

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

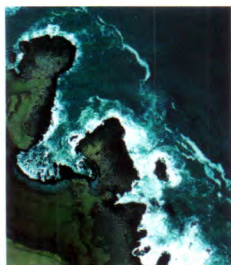
Volume 39 Number 6

FEBRUARY 2002 • 85P

The Queen and the Golden Jubilee • Coastlines stamps



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Part of the eastern side of the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland, by Richard Cooke, whose aerial photographs feature in Royal Mail's new Coastline stamps.

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

31 January	Issue Golden Jubilee stamp cards.
6 February	Issue Golden Jubilee stamps, presentation pack, <i>A Gracious Accession</i> prestige book, coin and bank-note covers.
12 February	Withdrawal Cats & Dogs stamps, stamp book, presentation pack and stamp cards.
26 February	Issue Occasions stamp cards.
5 March	Issue Occasions stamps and presentation pack.
5 March	Withdrawal Northern Ireland 19p, 1st, 40p & 65p Machin head stamps.
11 March	Withdrawal Low Value, High Value, Country presentation packs. See Royal Mail News for details.
12 March	Issue Low Value, High Value, Scotland, and Wales presentation packs containing current range of stamps. Also Royal Mail Definitive Stamps Collection folder containing all six definitive and country stamp packs (low & high values, England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland).
12 March	Issue Coastlines stamp cards.
12 March	Withdrawal Weather stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, and postbag.
19 March	Issue Coastlines stamps and presentation pack.
20 March	Issue Golden Jubilee ingot cover (<i>Wildings</i> prestige book pane and ingot reproducing 1952 2½d definitive stamp).

Contents



The Queen and the Jubilee

Daniel Cooke looks at some of the many stamps from all around the world recording 50 years since the accession

171

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies, from Post Office Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe; £13.50 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives details of forthcoming special hand-stamps. Available on annual subscription, from Edinburgh address above: UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Design and text Consignia plc, unless attributed to a specific author. Requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Consignia plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

Issues and withdrawals
January to March 162

Stamp scene Stampex;
Overseas exhibitions;
Cavendish Auctions;
GB literature; *Cross Post*
164

Royal Mail news New
Occasions stamps; New
packs; Golden Jubilee
stamps; Customised
Cartoons sheets 166

Nothing gets
through like a
letter.

Coastlines Ten stamps
giving an aerial view of
Britain's coastline 176

Definitives & souvenirs
Richard West describes
special packs produced
by Royal Mail 180

Philatelic medallic,
numismatic and ingot
covers 182



Mainly Machins Report
for specialist collectors,
by D G A Myall 184

Philately on-line Study
circles, by Ron Negus
186

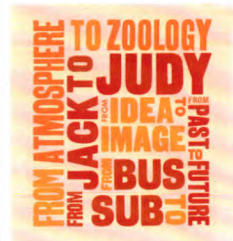
The Queen's portrait
An alternative view, by
Douglas Muir 187



Harry Wright Interview
by Richard West 188

ABPS Awards 189

Special draw Win 2001
Yearpack 189



Posting boxes 189

Competitions £200 to
be won 190

Events 190

Late news and Obituary
191

Stamp scene Exhibitions news • Postcards

• GB literature • H O Fraser • Cavendish

Stampex opening times

27 February	Noon-19.00
28 Feb-2 March	10.30-18.00
3 March	10.30-16.00

Admission is free on all days.

For details of National Youth Stamp Group activities, contact Anne Dummer, 2A Bryant Road, Kettering NN15 6JE. Telephone 01536 519959.

For a continually updated list of dealers attending, see the PTS website: www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk



Spring Stampex organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will be held at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1, 27 February - 3 March. On the 'Village Green' area the invited displays will be mounted by the Royal Philatelic Society London, whose members will be displaying over 100 frames of exhibits from many areas. Up in the Gallery there will be two displays, one by members of the Forces Postal History Society, the other by the Scandinavia Philatelic Society. Members of the three societies will be on hand to answer questions about their activities.

To celebrate the golden jubilee of The Queen's accession (on 6 February), there will be an extensive display mounted by Heritage Services, Consignia entitled 'The Queen's Portrait - An Alternative View' which will contain much material from the archives never seen before in public.

The National Youth Stamp Group will, as usual, be taking part; the theme of their stand will be Children's Literature.

The usual range of dealers will cater for all kinds of collector, from beginner to specialist, supplying mint and used stamps, old and new covers, accessories and literature. About one-fifth of dealers are from overseas.

Royal Mail will offer its full range of stamps and philatelic products, including the latest Just So Stories and Golden Jubilee issues. A special postmark will be applied to mail posted at the stand at the exhibition. Collectors unable to visit Stampex can send covers, bearing at least 1st class postage, to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB requesting Stampex postmark and stating date(s) required. Covers must be received by the date of cancellation wanted.

Both the Bath and Manchester Postal Museums will be attending, the latter featuring 'Toytown Post'. A joint stand will be provided for the British Philatelic Trust, Association of British Philatelic Societies and National Philatelic Society, with members of the NPS manning an information stand just inside the main entrance. A number of societies, including the Great Britain Philatelic Society, and Egypt, Concorde, Ceylon, Natal & Zululand, and Malta Study Circles will hold meetings at Stampex on the Saturday or Sunday. The ABPS will also be holding meetings •

Philakorea is being hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communication and the Philatelic Federation of Korea. The UK commissioner is Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG.

Philakorea 2002 This world stamp exhibition will be held at the Pacific Hall and Indian Ocean Hall of the Convention & Exhibition Center (COEX) in Seoul, 2-11 August 2002. It marks the 2002 FIFA World Cup Soccer Finals and the 14th Busan Asian Games and aims to improve and develop South Korea's philatelic culture by providing local philatelists with opportunities for international creative activities. Held under FIP patronage, the exhibition will include the following competitive classes: FIP Championship, Traditional Philately, Revenue, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematics, Maximaphily, Youth, Literature, Modern (material since the late 1940s), and Open •

Washington 2006 Dr Michael D Dixon, President of Washington 2006, announced in late November that the organization has thus far raised over \$130,000 in memberships. As a charitable tax-exempt entity, that total is expected to increase as donors contribute to take advantage of US tax laws. The US international exhibition will take place 27 May - 3 June 2006 at the Washington, DC Convention Center. Held every 10 years in the USA, it brings together collectors from around the world in celebration of philately under the slogan 'Stamps – and so much more'. Washington 2006 faces financial challenges unlike any US international exhibition beforehand. Rather than a traditional fund drive or guarantee fund, organizers have opted to raise money through memberships, enabling all philatelists to support the show at a level affordable to their means. Premium levels include a variety of thank you gifts. Memberships seek to raise \$450,000; this includes individual, corporate, and matching donation options. The amount received to date exceeds expectations so soon after the program's launch. Other areas of the exhibition continue to progress on schedule, with over 100 volunteers working on different aspects of the show ●

Washington 2006 To learn more or contribute, visit the Washington 2006 website at www.washington-2006.org/, email info@washington-2006.org, or write to Washington 2006, PO Box 2006, Ashburn, VA 20146-2006, USA.

GB literature The October issue of the *Chronicle*, the quarterly journal of the Great Britain Collectors Club, includes features on Royal Mail Postbags (packs for children), Machins, Army Telegraph stamps, Mulreadys, Posted in Advance for Christmas Day postmarks, and an interview with David Aggersberg, Editor of the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue. Much of the interview is concerned with the SG catalogues, but Mr Aggersberg makes some general points about the state of the hobby. Asked how he sees the health of the hobby now and what are his predictions for 20 years hence, he answers: 'The strength of stamp collecting is that it is always evolving. I suspect that the future will see much more emphasis on older issues (which I would define at this stage as being anything issued before 1960) with much less emphasis on the pursuit of completeness through the purchase of new issues. How the postal authorities will cope with this I am uncertain. The collecting of GB is likely to remain one of the most popular aspects, and it is hoped that Royal Mail will succeed in walking the very fine dividing line between sustaining interest and producing too many items for collectors with limited means.' On a personal note, we learn that Mr Aggersberg was born in Faversham, Kent but regards nearby Whitstable as his home town. Asked if he is a collector himself, he replied: 'I feel I see too many stamps during the day to enjoy collecting in my own time. I do purchase the odd Whitstable postcard, but otherwise my collecting interests are centered on toy soldiers.' ●

The December issue of *Britannia News*, journal of the Studiegroep Britannia, includes features on postal history, Machin coils, Victorian postmarks, new and forthcoming issues and a lengthy auction catalogue of British and other stamps ●

The Spring 2001 issue of *Cross Post*, journal of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum, is the first by new Editor Dr Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye. Features cover marginal inscriptions of George VI and Wilding

GB Collectors Club For more details see website www.gbstamps.com/gbcc or write to the Secretary, Parker A Bailey, 17 Greenwood Road, Merrimack, NH 03054, USA.

