hobby which collectors will encounter, such as forgeries, fiscals, locals, essays and proofs are all dealt with in this part of the book. Finally, aspects of stamp collecting as a global hobby are introduced, with details of organised philately, exhibiting, online facilities, etc being given.

The remainder of the book consists of 'The World Directory of Stamps', which is arranged by continents. Within each one, individual coun-

tries, or groups of countries, are listed on facing pages. The margins on each page contain illustrations of key or typical stamps from the area concerned. The accompanying text provides a potted history of the countries, and further descriptions of the stamps shown.

To assist new collectors in particular, two short appendices are included. The first gives a list of inscriptions to be found on stamp designs or on overprints, showing their country, state or district of origin. The second appendix provides a glossary of the more commonly used philatelic terms used by collectors. A complete index is provided to round off the book.

As with the previous books written by James Mackay, this new book provides another useful philatelic reference volume. The publisher's introduction on the dust cover states that 'Stamps trace the character and history of the country from which they originate, and this directory is a valuable record of some of the most bizarre, colourful and poignant examples ever created. With over 3000 colour images of stamps and associated material, this is an unbeatable guide to a fascinating hobby and its many rewards.' This is a good summary of this work, which is to be recommended for any stamp collector's bookshelf. ●

Ron Negus

Coffee houses and correspondence Rosemary Bennett



Running a business in London in the middle of the 17th century was far more difficult than today. Not only were the telephone, calculator and computers yet to be invented, but there was no national postal delivery service to private and business addresses. But things were about to change, thanks to a drink which was just becoming popular – coffee.

ACCORDING to legend, a weary 9th century goat-herd named Khalid saw that his charges became frisky after eating coffee berries. He tried some himself and, much refreshed, took his discovery to the nearby monastery. The abbot, fearing the effect might be sinful, threw the berries on a fire, releasing a delicious aroma. Changing his mind, he retrieved the berries and put them into water. Drinking this liquid, his monks thought it a miracle which would keep them alert during prayers. Soon, the fame of the new drink began to spread.

The first coffee house It was about the year 1600 when coffee reached Europe, and 1650 when the first English coffee house opened in Oxford. Even though the country was recovering from the Civil War, this was so popular that another was opened in London in 1652. The proprietor was Pasqua

Rosee, a native of Turkey, where the drink had long been popular. Pasqua's master, a London merchant, liked this new drink so much that he allowed the young man to set up in business in St Michael's Alley, Cornhill.

The popularity of coffee quickly swept the capital, and many more coffee houses were opened, some of which also became receiving houses. Even those which were not could be used as mailing addresses, so it was not long before local businessmen realized that this was an ideal place to collect and read their mail, much better than the hustle and bustle of an inn or other commercial establishment. Also, when visiting an inn, there was the temptation to consume alcohol, which dulled the senses, but this new drink actually perked one up, making it easier to return to work afterwards. As an added advantage, they could use their favourite coffee house as an informal office, where their local clients could find them at certain regular hours. Besides all this, coffee houses kept a supply of news-sheets (the forerunners of newspapers) which could be read while enjoying a coffee, and displayed notices of forthcoming sales, auctions, and the movement of shipping.

Soon a 'coffee house culture' had developed, with strict rules of conduct. Admission was only one penny, so a wide variety of people could afford entrance. Inside, all men (the clientele were all male) were considered equal, and no-one was expected to give up his place to a more important man. Swearing was punished by the offender having to buy a round of coffee for all the company, and in many establishments gambling was banned.

News and gossip Journalism was in its infancy, but enterprising reporters soon realized that coffee houses were ideal places to pick up news and gossip. Businessmen, in their turn, availed themselves of the chance to find out all sorts of information from reporters, so it was mutually beneficial.

on the history of a popular partnership

But it was not only businessmen who used the coffee houses. Samuel Pepys was a regular at these new establishments, and makes frequent mention of them in his diaries. For example, on 25 February 1662 he went with a Mr Moore to a coffee house (probably Wills), where the talk was of a terrible wind which had swept the south of England a week before. This had caused many deaths in London and elsewhere, and by the 25th they had received letters from the Forest of Dean telling them that thousands of oaks and beeches had been blown down there, and Samuel's father had written to say that twenty trees had been lost at Bampton. Even during the Plague in 1665 and the Great Fire of London in 1666, some coffee houses managed to stay open, although clients took sensible precautions against infection, such as being wary of approaching strangers.

