

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

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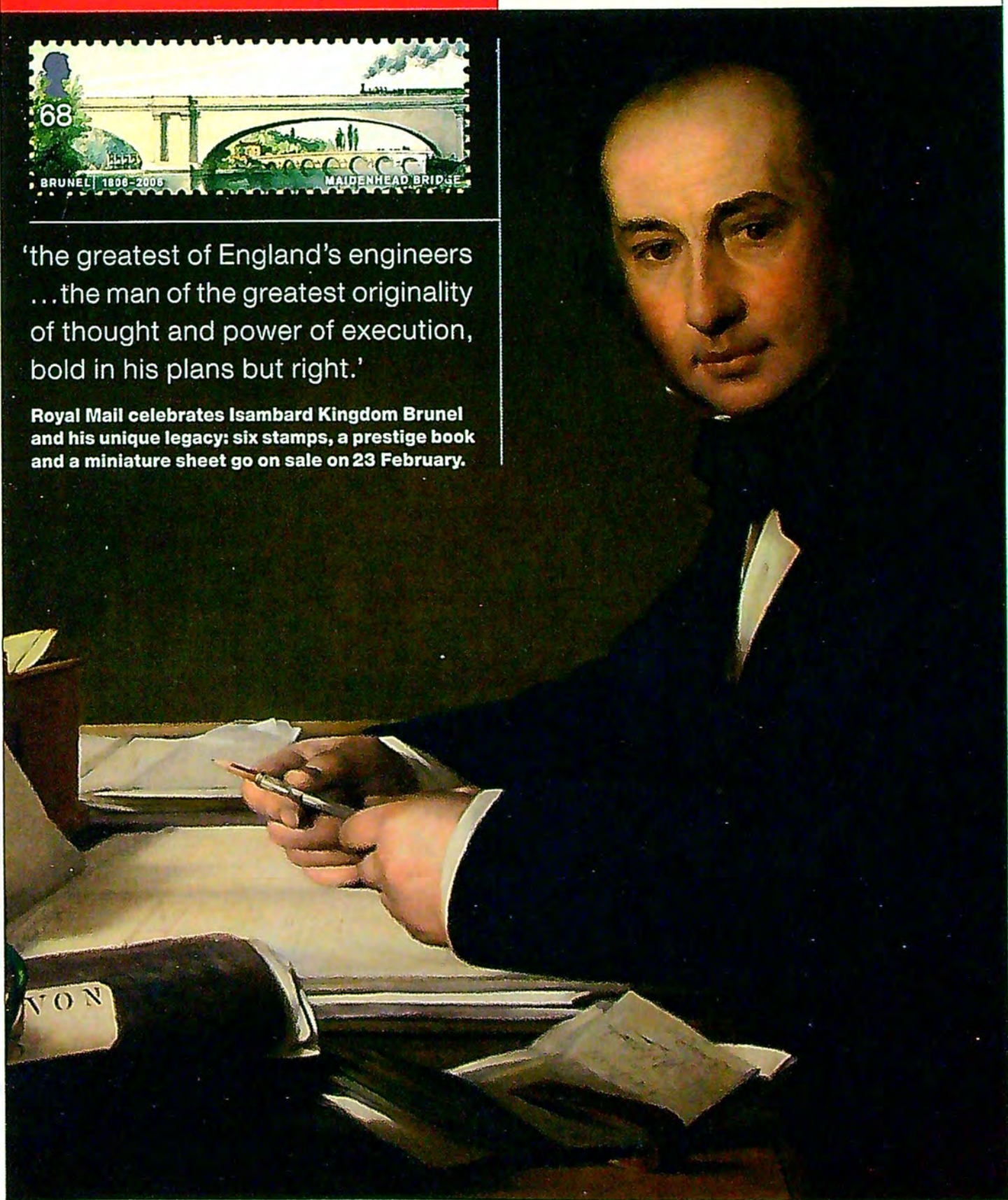
Bulletin

The Queen's 80th Birthday
• Collecting UK Revenues



'the greatest of England's engineers
...the man of the greatest originality
of thought and power of execution,
bold in his plans but right.'

**Royal Mail celebrates Isambard Kingdom Brunel
and his unique legacy: six stamps, a prestige book
and a miniature sheet go on sale on 23 February.**



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover John Callcott Horsley's portrait of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Royal Mail's stamps celebrating the bicentenary of Brunel's birth were previewed in December. Portrait © Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery/Bridgeman. Quotation: Daniel Gooch, engineer.

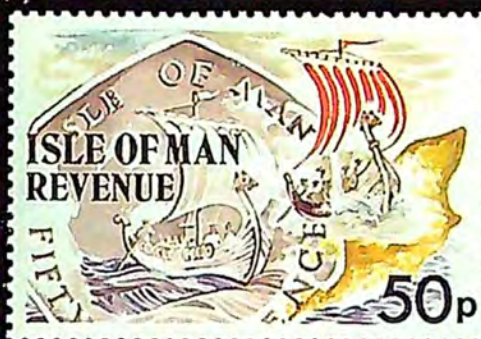
Issues Some items available only from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office Limited philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Guildford,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

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

31 January	Issue British Journey/England stamp cards
31 January	Withdrawal Standard air letter – Welsh version (July 2001) and in discount pack of six (October 2001)
7 February	Issue British Journey/England stamps and presentation pack
16 February	Issue Brunel stamp cards (six stamps, one miniature sheet)
23 February	Issue Brunel stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, prestige book and coin cover
23 February	Withdrawal Jane Eyre stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards and prestige book
1 March	Issue Welsh Assembly miniature sheet
7 March	Issue Smilers sheet: Fun, Fruit & Veg stamps
14 March	Withdrawal Magic! stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and Smilers sheet
14 March	Issue Ice Age Animals stamp cards
17 March	Issue Coin cover: N Ireland stamps and £1 coin
21 March	Issue Ice Age Animals stamps and presentation pack
21 March	Withdrawal Castles miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards • Retail stamp book with Smilers advert showing Hello stamp
23 March	Withdrawal Written Word coin cover (Jane Eyre stamps)

January Bulletin We regret the late despatch of the January *Bulletin*. As a result we are extending the period for receipt of entries in the Knowledge and Identify competitions and the Brunel prize draw to 24 February.