Britannia News P S Gimberg, Duivesteijnstraat 16, 2272 AN Voorburg, Netherlands.

Friends of the NPM A Watton, Cornhill Chambers, Union Street, Stroud GL5 2JT.

definitives, Revenue Protection labels, free franking, William Blott – Inspector of Franks, British Packet Mails to India 1815-19, mobile posting boxes on buses, and an important three page statement by Martin Rush, Head of Heritage Services, entitled ‘The National Postal Museum’s Future’. Mr Rush gives details of work carried out since the NPM closed in 1998 and is ‘happy to report that the Consignia plc Board has now endorsed revised proposals to develop gallery space in central London, with a view to re-opening to the public as soon as practicable.’ ●

Auction enquiries Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY. Telephone 01332 250970.

Cavendish auctions The Cavendish auction on 30 November included some notable results. A letter of 1660 sent by Colonel John Birch from Shrewsbury to the High Sheriff of Derbyshire realised £920 (estimate £400), and a cover from Islay in 1848 with failed re-use of a 1d red made £805 (£300). The cover, franked by a damaged and clearly previously used 1d red, roughly affixed using sealing wax, was endorsed ‘Old Stamp’ in red and a fine black handstruck ‘2’ charge-mark added. An 1839 entire with the distinctive handstruck of Galway realised £1380 (£1000). The ‘Valuables by Post’ auction of material from the large gold medal collection of Vivien Sussex will be held on 6 March ●

Royal Mail news New Occasions stamps • New packs • Customised Cartoons sheet



Technical details

Printer The House of Questa

Process Lithography

Stamp size 41 x 30mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 15 x 14

Phosphor Two bands

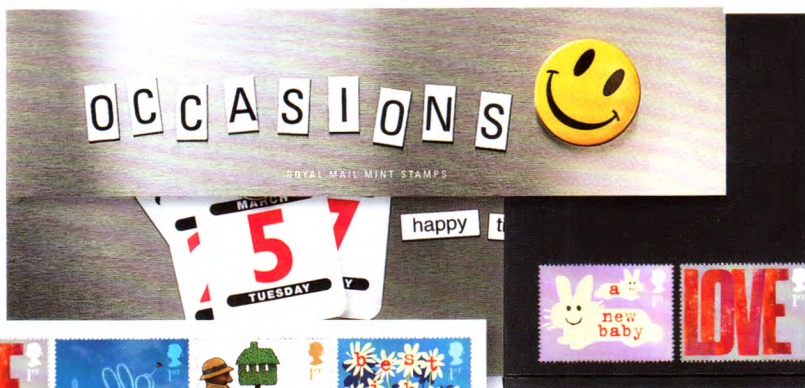
Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Occasions stamps A second series of Occasions stamps will go on sale at post offices, Royal Mail Talents House and Post Office philatelic outlets from 5 March. The five colourful 1st class stamps feature: New baby (rabbit) designed by Ian Bilbey; ‘LOVE’ by Alan Kitching; ‘hello’ in sky-writing by Hoop Associates; Moving Home (Bear the gardener) by Graham Percy; and ‘best wishes’ spelt out in flowers by Ian Bilbey.

The stamps will be suitable for use on greetings mail – for Valentine’s Day, new baby arrival, birthdays, and sending best wishes for new jobs, examinations, or moving to a new home. The Queen’s silhouette and 1st indicator are positioned at top right. The five stamps will be printed in separate sheets. The existing set of ‘Silver’ Occasions stamps (issued in February 2001) will remain on sale, giving customers a choice of designs to use on their mail.

A presentation pack (right, £1.70) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available as usual.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorblair Road
Ilkerton
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB



Sponsored handstamps for 5 March will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Talents House (£10 UK and Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

For a sample copy write to: The Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 5 March, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Talents House or Merry Hill, Wolverhampton must reach Talents House by the day of issue. Price £2 UK (including VAT) or £1.71 overseas (no VAT).

Covers may be sent on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA (Merry Hill postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO203' (Talents House), or 'FDO204' (Merry Hill). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Merry Hill pictorial cancel. A non-pictorial Merry Hill postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FDO204 NP' •

Plate numbers and colours

All five stamps Q1 yellow • Q1 magenta • Q1 blue • Q1 black • Q1 phosphor. Rabbit stamp additionally Q1 lilac, Love stamp Q1 silver, and Best Wishes stamp Q1 deep blue.

New presentation packs Price and contents

Low values £5.45	1p, 2p, 4p, 5p, 8p, 10p, 2nd (19p), 20p, 1st (27p), 33p, E/37p, 40p, 41p, 45p, 50p, 65p, and £1.
High values £11.85	£1.50, £2, £3, and £5
Scotland & Wales £1.85 each	2nd, 1st, E and 65p

country packs for Scotland and Wales bring these packs into line with the packs for the English and Northern Ireland stamps.

The low and high value packs have been updated and now bear a new crown and national floral emblems motif instead of the three lions – now used for the English stamps pack. Amongst the illustrations is a photograph of Arnold Machin at work of his cast of The Queen's head, and examples of three of the casts used in the preparation of the stamps. Early

New presentation packs A range of new packs will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House and philatelic outlets from 12 March. The packs, prices and contents are detailed opposite. The low value and high value stamps are all printed by De La Rue (formerly Harrisons), except the 2nd and 1st NVIs in the Low Value pack, which were printed by Walsall. The contents of the new

designs are also shown together with some of the issued stamps, including the very first Machin definitive – the 4d sepia of June 1967 – and the Millennium definitive.

In addition the packs for low and high value definitives and the four sets of country stamps will be available in an attractive Royal Mail Definitive Stamp Collection folder which has the Machin head printed in silver on the front cover. Opened out it displays the six packs, each housed in a pocket. The individual packs can be easily removed for examination. Price £29.95. The folder is also available separately at £6.99 ●

Packs to be withdrawn from sale 11 March

Low Values	no 41	£ 5.50	issued October 1998
High Values	no 43	£11.85	issued March 1999
Low Values	no 44	£ 2.10	issued April 1999
Low Values	no 49	£ 2.65	issued April 2000
Scotland	no 45	£ 1.80	issued June 1999
Scotland	no 50	£ 1	issued April 2000
Wales	no 46	£ 1.80	issued June 2000
Wales	no 51	£ 1	issued April 2000
N Ireland	no 47	£ 1.80	issued June 1999
N Ireland	no 52	£ 1.70	issued April 2000

Philatelic Census Royal Mail will be using the Golden Jubilee special stamps to launch the Philatelic Census, which is aimed at collecting the names of stamp collectors who exclusively or mainly buy their stamps and stamp products at Post Office branches. Capturing the names of core collectors will enable Royal Mail to provide core collectors with more information about forthcoming stamp issues and more in-depth details about the stamps.

From 4-9 February Post Office Ltd staff will be asked to hand out questionnaires to known collectors and anyone who asks for Golden Jubilee special stamp products. Each questionnaire will be contained within an envelope together with a letter, explaining the reasons behind the Census. Customers will be asked to fill in the survey at their convenience, providing details such as their name, address, age, telephone number, e-mail address, the stamp products they buy and the Post Office branches where they usually make their purchases. A postage paid envelope will be provided for them to send off their completed questionnaires and every respondent will receive an exclusive souvenir cover. Their names will also be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win a mint Penny Black (SG cat £3500) or one of 10 used Penny Blacks (cat £200) ●

Cartoons customised sheets Shown here is the sheet of Cartoons stamps and labels announced in an insert in the December *Bulletin*; further details were published last month. Stamps in the sheet differ from those in earlier books (1996) in not having elliptical perforations on the vertical sides •

Cartoons customised sheets are available from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh and Post Office philatelic outlets, price £2.95.