The popularity of coffee houses continued to increase so that, by the year 1700, it is estimated that there were over 500 of them in London. But besides being useful 'offices' for businessmen and convenient meeting places, coffee houses appealed to people from many occupations and interests, and soon some establishments developed a specialized clientele. Those situated in Westminster attracted politicians, those near St Paul's Cathedral were frequented by clergymen, and those near the law courts by lawyers.

Colonial mail As overseas mail increased, some coffee houses became associated with mail from, or to, the colonies. Letters from Jamaica for instance were taken by the captains of incoming ships to the Jamaican Coffee House in St Michael's Alley, Cornhill, where West Indian merchants gathered and captains could bargain for the transport of cargo. While there, they would collect mail sacks for the return journey. In the early 18th century, the likelihood of a letter reaching its destination was slight, owing to pirates, storms and other perils, so people often sent several copies; many bore a hand-stamp noting its point of origin, and 'WGP' (which God preserve). ►



Some London coffee houses remained open in the Great Fire of 1666. (St Helena SG 214).

A contemporary illustration of a meeting taking place in a 17th century London coffee house.



The Bicentennial
of American
Independence
1776-1976



This page: Benjamin Franklin (American Independence set, 1976); a scene at Jonathan's Coffee House in Change Alley, London, venue for commercial transactions that became the London Stock Exchange; and a letter sent to the Jamaica Coffee House.



To
James Gordon Esq^r
Jamaica Coffee House
London



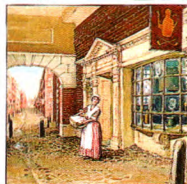
The form of address used for coffee house letters was simply; 'Mr Smith, at Andertons Coffee House, Fleet Street, London'. When leaving America for London in April 1757, Benjamin Franklin requested his sister and friends to 'direct your letters to be left for me at the Pensilvania (sic) Coffee House in Birch Lane, London'. However, some years later, with the revolutionary era in full swing in America, Benjamin had reason to suspect that a spy from Pennsylvania had obtained access to his coffee house letters, and asked his correspondents to 'write no more to me by that course'.

As the years passed, and newspapers took over from the simple news-sheet, coffee houses were used to advantage by newspaper proprietors such as Joseph Addison. In his paper, *The Guardian*, he announced that he intended to erect a letter-box in the shape of a lion's head in Button's Coffee House, and invited readers to place in it their contributions for his newspaper. This was a great success, and also ensured the success of Button's, where he had set up Daniel Button as the proprietor.

Coffee houses also played an important part, albeit in an indirect way, in another publication, *The Tatler*, which announced that it would divide its contents under headings relating to the specialization of the named coffee house. For example, 'learning' was to appear under the title 'Grecian', as this was the meeting place of the 'Learned Club', formed by Fellows of the Royal Society, one of whom was Edmond Halley, the astronomer of comet fame. Foreign and domestic news would be under St James Coffee House, poetry under Will's, and entertainment and pleasure under White's Chocolate House, which in spite of its name sold mainly coffee.



1688
1988
8p
ER



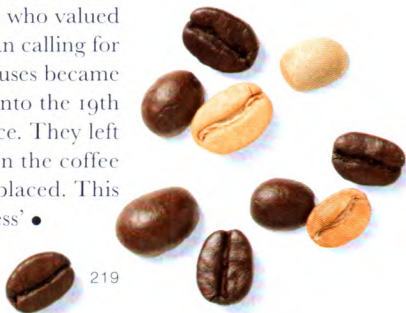
ASCENSION ISLAND

Above and left: Lloyd's Coffee House, Tower Street, London, 1688 (1988 Ascension Island issue, SG 474). Illustration at left reproduced by courtesy of Lloyd's of London.