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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 8119 • 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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Stamp scene News and upcoming events: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted

Stampex opening times

22 February	12.00-19.00
23-25 February	10.30-18.00
26 February	10.30-15.00

Admission is free on all days.

Enquiries 01252 628006.



Philatex enquiries 020 8946 4489 or 01793 513431. www.stampshows.net

ABPS enquiries Barry Horne, 29 Bowhay Lane, Exeter EX4 1PE.

Forthcoming UK exhibitions Spring Stampex, organized by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1, 22-26 February. The main displays are being provided by the British Thematic Association and various thematic societies. Members of the National Philatelic Society will man the information stand where visitors can pick up the free Stampex catalogue.

The Royal Mail stand will offer the full range of current stamps and related products, with the Brunel stamps, miniature sheet and prestige book going on sale on the second day of the exhibition. As usual posting boxes will be provided for the daily Stampex postmark and for a special Stampex First Day of Issue postmark on 23 February.

A number of societies will be holding meetings at Stampex, and the National Youth Stamp Group will as usual arrange activities for young collectors, including a free auction on the Saturday.

Stampex will be giving a free limited edition postcard to the first 7500 visitors; the card features an unadopted essay for a stamp showing Brunel's *Great Western*, by permission of the British Postal Museum & Archive. The Stampex customized sheet will contain 10 of the 'Cheers' stamp (2001 Occasions issue) and labels showing aspects of thematic collecting; the background to the sheet features Brunel. Stamps and labels from the sheet and complete sheets can be purchased at the information stand •

Philatex (London International Stamp & Cover Show) will be held at Lawrence Hall, the Royal Horticultural Society, Greycoat Street, London SW1, 23-25 February. Some 110 dealers will attend. Opening hours: Thursday 11.00-19.00, Friday 10.00-18.00, Saturday 10.00-17.00. Admission is free. The nearest Underground stations are St James Park and Victoria •

The 6th ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition will be held at the Riviera Centre, Torquay, 24-35 November 2006. There will be competitions for Thematic, Revenue and Cinderella collectors; also invited displays, hopefully a Royal Collection exhibit, and an exhibit of Rotary stamps •

Washington 2006 As part of the lead-up to this major world show, we began featuring last month some of the key rarities that will be on display for visitors, and we continue here with a valuable philatelic gem from Hawaii.

The 1852 Dawson Hawaiian Missionary Cover, one of the world's greatest postal history rarities, was last sold on 7 November 1995 for \$2,090,000 (including buyer's premium) by Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries. This envelope is the only known example bearing a copy of the 2¢ Hawaiian Missionary issue. Also on the cover are a 5¢ Missionary and a pair of the 3¢ stamps from the United States 1851 issue.

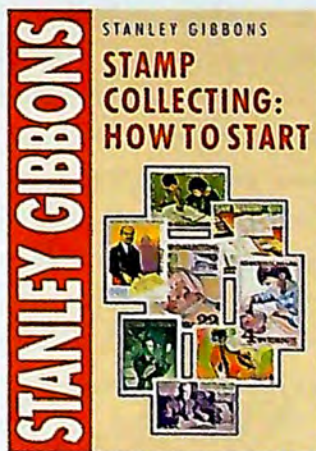
The Missionary stamps were so named because they were seen on letters sent by missionaries in Hawaii. The stamps were printed at a newspaper plant in Hawaii. This particular cover was salvaged nearly a century

ago from an industrial firm in New England. A worker cleaning out some partly burned papers in the company's furnace found the now famous cover in the ashes and debris. The envelope bears a scorch mark on the left side, below the pair of 3¢ stamps. It was sent to New York City from Honolulu, where it was posted on 4 October 1852. The 5¢ Missionary paid the rate from Hawaii to San Francisco, and the 2¢ paid the ship captain's fee. The pair of 3¢ 1851s paid for the postage from California to New York. The Dawson cover was reproduced on a 2002 souvenir sheet by the United States Postal Service. It once belonged to the Canadian-born industrialist George H Worthington, who later settled in Cleveland, Ohio after amassing a fortune from a variety of businesses including railroad construction, quarrying, and chewing gum manufacture. He accumulated one of the most valuable philatelic collections in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which included a Post Office Mauritius cover and the 5¢ Alexandria 'Blue Boy' postmaster provisional (see January *Bulletin*, page 133 •



The 1852 Dawson Hawaiian Missionary cover, to be shown in the Washington 2006 Court of Honor, by permission of a private collector.

Publications Stanley Gibbons has published the new third edition of its popular *Stamp Collecting: How to Start*, originally written by the late James Watson and published in 1983. This new edition – with colour illustrations and a much-improved look, is by Michael Briggs, News & Art Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, and now the longest-serving member of staff at SG. This book is an ideal guide for anyone new to the hobby. Price £4.95. The 2006 edition of *Collect British Stamps* includes all stamp issues from the Penny Black to the 2005 Christmas set, and for the first time there is a listing of Royal Mail philatelic, numismatic and medallic covers. Prices are much as in the 2005 *GB Concise* catalogue, but we note the self-adhesive 1st class Submarines is now £40/£37 and the self-adhesive Flag stamps both £12 mint or used. There are still some silly prices – £1 for the current 1st class definitive used and 70p for the 2004 2nd class Christmas stamp used. Both are common and should be at the minimum catalogue value of 10p. *Collect British Stamps*, price £9.95, is available from Stanley Gibbons and from Royal Mail Tallents House •



Stanley Gibbons Telephone
020 7836 8444. Website www.stanleygibbons.com

Society journals *Topical Time*, the American Topical Association's 92-page partly in colour publication for September-October 2005 included interesting feature articles on Four Rings (Audi and Auto Union), All in a Lather (Sunlight soap), Life of Buddha (Prince Siddhartha), Decorating Quail Eggs and First Romanian Spaceman, together with the usual mix of society information pages and other regular features •

ATA enquiries PO Box 57,
Arlington, TX 76004-0057
USA.