Corrections In December we stated that Ormond Hill was the son of Sir Rowland Hill (p122). This is incorrect; Ormond was Sir Rowland's nephew. Ormond worked as his father Edwin's assistant on stamp production; Edwin was Comptroller of Stamp Department, Inland Revenue.

The list of definitives in January (p137) should be headed 2001, not 2002 •



The Golden Jubilee stamps will be printed on paper watermarked with a '50' pattern. A souvenir sheet of this paper is included as a free gift with this month's *Bulletin*.

The Golden Jubilee The Golden Jubilee stamps, presentation pack, and *A Gracious Accession* prestige book go on sale on 6 February – the 50th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne on the death of her father, King George VI. The Golden Jubilee stamps are printed on '50' watermarked paper (see left).

In addition to the stamps and prestige book, there will be coin and banknote covers. The coin cover bears the five Golden Jubilee stamps, cancelled by an oval London sw1 'Crown' postmark

and encapsulated Royal Mint £5 coin. Limited edition of 40,000 individually numbered covers, price £15.95. The banknote cover (price £44.95) bears the Wilding 1st and 2nd class stamps from the prestige book cancelled by a circular London sw1 'Crown' postmark and encapsulated £5 note with special 'QE50' serial number. The cover design includes the Royal Coat of Arms printed in gold. Limited edition of 10,000 numbered covers. Both covers can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House, Edinburgh. An ingot cover, including a reproduction of the 1952 2½d definitive stamp will be available from 20 March, price £49.95 •

Stamp Advisory Committee As announced last month, four new members have recently joined the Committee. We are pleased to include here profiles of two of the new members.

Gordon Marsden was elected as Blackpool South's first-ever Labour Member of Parliament in May 1997, having previously contested the seat for Labour in 1992. Since June 2001 he has been Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor's Dept. From 1985 to 1997 he had been Editor of the monthly magazine *History Today* and an associate lecturer with the Open University. He also worked for five years in public affairs and public relations, and organised the launch of English Heritage in 1984. Born in 1953, Mr Marsden was brought up in the North West and educated at Stockport Grammar School, New College, Oxford, and London and Harvard Universities. His leisure interests include music, all aspects of history, and travel – especially Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Balram (Ram) Gidoomal is Chairman of Winning Communications Partnership Ltd. Born in 1950 he was educated in Mombassa and London where he graduated in Physics. He has held numerous important positions including Board Member of the Covent Garden Market Authority, Business Adviser, Prince's Youth Business Trust; member of the Cabinet Office Better Regulation Task Force; and Founder Chairman of Business Links London South. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 1997 and appointed CBE in 1998. His publications include *The UK Maharajahs* and *Hinduism: a Way of Life*. His recreations include music, current affairs, and swimming.

Profiles of the other two new members – Glenn Tutssel and Anthony Walker – will be published next month •

HM The Queen and her Golden Jubilee By Daniel Cooke



IF ANYONE SHOULD be aware of the extent of the Realms and innumerable travels of HM Queen Elizabeth II it is a stamp collector! I was not quite four at the time of the Accession, but already five for the Coronation celebrations, which I do remember well – including being shown the special stamps issued by Royal Mail for the occasion.

A thematic collector who chose a theme of 'The Queen' would have had an endless struggle to keep pace during the past 50 years. Not only the United Kingdom and surrounding islands, and the Commonwealth, but also many other nations have honoured Her Majesty's state visits and royal anniversaries. The Queen appeared alongside The Shah on a stamp of Iran to mark her state visit in 1961, on her own for the visit to Ghana the same year, opposite Emperor Haile Salassie for the State Visit of 1965, was featured alone on another of Brazil for her visit of 1968; even the 'illegal' independence issue of 1965 of the former Southern Rhodesia carried a portrait of The Queen.

Back in 1947, during a Royal Tour of South Africa, the then Princess Elizabeth celebrated her 21st birthday by broadcasting to what was still the Empire saying: 'I declare before you that my whole life, be it long or short, shall be devoted to your service'.

2002 will see many issues honouring The Queen's jubilee and her lifelong dedication to her work on behalf of so many people around the world. There will be great satisfaction among royalists and constitutional monarchists that Australia Post is included, following the Australian people's majority vote to retain their monarchy, without doubt partly as a personal tribute to their Queen of 50 years.



Accession Princess Elizabeth was just 26 when, during an African tour on behalf of her father, King George VI, she learned of his death while at the Sagana Royal Lodge (illustrated on the 1977 Silver Jubilee issue of Kenya) and returned as Queen to be sombrely greeted by the first of her British Prime Ministers, Winston Churchill, who was enchanted by his young sovereign. With her husband of five years, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen was reunited with four-year-old Prince Charles and two-year-old Princess Anne, her grieving mother, Queen Elizabeth, grandmother Queen Mary and sister, Princess Margaret. Queen Mary died before the Coronation of 1953 but all the other members of the Royal Family have supported her as the monarch, symbol of continuity for the past 50 years. The Coronation scene of 1953 is shown on the Silver Jubilee issue of Aitutaki, 1977.

Brought up in a different age, The Queen has always tried to adapt to the ever-changing world while maintaining what she considers worthy traditions in the interests of the people. There is no such thing as 'normal family life' especially when living in the gold fish bowl of world media. The intrusive nature of modern media methods has meant that the general public has become aware of far more personal details than are necessary for day-to-day news. Since before these intrusions The Queen has put members of her extended family to work as best they can for the peoples of so many nations, faiths and ethnic backgrounds, and she has got to know numerous politicians, prime ministers and presidents personally over five decades on the 'world stage'.

Meeting the people Her knowledge on national and international matters is extremely wide and Her Majesty feels that those who have done 'a good job should be congratulated and encouraged'. She knows that it is important for her and her family to be seen among the people as much as possible, and in addition to an extensive tour within the UK, the postponed tours of Australia (hosting the delayed Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) and New Zealand from Autumn 2001 will now be a continuation of the Royal Visit to Jamaica this year. The Queen's own love of country pursuits is undisguised and she is known to relax with those from all walks of life when with her horses, gun dogs and visiting her farm holdings. Her Majesty's rare private visits are often focused on her love of horses such as racing at Longchamps in France and the 'blue grass horse breeding country' of Kentucky. There are those who think that The Queen is too aloof and some put the blame at the feet of old-fashioned and stuffy advisors who are the ones really out of touch.

Always sensitive to criticism of possible unconstitutional behaviour, The Queen has to walk the tightrope without the aid of a written British constitution and as monarch (in the words of Walter Bagehot, Victorian Editor of *The Economist*), is there to be consulted, to encourage and to warn.

We do know that The Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, made up of monarchies as diverse as Australia and Barbados and of republics as different as Malta and Mozambique, has often used her personal charm and political knowledge to iron out difficulties at meetings of heads of gov-





ernments. Canada issued two stamps showing The Queen for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at Ottawa in 1973. Diplomacy has been crucial when The Queen has had to entertain controversial characters such as Presidents Ceausescu of Rumania and Mugabe of Zimbabwe; as a constitutional monarch her personal view of political activities must never be made public. The Queen and the Royal Family can express their views on humanitarian matters and their role is invaluable in drawing attention to the work of national and international charities.

As Supreme Governor of the Church of England, The Queen has been keen to promote good relations with other denominations. In 1982 she was the first monarch to greet a reigning Pope in England, and recently she has invited Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, to stay at Sandringham and to preach to the Royal Family.

Links to other Royal Families In the 1960s The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh welcomed King Hussein and Princess Muna of Jordan (formerly British-born Toni Gardner) on a state visit to Buckingham Palace, and in 2001 entertained their son King Abdullah with his Palestinian-born consort, Queen Rania at Windsor Castle. The Queen took the opportunity to openly praise the contribution of British Moslems to community life. A fluent French speaker, The Queen shows no fear of delivering a speech in French, or the moves to a closer working of the European Union, and broke her own precedent in 1996 by attending in Brussels the state funeral and mass for the late King Baudouin of the Belgians. In her husband's native Greece, The Queen was disappointed to see their cousin, King Constantine ousted from the throne, but delighted when his brother-in-law,



King Juan-Carlos, another cousin, celebrated his silver jubilee in 2000. Her godson and cousin, Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, born in exile in London, is now living in the Royal Palace in Belgrade; another cousin, King Michael of Rumania again has use of the Royal Palace in Bucharest, and former King Simeon of Bulgaria is now Prime Minister back in Sofia.