Lloyd's of London Besides their general importance to businesses, coffee houses were the basis of two institutions which are still part of our national life: Lloyd's of London and the Stock Exchange. In 1697, merchants at the Royal Exchange objected to the presence of stock-jobbers, and had them removed. Finding themselves without a base, the latter moved to the nearby coffee houses, which were the haunt of shippers and underwriters, and until 1773 stock exchange transactions took place in coffee houses. For this reason, the attendants at the Stock Exchange became known as 'waiters'.

At about the same time, Edward Lloyd's coffee house in Lombard Street was becoming the site of auctions of ships and cargoes, and also the haunt of maritime underwriters. Strictly speaking, underwriting was supposed to be carried out in the Royal Exchange, but increasingly it began to take place in Lloyds and, in 1727, it was moved there. A society was formed between the underwriters, which became known as 'Lloyd's of London'.

As the 18th century drew to an end, the popularity of coffee houses began to wane. Some lost their refined atmosphere, and were often the scene of quarrels or worse. A few had even become brothels. Those who valued the type of establishment which they had originally been began calling for a selection of clientele to be made, and some of the coffee houses became exclusive clubs. However, coffee houses as such existed well into the 19th century, although they had lost their importance and influence. They left us a small legacy: the word 'tip'. This came about because in the coffee houses there was a small box into which gratuities could be placed. This box was inscribed with the letters 'TIP' – 'To Insure Promptness' •



A life collecting James Grimwood-Taylor, by Richard West

JAMES GRIMWOOD-TAYLOR started collecting stamps at only three years old: what appealed first was a 1960 General Letter Office 3d, which he carefully glued onto a piece of cardboard. He was apparently born with a collecting instinct, for even at an early age would keep items such as broken pots and bottle tops, already recognising the need to gather and organise.



His parents hoped that James would study maths at university: instead he chose prehistoric archaeology at Edinburgh. On his way to lectures, he passed a stamp shop: before long, he was helping the owner sort out the postal history stock, even attending stamp fairs, all the while an undergraduate. He was paid in material, and still owns most of the collection he built up at that time. Even before

he graduated, James had decided that he wanted a career in stamps. Stamps quickly became his main hobby, being far keener, more fanatical, than any of his peers. Perhaps collecting was in his genes: his grandfather collected, as had his grandfather's grandmother, and their albums still exist. He acquired his first album when just 5, picked out of a wastepaper basket, to which anything and everything was added, often buying packets of stamps at events such as church fêtes.

By his early teens, James had decided to concentrate on Great Britain, spending all his pocket money with the aim of acquiring 'one of each', although he never did manage the £5 orange and PVC £1. By the age of 16 he might well have given up had it not been for a visit to Stampex and the purchase for £5 of a pre-stamp cover: he had not realised that such items existed. Determined to discover more, he obtained the postal history catalogue by Martin Willcocks.

His father was a lawyer with a business started in 1784: the firm operated from premises in Derby occupied since 1857. James knew that the attic was full of boxes of papers, and he offered to sort and index the contents if he could keep any letters he found. This took six months, for the attic and the cellar contained some 250 boxes, revealing between 5,000 and 10,000 letters, all over 100 years old. To preserve confidentiality, James was not allowed to keep anything under that age limit. The earliest item was dated 1571. Sadly, however, others had been there before him, as every Penny Black had been cut off the letters, including several that had May dates, and one that was dated 6 May 1840.

he graduated, James had decided that he wanted a career in stamps.

His father was not pleased. He knew Geoffrey Manton, owner of Cavendish Auctions in Derby, from whom he sought help: 'James wants to be a stamp monger, what am I going to do?' Geoffrey was able to calm the situation down; fortunately at that time, in the late 1970s, the stamp market was buoyant. Geoffrey would not employ James, but offered the names of six London companies that might. James decided to write to them one at a time in alphabetical order: top of the list was Argyll Etkin. His letter asked for advice on how to get into the stamp business. The company had never received a letter like it before, and certainly not from a university student. James was invited for an interview, which lasted two hours, after which he was offered a job starting when he left university, still a year away.