Stanley Gibbons Telephone
020 7836 8444. Website www.stanleygibbons.com

Auctions Stanley Gibbons' all-world sale on 8 December featured a large range of British material among its 1000+ lots. Lot 578 comprised the 1840 'prepared for use but not issued' 1d VR Official, catalogued at £12,000 in perfect condition. This copy had a small tear at base, and realised £1600 (estimate £2000-£2400). Lot 670 was an interesting imperforate 1877 £5 Telegraph Trial in gold ink, with the usual gum creasing and damage found on this trial. Catalogued at £2500, it realised £900 (estimate £1000-£1200). Gold ink was an idea that the Post Office soon abandoned, as the cost of production was too high at 6d (2½p) per stamp. Interestingly, 6d in 1877 was the equivalent in today's money of £1.44 per stamp, based on the retail price index, or £10.32 each copy when based on today's average earnings.

There were circa 100 lots of Queen Elizabeth II errors on offer, including the recent – and much-publicised – missing £ sign on the DLR £2 deep blue-green stamp, which was offered as lot 830 at £260-£300 estimate in a D1 cylinder block of six. It went for £260 •

Bonhams Telephone 020
7393 3900. Website: www.bonhams.com

Bonham's November sale included some unusual Royal Mail material. A 1p coil vending machine without outer casing, and a 10p multi-value coil machine also without outer casing but with a dummy coil roll of stamps sold for £165; while a 1952 square cast iron lamp letter box with galvanised steel back made by W T Allen and Co of London, with EIR cypher, enamel 'Northwick Dundry' collection plate, tab for next collection and supporting bracket, but without door lock or internal basket made £306.

The 1937-47 5d brown in an unmounted mint block (2 × 6) from the top-left corner of the sheet, top block of four, variety completely imperforate, pair below imperforate on three sides, rest normal comprised lot 658. This is one of the rarest King George VI varieties in a unique left corner block, and has a Stanley Gibbons catalogue value of £17250. This was appreciated by one bidder who purchased it for £15275. Auctions can be a source of modern material at bargain prices: for example, a 1980-2000 collection of prestige stamp books with a face value of £245 realised just £200 •

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions
Telephone 01332 250970 or
see www.cavendish-auctions.com

At Cavendish, GB is always popular, and the 24 November auction was no exception. An 1840 Gadsby propaganda label cover made £1610, and a First Day Uniform Penny Post cover from France made £2185. The two 1d red-brown on white paper covers made £805 each and a £1 16s 3d Seahorses cover to Argentina reached £575. An historic letter from J C Azemar concerning his 'Stamping Apparatus' (1868) made £850 (£150), and an Azemar-related cover signed by Azemar made £977. An early 1919 air-mail express cover with Seahorse franking was taken to £690 and an historical letter from King Charles II to Louis XIV of France in 1679 reached £805. A printed ticket and hymn sheet for the funeral of Sir Rowland Hill made £170 (est £100) and a used block of 24 of the George V 2s6d chocolate brown (SG 450) £440 (as estimate). Twelve cover albums containing modern covers, some signed, eg Sherpa Tensing, went for £360 (£300), and nine Royal Mail Yearbooks (1993-6, 1998-2000, 2002-3) realised £140 (£100). In the following sale of the collection of Harold Wilson, the earliest known TPO marking (Mis-sent to LONDON & BIRMINGHAM Railway Office, June 1838) far exceeded its £1500 estimate, realising £5000.

The 'Blundell's' collection of Wafer Seals (part 1) saw some high prices, including the 1841 cover with 10 seals making £2530, a complete sheet of Anti Graham seals as included in *Punch* magazine made £632, the Swedenborg Society wafers lot made £747 and the religious wafers collection £690. Good prices were a feature of the Early Letters including the Warrants for delivery of letters, and a Cromwellian appointment of a State messenger made £1380. The David Cornelius West Country collection included £977 for the Plymouth Maltese Cross and Double Arc covers collection and £805 for a small group of 1816 1d concession rate covers to Wareham. Later classified Postal History saw £1092 paid for an 'E' Cross post Exeter EL of 1703, £747 for a Treasury warrant for a Royal messenger to deliver one letter to Essex in 1567, £632 for probably the earliest recorded letter from the Isle of Wight (1629) and £747 for a tiny letter to Kent sent by carrier in 1556. At the end of the GB section a rare First World War purple 3-ring 'Jersey/P.C./Channel Islands' on POW cover realised £575 •

Grosvenor's latest sale, GB postage stamps and postal history, featured the Ken Statham collection of line engraved and exceptional covers from the Gavin Fryer FRPSL collection of European postal history. The property of over 115 vendors, it featured sections of postal history and line engraved; King Edward VII including the unissued 2d Tyrian Plum; King George V with Downey Heads, Seahorses and 1935 Silver Jubilee issues; a strong section of Queen Elizabeth II with Errors and Machins; booklets and booklet panes, Post Office telegraph stamps and Circular Delivery stamps.

Lot 1226 was the 1910 De La Rue 2d Tyrian Plum, a fine mint example of this great rarity, a key stamp of GB philately, of which very few exist in private hands. This is catalogued at £60,000 and bore a pre-sale estimate of £42,000-£45,000, unfortunately remaining unsold. Whether this was due to an over-ambitious estimate or the fact that it contains a small surface mark to the left of the value tablet (believed to be a natural paper flaw) is unclear. Certainly, if I had that much spare cash to spend on a single stamp, I would be seeking perfection, however rare the item might be.

Lot 1402 (est £80-£100) was an unusual range comprising the 1962 NPY ordinary stamps as a selection of seven pre-first day release covers: 3d on 16.10.62 from Lewisham, 3d on 25.10.62 from Bexleyheath, 3d (red ms cancellation) on 29.10.62 from Ashford, 3d on 13.11.62 from Brighton (ds overstruck by the PO), and the set on separate 13.11.62 envelopes from Pontypool. These realised £60. Lot 1457, an unmounted mint pair of the 2001 Nobel Prize 65p variety with hologram omitted with normal (catalogued at £4500 with only eight copies known), sold for £2250 (est £2500-£2800) •

Last November, Sotheby's auctioned Volume V of the philatelic collection formed by the late Sir Gawaine Baillie, Bt. This magnificent British Africa section realised a total of £1.1 million •

Forthcoming Spink auctions in London are: 1 March Transvaal, Alan Drysdale collection (see *Bulletin* January 2004); 2 March St Vincent, Peter Jaffe Exhibition collection; 6 April Australian States & Commonwealth; 27 April Stamps & Covers of the World; 14 June GB Stamps & Postal History; and 15 June British Empire Stamps & Covers •

Grosvenor Telephone 020 7379 8789 or see website www.grosvenorauctions.com

Sotheby's Telephone 020 7293 5000 or see website www.sothebys.com

Spink Telephone 020 7563 4000 or website www.spink.com

For details of seminars and a booking form, please send a stamped addressed envelope to Christopher Oliver at the National Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT, or visit website www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps where a booking form is also available.