Above: some of the recent issues for the Golden Jubilee.

Golden Jubilee Queen Elizabeth is the first British monarch to reach a golden jubilee since her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria in 1887. (Both Queens appeared on the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black issue in 1990.)

There will be great community celebrations throughout the world recognising such quiet but concerned and dedicated achievement and the issuing and wide use of commemorative stamps will be an outward sign of the inward love and admiration felt by so many for a very special lady. The main celebrations will be centred in and around Buckingham Palace from 1-4 June, including an extra Bank Holiday in the UK. Details of Royal activities are available from www.royal.gov.uk and www.monarchy.net and of Golden Jubilee celebrations from www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk or by telephone from +44 (0)845 0002000.

Her Majesty is expected to call on many street parties during that time, where she will meet people born in all corners of the world, many within her other realms in the Commonwealth. It is likely that of some of the individuals she meets for the first time, she will have met a parent or even a grandparent in a far corner of the globe on another historic occasion.

Monarchy stands for continuity, stability and unity and monarchy has been exemplified for the past 50 years of excellent service by Queen Elizabeth II. Long may she reign ●

Coastlines New stamps depict some of the



Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Print

Process Lithography

Stamp size 37 x 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal
(between blocks of stamps)

Cylinders and colours

W1 phosphor ● W1 silver ●
W1 black ● W1 greenish yellow
● W1 bright magenta ● W1
new blue

British Postmark Bulletin

Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row,
London EC1Y 8HQ.

TEN 27p (1st class) stamps featuring the British coastline will go on sale at post offices, Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 19 March. The colourful designs are printed in a se-tenant block within sheets of 100. The stamps depict many different aspects of the coastline – sandy or pebbly beaches, rugged cliffs, sand dunes, harbours, roadways, and coastal fortifications. Collectors will have fun identifying the featured scenes and perhaps visiting some of the sites. The Queen's head and location, printed in silver, are positioned at top right and top left on each stamp.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 19 March, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the 10 stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Coast, Poolewe, Achnasheen must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.59 UK (including VAT) or £3.06 overseas (no VAT). Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Rutherglen DO, Duchess Place, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1BT (Coast postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO207' (Tallents House), or 'FDO208' (Coast). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Coast postmark. A non-pictorial Coast postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FDO208 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 19 March will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy, write to the Editor at the address opposite.

dramatic variety of Britain at the water's edge



The stamps were designed by Richard Cooke, whose previous work for Royal Mail can be seen on the 64p of the 1999 Farmers' Tale set and the current 1st class Northern Ireland stamp showing patchwork fields in Co Londonderry.

Top row (left to right): Studland Bay, Dorset; Luskentyre, South Harris; Dover, Kent; Padstow, Cornwall; and Broadstairs, Kent.

Lower row: St Abb's Head, Scottish Borders; Dunster Beach, Somerset; Newquay, Cornwall; Portrush, Co Antrim; and Conwy, north Wales.



A well-illustrated presentation pack (below) containing the 10 stamps (price £3.05), and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack includes the poem 'Coastlines', by Matthew Francis.



Coastlines

Royal Mail
First Day Cover



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Gate Crescent Edinburgh EH12 6PS





This page: Beachey Head Lighthouse near Eastbourne, from the 1985 Safety at Sea issue; the Durham Coast in the 2000 Water & Coast set, which also featured the Cliff Boardwalk at Llanelli and Portsmouth Harbour; and Cowes Week, an important date in the social calendar, from the Summertime issue of 1994.



Coastlines on stamps The forthcoming set is the latest in a long list of stamps featuring the British coastline. This began with the 5s high value definitive of 1951 which featured Dover Castle set high above the famous White Cliffs. The next set of high values, in 1955, shows the coastal castles at Carrickfergus, Co Antrim and Caernarfon, north Wales. (Both feature again on 1988 high values and Caernarfon on an 11p stamp of 1978.)

Among issues featuring the English coast, the 1983 Engineering Achievements set includes the Humber Estuary (16p); the Channel coastline is just discernible on some of the 1988 Spanish Armada stamps; and the 1989 Industrial Archaeology set includes a tin mine on the Cornish coast.

The first Scottish coastal subject was the 1964 1s6d Geographical Congress, which depicted the Dounreay Nuclear Reactor on the coast near Thurso. This was followed by the 1964 Forth Road Bridge stamps. Some of Scotland's famous coastal golf-courses were shown on stamps in 1994.

Issues featuring Northern Ireland's coastline include the 1981 National Trust set including the Giant's Causeway. Welsh coastal subjects include Harlech Castle on the 1966 Landscape stamps, and Stackpole and St David's Head in the 1981 and 1995 National Trust issues.

Parts of the English and Welsh coastline are seen on the 20½p Greenwich Meridian stamp of 1984 and 31p and 37p stamps in the 1991 Scientific Achievements set. A 19th century coastguard with a lighthouse and turbulent sea is the subject of the 7½p in the 1972 Anniversaries set. The coast can be seen on 14p and 22p Fishing Industry stamps of 1981, and the sea-side of comic postcards is the subject of the 1994 picture postcards issue.

Photograph: Richard Cooke



The 1981 National Trust stamps show the remote island of St Kilda, west of the Outer Hebrides (top), and Stackpole Head in Pembrokeshire. St David's Head, also in Pembrokeshire, featured on the 35p in the 1995 National Trust set.

Centre: Northern Ireland coastal scene on the 1966 6d Landscapes stamp.

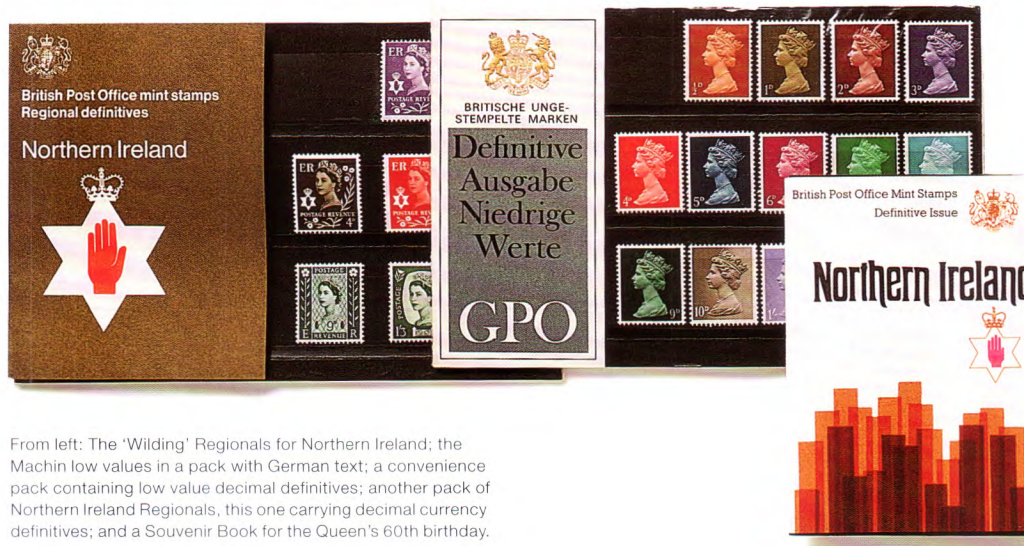
The Menai Bridge, linking Anglesey to the mainland, features on the 1s6d in the 1968 Bridges set.



The Lighthouses set of 1998 featured The Smalls lighthouse, Pembrokeshire (top), the Needles Rock and Eddystone lighthouses in England, the Bell Rock lighthouse off the coast of Arbroath, and St John's Point lighthouse in Co Down.

An aerial view of the British Isles can be seen on the 4d Concorde stamp of 1969.

Definitives and souvenirs Richard West continues with his



From left: The 'Wilding' Regionals for Northern Ireland; the Machin low values in a pack with German text; a convenience pack containing low value decimal definitives; another pack of Northern Ireland Regionals, this one carrying decimal currency definitives; and a Souvenir Book for the Queen's 60th birthday.