In September of 1979, aged 22, James joined Argyll Etkin: his first task was to go to Selfridges Food Hall to buy the staff's lunches. Joint owner of Argyll Etkin was the late Angus Parker, whose sight was failing, and who found it increasingly difficult to travel. James would go to view auction lots, discussing with Angus those for which the company should bid. Just before James joined the firm, Bill Hart, responsible for Great Britain material, had left; James was put in charge of the GB stock. He looks back at what proved a golden opportunity, a time when he thoroughly enjoyed himself while learning a great deal. Soon he was undertaking foreign travel for the company, and in the mid 1980s was made a Director.

The pressure, however, be to tell. Married with two daughters, born in 1985 and 1987, the travelling meant he was spending less and less time at home: the marriage suffered. He wanted not to work for someone else, but to run the show, so in 1988 tried to take over Argyll Etkin. Angus and Eric Etkin were not prepared to give up their controlling interest.

In 1985, James had decided to return to live in Derby, coming to London four days a week to work for Argyll Etkin. Three years earlier, Geoffrey Manton had sold Cavendish to Frank Laycock; Frank wanted out, and offered the business to James in 1988. Thus started his new life as an auctioneer, while remaining a Director, and part-time consultant, with Argyll Etkin, although on a one-day-a-week basis. There was no conflict of interest between the two companies, one a dealer, the other an auctioneer.

The Cavendish business so grew that after two years the dual arrangement had to end. James' second wife, Pat, joined him at Cavendish in 1992, as Finance Director. They decided to leave Derby for the West Country in 2003 but are no less active in the business working from home. James is now busier than ever, greatly enjoying lotting and describing vendors' material, being able to handle so much material, and finding it a privilege to be able to 'experience' other people's collections.

Despite being so busy, James still has time for his own collections, and not just philatelic. He has won three 'international' gold medals, for British Postal Reform, for which he had to buy a Penny Black on cover dated 6 May 1840, Offshore Islands Postal History, and English Postal History from 1500 to 1900. Among his other postal history collections are Upper Silesia, which spans from 1920 to 1922, and Rhodes, not at all easy to find.

He has always been fascinated by the contents of letters, long before others shared such interest, and recalls discreetly opening items in case the dealer wondered what he was up to. He has much of interest, from letters signed by composers, to a fake letter bomb sent to Margaret Thatcher.

So how does James reconcile his business and pleasure? He realises that as an auctioneer he has a responsibility to both vendors and buyers, and

must always be 'whiter than white', but that does not prevent him from sharing the excitement felt by both. If there is something that takes his fancy in one of his auctions, he will bid alongside all other interested parties. As for the future of the hobby, he feels it is fine, thanks to the internet, which has stimulated the interest and shown that ours is a worldwide hobby ●

A little more on the life of James Grimwood-Taylor

Do you still collect anything besides stamps? I have always collected wrapped sugar cubes, but my collecting stretches far and wide, including writing equipment from 1826 to 1910, and 17th century Derby tokens. I love researching items.

Do you have other interests? I enjoy gardening, classical music, theatre, reading and local and family history – I am now exploring the history of our home in the West Country. I am a Friend of the National Theatre and Trustee of a national charity.

Any time for sport? I follow tennis, cricket and Premiership football, and I used to be a long distance runner.

Who were your philatelic influences? Geoffrey Manton, of course, and Robson Lowe, who kindly gave me many of his postal history sales catalogues, along with the prices realised, which I found invaluable. I also relied heavily on the writings of Martin Willcocks, and enjoyed many a discussion with him.

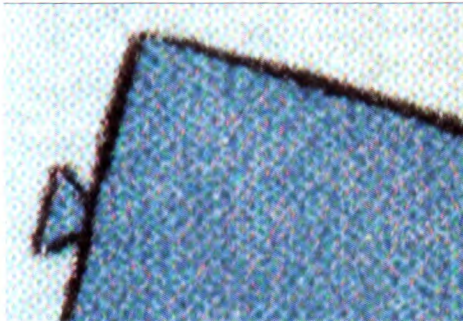
Do you have time to be involved with many societies? I am or have been a member of about 50, from local clubs to The Royal Philatelic Societies of London, Melbourne and Canada. I am currently President of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, and am a Past President of the Society of Postal Historians. I enjoy giving society displays, and entered competitively for the first time at Stampex in 1981, winning The Phillips Trophy.