NPS seminars Following a successful first year of seminars, in 2005, the National Philatelic Society is promoting two afternoon Philatelic Seminars to be held at the British Philatelic Centre on Wednesday 15 February 2006 (Starting Out in Stamp Collecting) and on Wednesday 22 March 2006 (Problems in Beginning a Philatelic Collection).

Do you have friends who are thinking of starting philately, or who want to revive their interest in the hobby? Or would you like to learn more about the basics? The first seminar is aimed at explaining what philately involves, and the second is for people who are already interested and want to learn more. These days, philately is not just about stamps – it can also be about collecting many things related to the postal system and the delivery of mail. The seminars will discuss how to obtain stamps, identify and sort them, and keep them safely. They will also highlight the various branches of the hobby such as postal history, social philately and 'Cinderella' philately.

The seminars start at 1.45 pm but the NPS Library will be open to attendees from 10.30 am. There will be a £3 charge (£2 for NPS members) for each event to cover refreshments and expenses. Places are limited and the deadline for applications is 3 February for 'Starting Out' and 10 March for 'Philatelic Problems'. Further seminars will be held during 2006 including a day seminar 'How to Collect & Display Postal History' on Saturday 1 April, and a judging seminar later in the year.

Saturday Meetings of the National are normally held on the second Saturday of the month with a 400-lot room and postal members' auction at 1pm followed by the Display at 2.45 pm. Members also enjoy six issues a year of the NPS magazine *Stamp Lover* (with its checklists of philatelic articles), plus literature sales, separate Stamp and Postal History Packets, and the renowned NPS Library. Visitors are welcome at monthly meetings, where the next will be 'Triest/Trieste' by Brian Asquith on 11 February •

NPS meeting enquiries Peter Mellor, Honorary Secretary, telephone 020 7490 9610, e-mail nps@ukphilately.org.uk or visit the NPS website at www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

Donations in memory of Michael Furnell may be sent to Cancer Research UK, c/o E Spark Ltd, 104 Pinner Road, Northwood HA6 1BS.

Obituary Michael Anthony Furnell, editor of the National Philatelic Society magazine *Stamp Lover*, sadly died at the end of November of pneumonia. The December issue was the last issue under his editorship and he will be a hard act to follow. Those who knew Michael even fleetingly will always remember him with fond memories and as one of life's true gentlemen – I certainly will, and was pleased to be able to have counted him as a friend.

In 1992, Bloomsbury published Michael's *The Stamp Collector's Almanac: Great Britain*, described as an indispensable handbook for philatelists and anyone with an interest in stamp collecting. The book has individual entries providing a clear, concise coverage of around 100 of the most collectable British stamps and is packed with information and illustrated in colour.

His knowledge extended beyond stamps, though, and *Bulletin* readers may have unwittingly read his articles and books on buying Spanish property in the likes of the *Daily Telegraph* and *Which?* Mike Hayes, editor of *Homes Overseas* said following Michael's death, 'There are a lot of selfish, egocentric people in this business. Thank goodness for the very generous and unassuming Michael Furnell, putting things in perspective. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the property market, at home and overseas.' •

Royal Mail news New issues and products

This month's issues There are two issues this month – the last in the British Journey series on the 7th, followed by stamps, a miniature sheet and prestige book commemorating the great Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel on the 23rd. The Brunel stamp issue coincides with the Spring Stampex exhibition at the Design Centre in London (22-26 February) and FDCs posted in a special box on the Royal Mail stand will receive a Stampex First Day of Issue handstamp. The British Journey and Brunel issues were previewed in the December *Bulletin*.

The two issues for March (previewed last month) comprise a miniature sheet marking the opening of the new building for the National Assembly of Wales on the 1st (St David's Day), followed on the 21st by five stamps featuring Ice Age Animals. It seems a little strange to issue Ice Age stamps on what is traditionally regarded as the first day of Spring!

In this month's *Bulletin* we preview the stamps to be issued on 18 April to mark Her Majesty The Queen's 80th birthday on 21 April. There will also be a coin cover and a silver stamp product. The Wembley Stadium miniature sheet (11 May) will bear two of each of the England 2nd and airmail to 20g rate stamps, an adapted 2002 World Cup 1st class (crowned lion) stamp and a special Wembley Stadium logo label. The World Cup Wnners stamps (6 June) will feature teams that have won the championship since 1966 – England, Italy, Argentina, Germany, France, and Brazil •

Forthcoming 2006 issues

Modern Architecture: 20 June
(change of date from 13 June)

National Portrait Gallery: 18 July

Three Kings (George V, Edward VIII and George VI) miniature sheet: 31 August

Victoria Cross: 21 September

Sounds of Britain: 3 October

Christmas: 7 November



A new generic Smilers sheet is now available, containing the Paddington Bear stamp from the Animal Tales issue.

Smilers A generic Smilers sheet is available containing 20 of the Paddington Bear stamp from the Animal Tales set. The stamps in these sheets are all printed by lithography, whereas the stamps from ordinary sheets are printed in gravure. Price £6.55. The next Smilers sheet, on 7 March, will contain Fun, Fruit & Veg stamps (first issued in 2003), price £6.55.