PACKAGING of sets of stamps for ease of selling, and as a convenient way of collecting, saw its origins from Royal Mail with the Wilding definitives in 1960. As I described in the January *Bulletin*, the low values, Castle high values, phosphor-graphites and Regional definitives were all available in special packs that year. The presentation pack as recognised today was introduced in 1964 for the Shakespeare Festival set; however, the Regionals were the only definitives with the Wilding portrait actually to appear in presentation packs.

Just prior to decimalisation, on 12 December 1970, packs containing the then current definitives for each of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales were issued. (While the Machin portrait had been introduced for standard definitives, it had not yet been extended to the Regionals.) As they contained values still available, the contents for each 'region' varied.

With the introduction of the Machin portrait the opportunity was taken to offer definitive presentation packs on a much more regular basis. The low values from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s 9d, and the high values from 2s 6d to £1, were available in two separate packs, both issued on 5 March 1969. In addition to the normal packs with English text,

both were also printed with the text in German, and the English versions exist with insert cards with appropriate text in Japanese.

15 February 1971 was the day the UK converted to decimal currency: on that day new low value definitives were issued with the Machin portrait. The low values then comprised denominations from $\frac{1}{2}$ p to 9p. Presentation packs were available from 'decimal day' containing one of each of the low values. This initial pack additionally exists with either a German or Japanese insert card.

As is well known, over the years the upper limit of 'low value' has been extended considerably, and now stands at £1. Inflation over the years has necessitated a multitude of changed colours or new values, which have turned the low value Machins into a very complex study. Whenever appropriate, opportunities have been taken to update the contents of the presentation pack, both by adding or removing values, and also by making changes to the design of the pack itself. Indeed, Royal Mail has a policy of changing the design of the definitive pack approximately every five years. (Detailed lists of the various packs that have been produced will be found in specialised Great Britain stamp catalogues.)

examination of special stamp packs produced by Royal Mail



To help the public become accustomed to the new currency, high values in decimal currency (10p, 20p and 50p) were issued in 1970, and made available in a pack from 17 June. The £1 was not immediately affected by decimalisation, and so was not included in this pack. This pack can also be found with German or Japanese insert cards.

One very early change saw the 10p value transfer from being a high (large format, recess printed) to low (small format, photogravure) value. So from 25 November 1971, the contents of both low and high value packs was changed. The low value pack had the 10p added, while the high value pack contents became the 20p, 50p and £1 (both styles of the £1 can be found in the packs). The colouring of the packs was simultaneously changed.

Over the years the high value definitives have witnessed several changes, from the initial recess-printed large Machin designs to the Machin style in photogravure; a return to Castle designs, initially printed by Harrisons (with an intermediate change in the printing process used for the portrait, and a £3 value when the £1 became a 'low value'), then by Enschedé; before a small-format recess-printed Machin design was adopted, initially printed by Enschedé and then by De La Rue.

Each change to the high values has been accompanied by a new presentation pack (including one for the £3 Castle when introduced). An exception has been the photogravure printed stamps. While the £1, £2 and £5 when first issued were available in a pack (from 2 February 1977), the subsequent additional 'parcel post' values were not put into packs.

The now obsolete £10 definitive had its own presentation pack, available from 2 March 1993.

With decimalisation came the opportunity to change the design of the 'Regionals' (later designated as 'Country' stamps. By this time Guernsey and Jersey had left the fold (having gained postal independence from the British Post Office), but the Isle of Man remained, and a pack was issued on 7 July 1971 containing the 2½p, 3p, 5p and 7½p values. Likewise for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. For these latter three, subsequent packs were produced, again to accommodate additions and changes to the denominations.

However, from 1988 it was decided that the presentation packs should contain current stamps of all three 'Countries' together: again, over the years changes have been made to both the content and design of the packs.

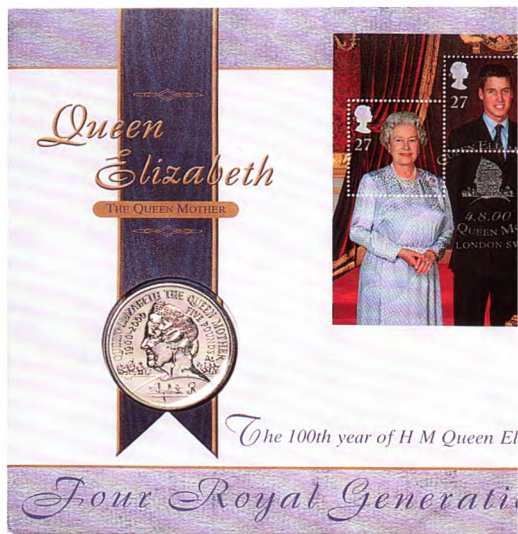
Convenience The initial Wilding packs were primarily produced as a convenient way of selling the sets of stamps. With the introduction of decimal currency, a similar philosophy saw the low values made available in a tiny cellophane packet containing one of each, plus an additional 2p and 2½p to bring the cost to a round figure of 50p.

In 1984 the PO experimented with vending machine labels, usually described by collectors as Frama labels. These were issued from vending machines without denomination, the value being printed on at the time of purchase. Initially the values available were from ½p to 16p (later 16½p and 17p were added). As only five machines were installed, to enable collectors to obtain these labels, they were issued in two packs, one containing just three values (3½p, 12½p and 16p), and a second containing 32 values (from ½p to 16p). (Specialists note differences in the appearance of the 'printed numerals' on these labels.)

Souvenir books An extension of the presentation pack concept came about in 1972 when, for the Royal Silver Wedding issue, a Souvenir Book was produced. Including the two stamps, the book contained much background detail and photographs relating to the Royal couple.

Over the next two decades, similar Souvenir Books were produced for a selection of issues, generally not more than one a year, the same concept being adopted of an illustrated book, which included the set of stamps. These further books ranged from the County Cricket set of 1973 through to the opening of the Channel Tunnel in 1994. Subjects included the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Churchill, Railways, Royal Mail (the bicentenary of the first mail coach run from Bath and Bristol to London) and British Film Year. The book for the Australian Bicentenary in 1988 contained both the British and Australian stamp issue, while that for the Channel Tunnel similarly included both French and British stamps. Several 'Royal' occasions were also accompanied by Souvenir Books, namely the Silver Jubilee, 25th anniversary of the Coronation, Royal Wedding of 1981 and 60th birthday of The Queen. *To be continued* ●

A list of philatelic medallic,



A NUMBER OF READERS have asked for a list of these covers which we are happy to provide here. Details are given of the stamps and coins/medals on the cover. The Tallents House order code and price are quoted for covers still available. Orders should be sent to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

- 1 **Coronation Anniversary** 2 June 1993: £10 high value stamp; £5 coin
- 2 **25th Anniversary of Investiture of the Prince of Wales** 1 March 1994: Investiture Anniversary stamps; medal
- 3 **300th Anniversary of Bank of England** 2 August 1994: Bank of England label pane; £2 coin
- 4 **R J Mitchell** 20 May 1995: R J Mitchell label pane; medal
- 5 **50th Anniversary of End of War** 15 August 1995: 19p & 25p Peace & Freedom stamps; £2 coin
- 6 **William Wyon** 1 November 1995: £1 definitive; medal
- 7 **Queen's 70th Birthday** 21 April 1996: Queen's birthday label pane; £5 coin
- 8 **Football Legends** 8 June 1996: Football Legends stamps; £2 coin
- 9 **Classic Cars** 18 November 1996: Classic Cars stamps; medal