Travel has clearly played a major part of your life I have enjoyed travelling, my favourite place being San Francisco. I would love to see more of China and Japan.

Prize draw Miniature sheets

OUR PRIZE THIS MONTH is the Miniature Sheet Collection, containing one of each of the sheets issued during 2006 plus our Royal Mail Miniature Sheet Album. Five runners-up will receive Beatles and Wembley Stadium miniature sheets. To enter, send your name and address on a postcard to: the Miniature Sheets Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 30 March ●

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



December identify The detail was from the 2005 1st class Christmas stamp. The winner was J Mills, North Yorkshire.

December knowledge The answers: 1) Tasveer Shemza and James Berry; 2) 1981 Folklore; 3) Prince of Wales, later King George V. The winner was P Katsouda, Greece.

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

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

- 1 What colour was the George VI 6d definitive?
- 2 Which Millennium stamp issue features Saturn?
- 3 Where was the British Empire Exhibition held in 1924-25?

Send your answer (addressed to either the March *Identify* competition or the March *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 13 April will each receive £100. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, stamp cards or first day covers will be awarded in each competition. Royal Mail employees are not eligible. ●

Events

Until 19 April 'Elizabeth: Queen & Icon' exhibition at British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

28 February - 4 March Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1. **Enquiries** Stampex 01252 628006.

10 March Streetly PS Annual Stamp Fair at Collingwood Centre, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10.00-16.30. Dealers in stamps, postal history, covers, etc. Admission 20p adults, 10p children. **Enquiries** B Hyner, 0121 308 2260.

10 March Spring BasPex stamp fair and exhibition, organised by Basildon Philatelic Society, at Barstable School, Timberlog Close, Basildon, 10.00-16.00. Free admission and car park. Over 12 dealers.

13 March North of Ireland PS Auction (approx 500 lots) at Hunterhouse College, Upper Lisburn Road, Finaghy, Belfast, 19.45 (viewing 17.30-19.30). Room bidders only. **Enquiries** N Scott 028 90 795530.

17 March Letter Box Study Group meeting at St Wilfrid's Roman Catholic Secondary School, Featherstone, near Wakefield, 10.00-15.00. **Enquiries:** Helen Crabtree, 01536 762127.

31 March - 29 April Lincoln PS 11th Annual 'STAMP Lincs' exhibition at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln. Theme Explorers and Areas of Exploration. **Enquiries** P Wain, 01522 525984.

7 April North of Ireland PS Annual Exhibition and Fair at St Nicholas Church Hall, Cadogan Park, Lisburn Rd, Belfast, 10.00-16.30. Dealers in stamps, postal history, etc. **Enquiries** N Scott, 028 90 795530. ●

Late news

Cylinders Cylinder numbers for the 27 March definitives are D1 (all values), and for the country stamps: England 48p D1 D2, 78p D1 D1; N Ireland 48p D1 D1, 78p D1 D1 D1; Scotland 48p D1 D2 D1, 78p D1 D1 D2 D1 D1; Wales 48p D1 D1 D1, 78p D1 D1 D1 D1. The cylinders and colours for the Beside the Seaside stamps (15 May) are: D1 magenta D1 yellow D1 cyan (blue) D1 black, all values •

Auctions Grosvenor's specialised GB sale on 25-26 January realised some £1.49 million. Some very rare Pearson Hill first and third experimental cancellations on cover sold for £12,350 and £6116 respectively, and a superb silver-gilt Wyon head medal £4905. Elizabeth II errors and varieties demonstrated their rising popularity: a 1963 Compac black omitted made £4600, 1966 Technology with missing red (Mini cars) £7457, and a newly discovered pane of the 2006 VC Anniversary with bronze and phosphor omitted £7837. A fine section of Machins including many imperf varieties sold well, including £4324 for the imperf 2002 Walsall barcode 6 × 1st booklet. For details of future sales contact Grosvenor on 020 7379 8789 or see www.grosvenorauctions.com •