A Smilers sheet, containing the 1st class crowned lion World Cup stamp of 2002, will be issued on 11 May, day of issue of the Wembley Stadium miniature sheet. The Smilers sheet contains 20 stamps and 20 labels showing scenes from the 1966 World Cup Final (England v West Germany) at the old Wembley Stadium. The labels are captioned with the time from 2.12pm when the gates were locked at a capacity-filled Wembley Stadium (93,000 fans) to 5.36pm when World Champions England salute the crowd and perform a celebratory lap of Wembley. One label shows England captain, the late Bobby Moore, receiving the World Cup from HM The Queen; others feature Moore and German captain Uwe Seeler exchanging pennants before the match (2.57pm), the first goal of the match, by Heller of Germany (3.13pm), Geoff Hurst's first goal (3.19pm), Peters' goal putting England in the lead (4.33pm), and Hurst's third goal (5.14pm) captioned '...they think it's all over', the famous remark by BBC commentator Kenneth Wolstenholme. The sheet will be highly nostalgic for those who remember this historic match; will the current English team emulate their predecessors in Germany this summer? The sheet will also be popular with collectors interested in the old Wembley Stadium, built in 1922-23 as a multipurpose athletics and exhibitions centre for the British Empire Exhibition of 1924-25. Wembley will always be remembered as the venue for FA Cup finals, the first, between Bolton and West Ham being played there in 1923 and the last, in 2000 between Aston Villa and Chelsea. The last football match played there was between England and Germany, on 7 October 2000.

Wembley has a special meaning for philatelists as well as sports fans. The first British special stamps marked the British Empire Exhibition, and there were sets for the 1948 Olympics and 1966 World Cup. The famous twin towers, with Bobby Moore holding the World Cup, featured on the 26p Entertainer's Tale stamp in the Millennium series, and Moore was also depicted on the 25p value of the 1996 Football Legends issue. An excellent booklet about the British Empire Exhibition stamps, by Alan Sabey, was published as Bulletin Publication No 6 in 1999, and two articles on special postmarks associated with Wembley from 1924 to 2000 were published in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, 22 June and 6 July 2001.

The miniature sheet commemorating the new Wembley Stadium, to be issued on 11 May, will be previewed here next month.

On 25 May, there will be a further Smilers sheet for the Washington 2006 world stamp exhibition. This sheet will contain 20 of the 1st class Hello stamp (originally issued March 2002) with labels showing a US mail box and caption 'Washington World Philatelic Exhibition 2006'. The sheet margin includes the red plane from the stamp design, and the Washington 2006 exhibition logo. Both Wembley Stadium and Washington 2006 Smilers sheets will be printed in litho by Cartor.

For details of how to order customised versions of the sheets, with your own image printed on the labels phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7483 (overseas), or pick up a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch. Orders using digital photos can also be placed over the web: www.royalmail.com •

Coming off sale The Jane Eyre stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards will be withdrawn from sale on 23 February. The 'Written Word' coin cover bearing the Jane Eyre stamps cancelled by a special Hay-on-Wye postmark, and Royal Mint 50p brilliant uncirculated coin marking the 250th anniversary of the publication of Samuel Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language* will remain on sale a further month until 23 March. The cover, available from Tallents House, costs £13.50.

The Magic stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and Smilers sheet will disappear from sale on 14 March, and the Castles miniature sheet and presentation pack on 21 March.

A number of definitive stamps will be withdrawn in April – 7p, 35p dark brown, 39p, and 43p on 6 April, and the 35p lime green printed by Enschedé on the 25th. Packs containing the Universal Europe and World-wide stamps and the 2004 tariff increase stamps (7p, 35p dark brown, 39p, 40p, 43p, postcard rate and 1st class gold) will also be withdrawn on 6 April. The 40p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will come off sale on 6 April as will the pack containing these four •



One of the Jane Eyre stamps, to be withdrawn 23 February.

British Postal Museum & Archive The BPMA has launched a new audio CD, featuring personal accounts of life in the Post Office between 1930 and 1990. *Speeding the Mail* brings together the voices of current and former Royal Mail staff, from messenger boys to managing directors. Their stories give a glimpse into what has taken place behind the scenes in order that we can continue to receive our post through the front door. The collection of stories on *Speeding the Mail* highlights the extremes of Post Office working life. From Fred Fox's experiences of mail sorting in Mount Pleasant in the 1930s: 'I s'pose I knew at least 1,000 men by their christian name', to Seamus McSporran's experience as a Postmaster on Gigha in the 1960s, where 'hens would go off in the post and they would just have their legs tied and the label tied to their legs', the CD shows that there was no such thing as a typical day in the Post Office.

Insightful, humorous and heart warming, the CD is presented in eight sections; The GPO, Sorting the mail, Moving the mail, Delivering the mail, Speeding the mail, Counter stories, Stamps and The changing postal service. The recordings that are featured on *Speeding the Mail* are highlights of a two-year collaborative project between Royal Mail Group and The National Life Story Collection at The British Library Sound Archive. During the project more than 100 postal workers past and present from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were interviewed •

Speeding the Mail is £11.99 plus £2 postage. To order, call the BPMA on 020 7239 2570, or send a cheque payable to 'Postal Heritage Services Ltd' to the BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

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

Special draw Win one of ten mystery prizes

ONCE AGAIN we offer our popular Mystery Prize Draw, with some excellent prizes! To win one of 10 mystery prizes, send your name and address on a postcard to: Mystery Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 28 February •

UK revenue stamps An introduction and a recommendation, by Peter Mansfield



Until their recent FIP resurrection, Revenues were relegated to back-of-the-book or cinderella status, which they still possess for many collectors. So for the academically-inclined, there are opportunities for research and discovering unlisted items.

IN THE MID-1990s my collection of the GB stamps that particularly pleased me (the QV, KEVII and KGV surface-printed) had gone about as far as my pocket could go, and though I kept up with Royal Mail issues, I was looking for something new – if possible, still GB, and still with a monarch's head – but affordable. Then, a set of Army Telegraphs reminded me of my old back-of-the-book stamps, inherited from a long-dead great-aunt: all Victorian, although with two different heads on them. There were five in all. Three had the familiar De La Rue head of the Queen. One of these, a large

Inland Revenue 1d lilac, was listed in the 'Postal Fiscals' section at the back of the Gibbons *Concise*; but the other two, same size, one green, one rose, weren't there. They were labelled Ireland Petty Sessions, and both had a face value of 6d. The other two stamps carried a different version of the Queen's head. One was a postage-stamp-sized 6d lilac labelled CONTRACT NOTE, the other a 1s green, taller by a third than a postage stamp, labelled POLICE COURTS. I found them all attractive, but was there any connection between them, and if so, what? My dealer told me these were all 'Revenues' and mentioned some people who might help. I learned about catalogues; I became intrigued and then enthralled; and my new hobby was born.