numismatic and ingot covers



- 10 **Tudor Times** 28 January 1997: Tudor Times (Henry VIII) stamps; £1 coin
- 11 **Hong Kong** 21 July 1997: Hong Kong label pane; \$5 Hong Kong coin
- 12 **Architects of the Air** 23 August 1997: Architects of the Air stamps; £2 coin
- 13 **Queen's Golden Wedding** 20 November 1997: Golden Wedding stamps; £5 coin
- 14 **Queen's Heraldic Beasts** 25 February 1998: Heraldic Beasts stamps; £1 coin
- 15 **National Health Service Anniversary** 6 July 1998: Health Service stamps; 50p coin
- 16 **Carnival** 26 August 1998: Carnival stamps; 50p coin AN012, £12.95
- 17 **Prince's Trust** 13 November 1998: Prince's Trust label pane; £5 coin
- 18 **Berlin Airlift** 12 May 1999: Berlin Airlift label pane; medal AM007, £12.95
- 19 **Scottish Parliament** 1 July 1999: Scottish country stamps; £1 coin AN014, £12.95
- 20 **Rugby World Cup** 1 October 1999: Rugby World Cup label pane; £2 coin
- 21 **Millennium Moments** 31 December 1999: Timekeepers miniature sheet; £5 coin
- 22 **Botanic Gardens of Wales** 4 April 2000: Botanic Gardens label pane; £1 coin AN020, £12.95
- 23 **150th Anniversary of Public Libraries** 1 August 2000: 26p King James Bible, 44p World of Literature, and 44p Right to Learn stamps; 50p coin AN021, £12.95
- 24 **Queen Mother's 100th Birthday** 4 August 2000: Queen Mother miniature sheet; £5 coin AN022, £15.95
- 25 **The Archers** 1 January 2001: 19p, 26p & 64p Farmers Tale stamps; medal AM008, £12.95
- 26 **St George & Dragon** 23 April 2001: England country stamps; George VI 10s stamp silver ingot PY499, £39.95
- 27 **Submarines** 24 May 2001: Submarine stamps; medal AM009, £12.95
- 28 **Queen Victoria** 20 June 2001: 2 x 1st class Queen Victoria/Elizabeth II stamps; £5 coin AN023, £15.95
- 29 **Celtic Cross** 3 October 2001: Northern Ireland country stamps; £1 coin AN024, £12.95
- 30 **Queen's Jubilee** 6 February 2002: Queen's Golden Jubilee stamps; £5 coin AN026, £15.95
- 31 **Queen's Jubilee** available from 20 March 2002: Wildings stamps prestige book pane, 1952 2½d definitive stamp silver ingot. Price £49.95

Mainly Machins Specialist collectors report by D G A Myall

Under the hammer Do you collect stamps for a hobby or as an investment? Probably most of us view it mainly as a hobby; we choose our subject because it interests us, not because it offers better returns than a building society account (although that is not difficult these days). Still, most of us like to know how much our collection is worth. And if there is a scarce item which we need to enhance or complete our collection we may have to pay quite a high price for it. Will we get our money back if we decide to sell?

One way of getting the best of both worlds is to specialise, rather than merely to accumulate what a catalogue editor deems worthy to include in his compilation. Specialisation involves study, research and discovery; it provides intellectual stimulation and reward. A specialised collection will usually be attractive to others interested in the same field and so hold its value.

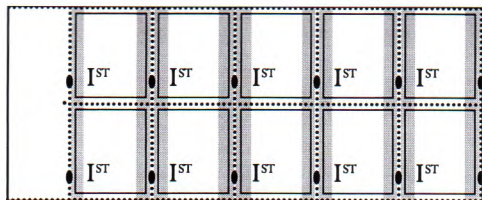
These thoughts were prompted by the Phillips (now Bonham) auction of GB stamps held last November. This included the remarkable collection of decimal stamp books formed by the late Harry Robinson. Harry specialised in the unusual and was a leading expert in his subject. He became a close personal friend through the valuable help he provided when I wrote the fifth and sixth editions of *The Bookmark Catalogue* (published by the GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle). He was unstinting in his help and many of my errors were removed from the Catalogue because he volunteered to proofread it at the draft stage. If I expressed a doubt whether a particular item existed Harry could settle it because he almost invariably had the book in question even if it was unique.

The auctioneers produced one of their famous glossy catalogues with many full-size illustrations, some of them in colour. This brings out clearly the depth and strength of Harry's collection. There were nearly 200 lots, many comprising whole groups of books. I would like to present here a short account of a few of the more interesting ones to give you some idea of what a truly great modern collection can consist of.

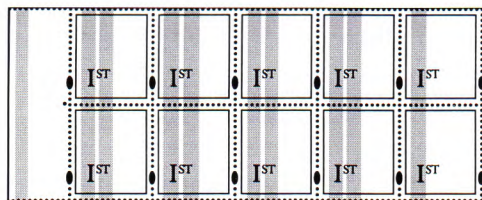
One of the most spectacular was lot 651. This was a pair of the 50p machine-vend booklets featuring a 1907 Rolls Royce car on the front cover. These were intended to contain panes of eight made up of $2 \times 2p$, $2 \times 8p$, $3 \times 10p$ and a label. These panes were printed side-by-side and then cut up for bookmaking. A few were guillotined wrongly resulting in a pair with face values of 36p and 64p. Very few pairs were ever found. Harry's fetched £1750! Not bad for two books sold to the original finder for £1! The 36p pane is illustrated in colour on the inside cover of the auction brochure. I could cut this out and pretend to myself that I had such a lovely item in my collection. It's the nearest I shall ever get to owning one.

Similar errors had occurred with earlier machine book panes and, as you may imagine, such mishaps were of great concern to the printers and Royal Mail. Later, pane layouts were altered so that any mis-cuts did not result in the wrong face values. Mis-cuts still occurred and, although the content was correct the arrangement was not, yielded some unintended se-tenant pairs. One such was lot 673, a 50p 'Pirates of Penzance' book where the single 14p value appeared at the right of a 19p stamp instead of at the left. This is the only copy known. The estimate was £500-600; it realised £880. It was a plain book; I wonder what it would have fetched had it been a cylinder book. Even if the stamp content and arrangement are correct, mis-cuts can be recognised by the printer's guide 'cut line' appearing in the centre of the binding margin instead of at the edges. An example of this error, affecting the $4 \times 25p$ pane in a £1 'Winston Churchill' book and with the cylinder number on the 'wrong' side, was offered as lot 684. It realised £700 against an estimate of £500-600. The fact that only two copies of this book are known may explain the high price.

Another kind of error popular with collectors although difficult to detect without an ultraviolet lamp is the complete omission of phosphor overprint. A £1 'David Copperfield' (Harrison) book with colour cylinders B6 B21 was offered as lot 677 with an estimate of £250-280; it fetched



Lot 786 was a 10 × 1st Walsall window book. The phosphor cylinder printed ten 3.5mm bands on each pane; these were in pairs with a gap of 1mm between them. The phosphor shift



meant that the eight stamps referred to had two 3.5mm bands at the left, while the other two had only one such band. Most books were broken up to supply the singles market.

£500. Lot 679, a similar 'Great Expectations' (Walsall) book with colour cylinders w3 w1 w2 w1 also realised £500. Lot 792, a Questa 10 × 2nd window book with colour cylinders Q5 Q5 and phosphor omitted, sold for £480. This kind of error prevented the proper functioning of the letter sorting equipment and led to the incorporation of a coloured fluor into the phosphor ink so that its presence could be monitored on the press.

Phosphor errors of one kind or another, even if the phosphor is present, are very popular with today's collectors. In the photogravure process as practised by Harrison, a steel ruler, known as a doctor blade, scrapes the excess ink from each cylinder before it actually prints the image. If this malfunctions it can in fact smear the ink all over the cylinder. Stamps with 'all-over' phosphor, known as AOP, occurred in the 10 × 11½p counter book with the Natural History Museum cover. Only panes with the binding margin at right are known, and most have been broken up to singles which sell for about £50. Lot 706 was a complete book of 10 of these stamps with good perforations all round. It realised £210, a real bargain.

Probably one of the most popular phosphor errors is that known to collectors as a 'shift'. This occurs when the phosphor cylinder is not in correct registration with the colour cylinder(s). The shifts which arouse most interest are those which result in a stamp having two bars instead of one, or vice versa. Almost as favoured are bars which are short of the top or bottom of the stamps or inset from an edge. Lot 786 was a 10 × 1st Walsall window book with colour cylinders w18 w12 w15 where the phosphor had shifted 13.5mm to the left, resulting in eight stamps having a broad band, according to the auctioneer's description.

In fact, the pane is more interesting than that (see above). The one offered is one of only two intact books known and sold for £500.

A most unusual error, of which only three non-cylinder copies are known, is the July 1996 £1 machine book from Questa which was perforated with ellipses toward the top instead of the bottom. The copy offered as lot 689 was estimated to fetch £1800-2000. Bidding was brisk and it eventually went for £2300. There must have been quite a few originally; have you checked yours?