Obituaries We are sorry to record the passing of (Oswald) John Simpson, former industrial chemist and schoolmaster, who was a noted authority on Channel Islands stamps and postal history. With the late Bill Newport, he formed the Channel Islands Specialist Society in 1950. He wrote *The Revenue Stamps of the Channel Islands* (1st edn 1983), articles on CI postal history in this *Bulletin* (1987), and 12 books on chemistry for schools •

A memorial service for Ken Chapman, former Editor of *Stamp Collecting*, who died in November aged 96, was held on 27 January at St Nicholas Church, Britwell Salome, Oxfordshire where Ken and his late wife Dorothy worshipped. The full church included, from the philatelic world, Jean and Crawford Alexander, Chris Board, Rosemary Green, Eileen Loader, Douglas Muir, John Ray, and Richard West. Memories of Ken were given by one of his sons, Graham, Douglas Muir of the

BPMA, who worked with Ken on *Stamp Collecting*, and George Cannon, who ministered at St Nicholas Church when Ken and Dorothy worshipped there. Graham revealed aspects about Ken's life probably unknown to most in philately: that he was the south London schoolboy champion at crib, how he had seriously considered entering the legal profession, that he had an incredible general knowledge, but was totally impractical. Douglas recalled his days in the office with Ken's desk being piled with papers, although Ken knew exactly where everything was, and his wide involvement in the world of philately, from being President of Croydon Philatelic Society to Chairman of the Philatelic Traders' Society. George also told how Ken could not join the church choir, as he was tone deaf. As Graham said, when Ken was asked how he felt while lying in hospital during his final hours, his reply was 'Marvellous!' •

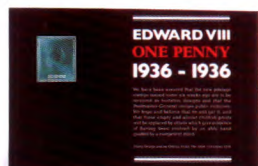
We are sorry to hear of the death on 2 February of Allan Daniell, aged 83. He worked for the BBC before becoming Editor of *Stamps* magazine during the 1980s and early 90s. For a while he was Editor of *Cross Post*, the journal of the Friends of the National Postal Museum, of which he was a keen supporter. In recent times he wrote lively auction reports for *Stamp Magazine*. A collector of European stamps, Allan was good company, with a dry sense of humour, and always interested in the fortunes of the philatelic community •

Events The National Philatelic Society is holding a Social Philately seminar at the Rising Sun Inn, Cloth Fair, London EC1 on 17 March, from 10.45-16.30. Pat Grimwood-Taylor and Birthe King are the speakers. Cost £10 (£8 NPS members) including lunch. Bookings should be sent to NPS, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT by 11 March. Following closure of the British Philatelic Centre on 31 March, future NPS meetings will be held in Room 4c, Northampton Suite, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1. The Society is now in negotiations regarding relocation of its library on BPMA premises at Phoenix Place. Details to be announced •

The new Royal Mail Stamp Ingot Collection



The slipcase and ingot (ingot shown actual size) from the George VI 1d issue. Below: illustrated folder from No 1 in the series, the Edward VIII 1d.



This new series of six stamp ingots features famous stamps from the reigns of Kings Edward VIII and George VI. The recently issued No 2 reproduces the George VI 1d definitive issued, together with 1/2d and 2 1/2d values, on 10 May 1937, two days before his coronation and the first stamps of his reign, five months after his unexpected accession to the throne in December 1936. The ingot is supplied in a handsome boxed illustrated folder. No 1 in the series, the Edward VIII 1d stamp, is still available. No 3, featuring the George VI Coronation stamp, will be available in June. Price £27.95 each or £167.70 for the set of six.



Subscribers to the set receive a Three Kings miniature sheet, a free miniature sheet storage pack, and ingot collection box. The miniature sheet storage box to house the pack as well as the collection box can be bought separately at £9.95 and £15.95 respectively. Handling charge £1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 Rest of World.

Royal Mail

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Royal Mail