In the nineteenth century, collectors regarded Revenues, or 'Fiscals and Judiciais', as being on a par with Postage; I have heard that Stanley Gibbons included them in his early catalogues, and there was a flourishing Fiscal Philatelic Society. But for some unknown reason they fell out of favour during the 1920s, and disappeared off the collector's map. This is a pity, because Revenues (in particular the earlier Victorians) are too beautiful, and too important historically, to languish in obscurity. What most collectors nowadays don't know is that in their early days, postage stamps were regarded as the impoverished baby siblings of Revenues. The very word 'stamp' reflects a Revenue origin, referring to the stamping machinery used at Somerset House and a few other places to impress complex seals on documents, showing that a tax or duty ('revenue') had been paid. Rowland Hill's contribution was to introduce adhesive 'labels' to stick on envelopes. As commerce expanded, the Commissioners for Inland Revenue – the ultimate bosses of the old Post Office – saw how 'stamping' could be accelerated and revenue increased by introducing adhesive versions of their stamps: the adhesive Revenue stamp was born. The word 'stamp' then replaced 'label', even for the small squares of gummed paper used to pre-pay the cost of delivering a letter. Some of the new adhesive stamps were themselves embossed, but what interested me were the 'postage-stamp-like stamps': the non-embossed adhesive Fiscal and Judicial Revenues.



For many years (1853-67), Fiscal and Judicial stamps were much larger than Postage stamps. Unconstrained by envelope size, they offered greater scope for designers. Initially, the standard format was that of later Postage high values. The commonest was like a 5s or 10s, but also the 'long pound' size (landscape and portrait) and the £5 size were used. In size, and sometimes design, Revenues innovated, Postage, much later, copied. The first Postage 5s of 1867 was modelled on the Companies Registration 5s of 1866. Only in 1867, after the adoption of a new head exclusive to Revenues, did the small postage-stamp-sized Inland Revenue 'penny purple' appear.

Above, left side: Examples of Revenues with the Wyon head. In 1866 the Board of Inland Revenue adopted a new head for all its designs, based on a sculpture by William Theed (right side).



This page and opposite, left: three sets of the 'key types', from (left to right) 1902, 1971 and 1983.

Opposite, right: examples of pictorial Revenues (see box).

As with Postage, so with Revenues, there were two main printers involved from the very beginning. Perkins, Bacon of Penny Black fame, who printed the smallest-ever UK stamp (the 1870 ½d 'bantam'), between 1853 and 1881 also produced the largest: the Life Policy series, 10cm tall, of seven to eight stamps with values from 1d to £1. Imperforate until 1872, they were reddish brown and used both dies of the Penny Red head. Perkins, Bacon also produced the exquisite Customs 1s6d in 1860, and from 1861 to 1902 the intricately attractive Ireland Registration of Deeds stamps. It is the presence of so many uniquely Irish stamps, by the way, which make me refer to 'UK' Revenues: correctly, 'GB' is England, Wales and Scotland.

The other printer was De La Rue. They produced all UK surface-printed postage stamps between 1855 and 1910, but they cut their teeth in 1853 with Revenues. After trying two different Wyon-based heads, they settled on a third developed for Postage in 1855, and retained this for all Fiscal and Judicial uses (known to revenue-collectors as 'appropriations') until 1866. Stamps, many of them quite beautiful, were produced for a range of duties: for example, Receipt, Foreign Bill, Inland Revenue and Customs among the Fiscals; Admiralty, Chancery and Probate Courts and Ireland Petty Sessions among the Judicials.

One potentially off-putting factor is the small range of stamp colours. The number of inks that could be used for Revenue stamps was extremely small; the stamps had to be protected against cancellation-erasure by both water and chemicals, so De La Rue in particular developed a set of 'fugitive' and 'doubly-fugitive' inks. Though limited use was made of rose and blue, in general their range of colours was restricted to lilac/violet/purple and green. (For this reason, the first 'Postage and Revenue' 1d of 1881 was not red, but lilac; the first 'Consolidated' series of 1883-84 was 'lilac-and-green'.) But this is surely offset by the large numbers of QV and KEVII available to the diligent searcher, many of which have face-values of £1 or more.

In 1866, for reasons still unclear to me, the Board of Inland Revenue decided that in all designs from then on a different, 'Revenue' head of the Queen would be employed, based on a sculpture by Theed. One new appropriation (Companies Registration) used this head immediately, but it was soon followed by revised designs for several existing appropriations. By the end of the Queen's reign, only Ireland Petty Sessions was still using the traditional Wyon head. But long before that, from 1873, De La Rue



had come up with a money-saving scheme which endeared itself to the Treasury, if not to all collectors: the 'Key Types'. The kinds of duty were proliferating so rapidly, it became uneconomical to provide a separate design for each. So, following the structure for the currency, a uniform set

of plates was produced: tall for pounds (initially violet, then lilac), medium for shillings (green), and small – postage-stamp-size – for pence (lilac). These had a vignette of the Queen's head occupying most of the area, and a blank tablet at the bottom or, for the pounds, surrounding the head. Onto this was printed the name of an appropriation. The designs were intricate and attractive, but of course invariant: the only difference between, say, a Bankruptcy 5s and a Civil Service 5s was the name in the tablet.

There was a radical design change for KEVII in 1902, when all Revenue stamps were brought into the Key Types system, but thereafter the same range of designs, sizes and approximately the same colour distinctions (initially lilac-green-lilac, later claret-green-claret) persisted until decimalisation, with only the monarch's head changing for each reign. In 1971 the old 'pence' size disappeared and the 'shillings', using one invariant design, became 'pence' and blue. In 1983 a final single design appeared for pence (blue) and pounds (rose) in the former pence size, but stamps of this type are only known to have been issued for Contract Note and Land Registry. The original embossing – 'stamping' – methods are still in use (the highest-value Revenue stamp is currently £1,000,000), but the UK stopped issuing adhesive Revenue stamps in 1985. Jersey, the last to go, stopped in 2005.