Errors of make-up, where a book has the wrong content (apart from the mis-cuts already mentioned) usually occur when assembly is done by hand. Prestige books, for example, often have an extra pane or interleaf, or are missing one or the other. Lot 757 was one of the early window books (which were manually assembled) with a cover stating the contents to be 10 × 19p whereas only a pane of four was inside. The pane in the book offered had the cylinder number B16, one of only ten known. It was estimated to sell for £440-500 but well exceeded that, realising £620.

There were many other jewels in this auction which I do not have space to mention but I hope I have said enough to give you an insight into this wonderful collection. It is sad that it had to be broken up; kept intact it would have made a marvellous reference for students. The bright side is that almost every lot found a new owner and many collectors now have a 'Harry Robinson' in their collection. Many accidents can occur during booklet production but escapees from the rigorous checks imposed by the printers are rare, which is why they command high prices. Today's market for modern classics, if you will forgive the oxymoron, is buoyant •

Philately on-line Ron Negus looks at a new way to publish



Postal History Society of China The new site described here is based in North America. Readers who have an interest in Chinese philately will also find that a useful English site hosted by the China Philatelic Society of London at www.cpsl.org.uk is well worth visiting.

THERE ARE MANY study circles in existence, and a large number of them have their own magazines. One of the problems that all these publications face is how to handle coloured stamp illustrations. An ideal solution is to print them as colour photographs, but this can be very expensive and few circles have enough funds to be able to produce magazines in this form. A compromise solution is found sometimes by the inclusion of a single colour plate or the use of colour on the front cover only.

A recently formed study circle, the Postal History Society of China, has tackled this problem in a novel way. In its magazine, titled simply *The Journal*, the illustrations are shown in normal black and white. In the caption beneath each picture is a website reference. Calling this reference up on the internet displays a full-colour picture of the item concerned. The pictures allow the detail to be examined much more easily and make overprints, cancellations and surcharges able to be seen very clearly.

In the initial issue of this magazine, the main article considers the 'Robert Hart Covers'. These relate to Sir Robert Hart, who was Inspector General of Chinese Customs in the period 1863 to 1908 and is often considered to be the father of the modern Chinese post office. On the website there are 10 of the 13 known 'Hart' covers illustrated in full colour. An index to all these illustrations can be found at <http://members.home.net/phsochina/journal1>.

The main website of the study group is at www.phsoch.org and gives background about the formation of the organisation, gives membership rates and an application form and outlines its main aims. The purpose of the new group is stated to be to increase and promote knowledge of Chinese postal history in the form of research, exhibiting and publication. It intends to conduct its affairs through a series of teams. Within each team, the members will concentrate on one area of postal history. Initially, there are 11 teams handling diverse subjects, including those working on Postal Rates of Imperial China; Wei Hei Wei; Dollarchop Cancellations and Canton, for example. New teams will be created as sufficient interested members deem it appropriate. An ultimate aim is to combine the research results from all teams into a comprehensive catalogue of postal history.

At the end of the mission statement, outlined on the website, is the following paragraph: 'Now that we have set up the foundations of this Society, it is just the beginning of our journey. We will see how we will grow, evolve and adapt. We just want to end with this note: Nothing is cast in stone in our Society, just respect for each other and the intent of furthering the study of Chinese postal history. Now we have to get to work.' It will be interesting to follow the development of this group and to see if its novel approach to study group activity, using the internet, succeeds. I wish it well ●

The Queen's portrait An alternative view, by Douglas Muir



TO MARK the Queen's Golden Jubilee, a display is being mounted at Spring Stampex by Heritage Services, Consignia. It will concentrate on alternative portraits of The Queen that might have been used during the 50 years of her reign but never made it to the finished stamp. In particular it will show experimental material from the 1980s which has never been seen in public before.

The display also encompasses the issued portraits – from the Wilding of 1952 (and very recently) to the Machin commemorative head dating from 1968, together with the various suggestions, adopted and unadopted, made by David Gentleman in the mid 1960s. He famously suggested the replacement of 'The Queen's head by the royal coat of arms' or the country name. Designs and essays will illustrate this. Together they raise the questions of how, or whether, the monarch's portrait should appear on our stamps.

Of greatest interest is likely to be the work carried out throughout the 1980s on a replacement portrait for the current Machin sculpture. Lord Snowdon was commissioned to take new photographs of The Queen in 1982, including full face, and a drawn portrait was created from one of these by Rory Matthews. Variations of the photographs and drawn portrait were framed by Jeffery Matthews and essayed later in the year in different colours and formats. When shown to the Stamp Advisory Committee they suggested a further series of painted portraits, and four artists

were invited to submit work – Rory Matthews again, and Barry Sanders, John Sargeant and Timothy Whidborne. All based their work on the Snowdon photographs. Further essays resulted, all under the aegis of Jeffery Matthews, and work continued until 1984 when a Working Party of the Stamp Advisory Committee was set up to consider the matter afresh.

Later ideas concentrated on versions of the existing Machin head, in two colours, with different necklines and in landscape as well as portrait format. Included were variations for Country definitives. Although ultimately the Machin series continued largely unaltered, two new designs did result from the experimental work. First to appear were the double-head Penny Black definitives of 1990 and subsequently the landscape self-adhesive Machin stamps of 1993 and later.

Another section of the Stampex exhibition will show the development of the designs for The Queen's Golden Jubilee stamps. As part of that display there will be a printing cylinder on show as well as the dandy roll from the manufacturers of the watermarked paper. Samples of the watermarked paper will be available for collectors to keep.

Spring Stampex takes place from 27 February to 3 March 2002 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London •

Douglas N Muir is Curator, Philately, Consignia Heritage Services.

The exuberant Harry Wright

Richard West meets the man whose enthusiasm turns youngsters into stamp collectors

WHAT DO YOU DO when you reach retirement age? The wife is not too happy having you at home all day, getting under her feet, so suggests you find something useful to occupy your time. This is what happened to Harry Wright, so he decided to act as a voluntary ambulance driver for Age Concern: a rewarding task, but one which he found became rather depressing.

A little earlier Harry had moved to Portsmouth, and quickly joined the local philatelic society. At Portsmouth, the attitude has always been forward looking. Newcomers are not left isolated and made to feel unwelcome. Eric Finch would make sure he greeted new members and introduced them to others. Eric was also the youth officer: Portsmouth has a fine reputation for nurturing the young. Clearly Eric recognised in Harry a gift for dealing with younger collectors. Soon Harry was joining Eric to help with a local school stamp group, and later took over as the local youth officer.

A major task each year is the staging of the juniors night of the Portsmouth Stamp Club. Local schools are invited to come along, entering an inter-schools competition and enjoying games and watching a video. This popular event has been taking place for some 49 years, and regularly attracts around 50 youngsters.

Next came an invitation from the organisers of the annual stamp fair and exhibition held in Hampshire and called Hampex. The first idea was simply to show the inter-school entries, but this quickly developed into a separate room with a day's activities for the young visitors, including an auction. Junior Hampex, born in 1995, has become a major feature of Hampex, attracting between 50 and 60 youngsters each year.

In the meantime, Harry had been invited to become a member of the National Youth Stamp Group. A joint working committee of the British



Harry Wright (right) at a NYSG stamp auction

Philatelic Trust and the Association of British Philatelic Societies, this group does much to promote the hobby, in particular with its annual competitions and activities provided at Stampex exhibitions. One of the group's successful ventures has been its Stamp Active Days. At the invitation of a school or a similar stamp group, a day's entertainment is provided to encourage the young with their collecting. The activities include a display on aspects of the hobby, plus demonstrations of soaking, mounting, and identifying stamps, using a catalogue, plus watching a video and games. Originated by Lesley Hampton and George Gibson these Stamp Active Days are now undertaken by Harry, who as a result has visited schools in such places as Daventry, Eastbourne, Kettering, Peterborough and Wembley.

He has devised his own competition, in which the youngsters are divided into teams. The team which gives the correct answer is given a balloon. Bursting the balloon reveals a piece of paper on which a number is written: it might be a high or a low number, but that is the number of points credited to the team. The team with the most points wins.

Similar activities are a feature of not only Stampex, but also the twice-yearly Thematica exhibition held at London's Carisbrooke Hall. If you want to see Stamp Active in operation, visit Spring Stampex at the Business Design Centre in Islington on Saturday or Sunday, 2-3 March.