One of the greatest challenges is to overcome the prejudice against all Revenues that has become so prevalent throughout the philatelic world. Why this should have come about, nobody seems to know. But until their recent 'resurrection' by the FIP, Revenues were relegated to a back-of-the-book or 'cinderella' status, which they still possess for many collectors. Then, between about 1925, when the Fiscal Philatelic Society faded away, and the mid-seventies, when Robson Lowe began his Revenue auctions, there is a black hole. Modern catalogues for this period are all in some degree unreliable. So for the academically-inclined there are boundless opportunities for research and discovering unlisted items. But I would encourage all collectors in search of 'something new' to join in •

If you want pictorials by the way, then the first UK pictorial of any kind, either Postage or Revenue, was the 2s Ireland Dog Licence stamp of 1865-1971 (above), with its image of an Irish wolfhound. Or try Jersey, which in addition to the standard pictorial Revenues introduced in 1900, has given us triangular Revenues (1918), and the highest face value – £500 – on any British Isles adhesive stamp (see page 163).

The Queen's 80th Birthday Eight stamps



Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé

Security Print

Process Gravure

Stamp size 41 x 30mm

Sheets 30 and 60

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs

Stamp values Values of the stamps were not confirmed at time of printing. These details, including cost of the FDC and pack, will be announced in the March *Bulletin*.

EIGHT STAMPS featuring portraits of HM The Queen go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 18 April to mark Her Majesty's 80th birthday on 21 April. The eight stamps will be printed in four horizontal se-tenant pairs showing: The Queen in 1972 and 1985; The Queen during a visit to Heathrow Airport and as Princess Elizabeth with her mother in 1931; as Princess Elizabeth in 1951 and Queen in 1960; and as Princess Elizabeth in 1940 and with Prince Philip, 1951. The stamps were designed by Sedley Place.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 30. However, sheets of 60 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 18 April, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Windsor must reach Tallents House by the day of issue.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Windsor postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FDO617' (Tallents House), or 'FDO618' (Windsor). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Windsor postmark. A non-pictorial Windsor postmark is available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FDO618 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 18 April will be given in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

to celebrate the decades in Her Majesty's life



A coin cover will also be available for the Queen's Birthday issue. This will bear the eight Royal Mail stamps cancelled by a special Windsor postmark, and has the Royal Mint £5 coin issued for The Queen's 80th birthday (shown above) encapsulated. The obverse shows the current coin portrait of The Queen by Ian Rank-Broadley. The reverse of the coin, by Danuta Solowiej-Wedderburn, features state trumpets with the inscription '1926 VIVAT REGINA 2006'. The cover will be priced £17.95.



A well-illustrated presentation pack and stamp cards (30p each) will be available at main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Tallents House. The pack, shown left, was written by Fay Sweet and designed by Sedley Place. It features some 85 pictures of The Queen – alone, and with family, politicians, overseas monarchs and statesmen, sportsmen and entertainers.



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More stamps portraying The Queen were shown in an article by the late Daniel Cooke in the February 2002 *Bulletin*, published to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Royal issues This is the latest in a long line of stamp issues marking events and anniversaries in The Queen's life. Four stamps were issued the day after her coronation in 1953 and stamps marked the 25th, 40th and 50th anniversaries of her accession in 1977, 1992, and 2002. Stamps marking the 25th and 50th anniversaries of the coronation were issued in 1978 and 2003. As Princess Elizabeth, The Queen married Prince Philip (Duke of Edinburgh) in 1947 and stamps for their silver and golden wedding anniversaries were issued in 1972 and 1997. A further issue is planned next year for their 60th (diamond) anniversary. Her Majesty's 60th birthday was marked by two designs (each in two denominations) in 1986 and her 70th birthday by a label pane in 1996, and Her Majesty also featured on one of the four stamps in the miniature sheet marking the 100th birthday of The Queen Mother in 2000. Stamps for all these events were also issued by many Commonwealth countries, making for an extensive Royal collection •

The British Thematic Association by Simon Moorcroft

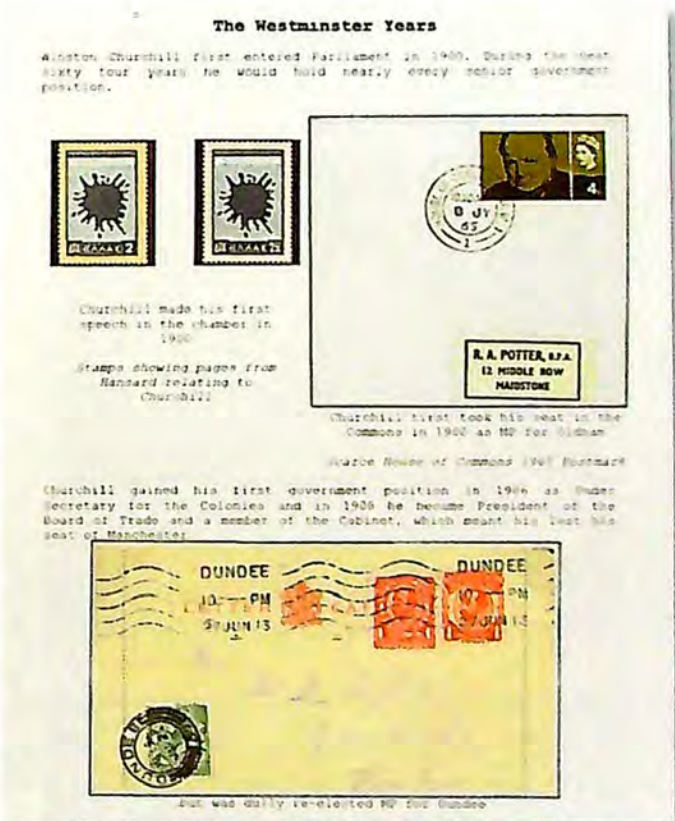
THE MAJOR DISPLAY ON THE 'Village Green' at Spring Stampex will be mounted by the British Thematic Association (BTA).

The BTA has its roots in 1983 at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, where Raife Wellstead presented a paper entitled 'Thematics – the Way Ahead or a Passing Phase' which set out ways to promote thematic philately. Ronald A G Lee, who chaired the session and was President of the British Philatelic Federation (BPF), stated afterwards that a national thematic society would be formed. In March 1984, at a meeting of interested parties, the British Thematic Association was formed as a committee of the BPF.

In 1991, the BTA became independent. This was primarily due to the late Francesca Rapkin RDP FRPSL who, throughout her time as a member of the BTA, was instrumental in the promotion and expansion of thematic philately at national and international level.