The vast amount that Harry does for young collectors has rightly earned him a Rowland Hill Award. At the age of 75 he is as keen as ever to chase around the country with his 'Stamp Active' displays.

Of course, such enthusiasm has been helped by the fact that Harry is himself a collector. His own collections have ranged from Pacific Islands, to Australia. His liking for the Pacific Islands saw

a move into thematics and Captain Cook. As that collection neared completion, so it was time to try another theme. Linked with his other interest of bird watching, Harry chose owls. His working life had been spent in the printing industry – working on newspapers – so a collection on printing became obvious. Finally he was inspired by a

display of waterfalls given by Dr Jean Alexander: now waterfalls have been added to the portfolio.

Harry is not competitive by nature. While he has entered local competitions, he prefers simply to show his material to society members: countless youngsters have been enthused into collecting by the sheer exuberance of Harry Wright •

ABPS Awards

ABPS Awards Nominations are invited from philatelic societies, associations and federations for the Association of British Philatelic Societies annual awards for 2002. Candidates must be members of ABPS affiliated organisations. The silver Congress Medal is awarded for outstanding service to British philately at national level, and a maximum of 15 framed Awards of Merit are given for outstanding service at regional, specialist and/or local society level. Outstanding service includes work to advance philately, at the level appropriate to that particular award, such as Congress of the ABPS, conventions or exhibitions and activities of an association, federation, specialist or local affiliated society. Service must have been carried out on a voluntary basis for a considerable time. Philatelic research and journalistic work are excluded. Nomination forms, to be returned by 31 May, are available from Mrs M Morris, 81 Ellon Way, Paisley PA3 4BW. Telephone 0141 889 9314 •

Prize draw Win a Yearpack

WE HAVE five packs of the 2001 Yearpack to give away to the senders of the first five cards drawn on 8 March. Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Yearpack Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ •



Posting boxes 209

THIS MONTH'S PHOTOGRAPH was submitted by Mrs M J Godfrey of Surrey. It features a posting box on a pontoon or 'floating platform' off the Great Barrier Reef, Australia. The notice above the box encourages the posting of cards to receive a special Great Barrier Reef postmark and states that pre-stamped postcards are available from the pontoon shop. The box is emptied daily at 14.45, Monday to Friday. Mrs Godfrey posted herself a card so we are also able to show the special postmark •



For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a SAE or IRC to the Membership Secretary, Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES. The Group produces interesting publications and postcards.

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



November identify The detail is from this St Helena stamp which, due to an oversight, was not shown in the *Bulletin*.

November knowledge The answers: 1) Arthur Robins; 2) 100; 3) Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. The winner was Roger Maisey of Wiltshire.

The November Identify competition was void. Entries have been included in a special draw announced last month.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1961 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference stamps?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps features a sunflower?
- 3 In which year did David Livingstone appear on a stamp?

Send your answer (addressed to either February *Identify* competition or February *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 15 March will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition.

The Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

Until further notice Postal Memorabilia displays at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln and Manchester Postal Museum, Wythenshaw Park, Manchester (open 10.00-16.00). **Enquiries** D Harrop, 15 Hawthorn Road, Stockport SK4 3DQ.

9 February North of Ireland PS Grand Auction at Hunterhouse College, Upper Lisburn Road, Finaghy, Belfast. Viewing 10.30-13.30, auction starts at 14.00. **Enquiries** N Scott, 028 90 795530.

13 February Display 'GB Postal History Old & New' by Michael Lockton at Guildford PS, Friends Meeting House, North Street, Guildford, 19.00. **Enquiries** J Boorman, 01483 503546.

23 February Welsh Philatelic Society meeting at Aberystwyth. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 01772 713917.

27 February - 3 March Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1. **Enquiries** 020 7490 1005.

28 February - 2 March Philatex at Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1.

2 March GB Philatelic Society meeting at Spring Stampex, 14.30 – visit and displays by members of the GB Collectors Club of Germany. **Enquiries** A Lajer, 0118 934 4151.

16 March GB Philatelic Society meeting at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 11.00. Displays Postal History – the last 100 years; Mostly Line-Engraved, also mini-auction at 12.45. **Enquiries** A Lajer, 0118 934 4151 •

Late news

Automated label trial Consignia's Business and Consumer Markets Directorate are to pilot an automated postage label from mid-February. The label will be printed at a post office counter for the required postage/service charged and affixed to 1st and 2nd class packets, Special Delivery, Recorded Delivery, Airmail, Surface Mail, and UK Standard Parcels. The label will be printed once the item has been weighed and postage calculated. It will then be affixed to the item by Post Office staff and will not be sold to customers unused. The labels will not be postmarked.

Initially the labels will be produced at Post Office branches in the Edinburgh, Southampton and Watford postcode areas – about 650 branches in all – starting on 14 February. After evaluation, the labels will be available in other areas later in the year.

Collectors should note that the labels will not be available from Royal Mail Talents House or Post Office philatelic outlets and that no first day of issue facilities will be offered. We hope to show the label next month •

Obituary

Franceska Rapkin I met Franceska Rapkin, who sadly died in December at only 65 years of age, for the first time some 30 years ago, at one of the Middlesex Philatelic Federation Days, which at the time were such a vital part of the philatelic calendar. Franceska, a Jewish refugee from Germany in 1938, had been a lifelong collector, and had managed to lure her husband Leon away from his beloved bridge to also take up stamps.

They met when Franceska worked as a model. In Leon she married a born organiser, so with both collecting, they became heavily involved in the organisation of the hobby. They were never afraid to roll their sleeves up, anxious to be part of the action. Come 1974, and the highly successful Festival of Stamps at London's Royal Festival Hall, there was Franceska helping out, fully involved in promoting the hobby among the young.

And so it would continue. Whatever the philatelic event, Franceska would play her full part in the organisation. There is a strange irony: many believe that without Leon Rapkin, the Stamp World London 90 international stamp exhibition would simply not have been a magnificent success. Tragically a little over a year later, having just 'compered' the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at Congress held in Cardiff, cancer was to defeat Leon.

Although she had always been her own person, Franceska also stepped into his shoes. She played an active part in the organisation of The Stamp Show 2000, in particular the Palmares. Now a little over a year later, cancer has again taken its toll. At the moment Franceska died, on 13 December, the lady members of the Royal Philatelic Society London were entertaining the society, an event which she had organised, but tragically would not see.

Cancer had loomed in her life for several years; but Franceska was a fighter, determined to enjoy the hobby and life to the full to the very end. Only in October she was thoroughly enjoying herself at the international exhibition Hafnia, held in Copenhagen.

She was outstanding not only in her work to encourage the young, but also within thematic. A notable international collector, exhibitor and judge, her subject was the Olympic Games. She did her utmost to promote the merits and pleasures of thematic collecting. Not all agreed with her views, but she held fast to her opinions with strong determination.

After his death, Franceska maintained Leon's collection of German Empire.

There was never any mistaking Franceska. She was tall and elegant, and certainly had a presence. But in that she was always ready to play her part fully means she will long be remembered, just as Leon still is. Simon and Sarah will find a big gap in their lives, as will all of philately. *Richard West* •

An interview with Mrs Rapkin was published here in October 1996. ED.

CAPTURE 50 YEARS OF ROYAL HISTORY

ROYAL MAIL BOOK OF STAMPS



A GRACIOUS ACCESSION

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE VOLUME 1

In celebration of HM the Queen's Golden Jubilee, Royal Mail is issuing two prestige stamp books. The first, 'A Gracious Accession', follows events from the death of King George VI in February 1952 to the Queen's first Christmas broadcast. Volume II is planned for publication in June 2003 to commemorate the Coronation.

This 20-page booklet has been lavishly designed using numerous archive photographs of the 1950s era. It contains four panes of stamps including 2 panes each containing four of the

Golden Jubilee stamps. There is a mixed value definitives pane encompassing a label depicting the head of George VI as it appeared on stamps of his reign. The fourth pane is made up of re-issues of the first two stamps to feature the Queen, photographed by Dorothy Wilding and originally released in 1952.

'A Gracious Accession' Prestige Stamp Book (code YB018, price £7.29) is available to order now. To request a copy, simply call or write to Royal Mail as below, quoting reference 02 AAR.

Royal Mail, Tallents House, FREEPOST EH3 647, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PE
UK telephone order line 08457 641 641, overseas +44 131 316 7483



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