Since 1984 the membership of the society has grown to around 300 with a significant number of members overseas. In addition a large number of specialist thematic societies have joined. Since its formation the BTA has published *Thematics*, a specialist magazine, which has included many important thematic articles. The society holds up to five meetings a year in London and the provinces. A library of thematic handbooks, articles and books is maintained and is accessible by all members and has proven to be a valuable service to anyone carrying out research. The main reason for the popularity of the library service, as an effective method of research, is the numerical classification of themes. This enables members to access the information they require quickly and efficiently. The BTA supports Thematica, held twice a year in London, and has also recently submitted a team to the European Thematic Exhibition, Eurothema.

The Spring Stampex displays have been selected with the specific intention to demonstrate the wide variety of themes which thematic philately encompasses. The following will give an insight into three of the displays to be shown.



Sir Winston Churchill is rapidly becoming a very popular theme, primarily because of the abundance of material available. However, as this display will demonstrate, if one tries to tell the story of the life of Winston Churchill then other material, not necessarily directly relating to Churchill, has to be found and included. Due to Churchill's life being so varied and complex, material relating to many other themes such as politics, warfare and art have also to be included. Churchill's political career is shown with stamps reproducing pages of Hansard relevant to Churchill, along with a House of Commons postmark. Additionally, material illustrating where Churchill sat as an MP is also shown, such as a cover with a cachet for Dundee. Churchill's role as Prime Minister during World War Two is portrayed using philatelic material, in particular booklets and maximum cards. In addition his time as First Lord of the Admiralty is illustrated with a German Propaganda card. This display will be of interest to anyone wanting to know more about the life and legacy of Churchill or to anyone who is interested in history.

U.S. Industry

Relative lack of mineral resources and the small domestic market means that manufacturing was mainly processing the raw materials from agriculture.



New Zealand Adren

"Irish moss" or Carrageen is a seaweed used for soup or a kind of blancmange.



The first cricket world cup trophy is Waterford glass. Glass production increased from 1780 when a duty was imposed in Britain but not in Ireland.



Pearl "P" brand diamond on 1887-92 1d vermilion. The trademark of Sir John Power and Son.

Whiskey was the most popular drink in Ireland by 1800. Excise legislation and technological change led to concentration into large distilleries.

A page from 'The Irish Empire', dealing with Irish industries.

Anybody visiting Stampex with an interest in Ireland should look at the display entitled 'The Irish Empire'. This exhibit illustrates the history, culture and people of Ireland. The sections of this display concerned with industry use a cover to illustrate the production of pot whiskey, and a stamp depicting the making of Waterford crystal. There are references to Irish religion and service with a stamp illustrating an Irish Nobel Prize Winner, and material dealing with Irish involvement with UN peace keeping forces.

If you are visiting Stampex and are interested in learning about the world of insurance and the reasons why it is needed then be sure to see an exhibit titled 'A Glimpse at the World of Insurance'. One page of this display (above right), highlights the risks a fire can pose; how necessary it is to ensure that the correct precautionary measures are taken, and also demonstrates the importance of fire insurance. Philatelic material is used to illustrate the message, with a stamp commemorating the Great Fire of London, and a footnote describing how this was the catalyst for the formation of insurance companies. A message on the importance of fitting smoke alarms is carried by a slogan meter mark. Companies, such as Chubb Fire, which specialise in the prevention of fire are also illustrated.

FIRE INSURANCE

It is everybody's duty to take precautions to prevent fire. Insurance against fire provides financial security.



Great Fire of London hastened the formation of Insurance Companies



Note: National war-time campaign against fire wastage. Before Smoke Detectors and Fire Alarms all help the prevention of fire.



A page from the display 'A Glimpse at the World of Insurance'.

Illustration is the key word in thematic philately. The real essence of thematic exhibiting and displaying is to make a point by carefully selecting appropriate philatelic material to illustrate that point. The three displays described above and all the displays on the Village Green will show how that is put into practice. One of the advantages of thematics is the wide variety of material which can be included. In illustrating a point, collectors are not restricted to just stamps or postal history, although they are widely used, but can include postal stationery, slogan and pictorial postmarks, maximum cards, booklets, essays, die proofs, imprimatures, covers, cachets etc.

The three displays described above have been adapted, and are therefore acceptable for entry into a thematic competition. Whilst in a display such as the one on the Village Green any material can be included, items such as postcards and stamps produced for no postal requirement, such as local issues, cannot be included in a competition entry and this is strictly adhered to from Federation level competitions upwards. Some years ago, very few exhibitors had reached the thematic class at international level, and those had never been awarded a gold medal. Franceska Rapkin was the first British thematic exhibitor to receive a gold medal. Since then other noted BTA mem-

bers such as Brian Sole, Shelia Foster, Christine Earle and others have been awarded gold medals both nationally and internationally, with Shelia Foster being the first person to win the RAG Lee International Trophy (outstanding exhibit in the international class) in the national competitions held at Stampex.

This display has been tailored to give collectors the best and broadest understanding of thematic philately and will include displays prepared specifically for competitions, and some which are just taken from members' personal collections. Members will be on hand to assist during the days of Stampex and will be able to provide information for visitors.

Text © Simon Moorcroft/BTA 2006

The BTA is the national society dedicated to the study and promotion of thematic philately in the United Kingdom, and is open to all thematic collectors regardless of theme or aim. It is proud to be a society open to all collectors of themes on stamps and other philatelic material. We have a wide variety of members, including those who have won international gold medals to those who are content to see their material in a stock book. We welcome anyone and believe we offer something for everyone and look forward to seeing you at the display. If you require further information please write to the Membership Secretary, Peter Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 2BY •

Mainly Machins Specialist collectors report by D G A Myall

Stamp paper All the Machin sheet definitives are being re-printed on a new base paper as supplies need replenishing. The contract is now held by De La Rue, and stamps are printed on their ATN gravure press at Dunstable. Stamp paper for conventionally gummed (not self-adhesive) stamps is coated and gummed by the Tullis Russell Group at Bollington in Cheshire. They produce a range of stamp papers for postal administrations worldwide, taking account of their varied requirements even to the extent of the presses used by security printers. Among these is a paper specially produced for Royal Mail, known as RMS gravure paper. I understand that RMS refers to Royal Mail Services. This paper has always been used for the gold stamps, both 26p and 1st class NV1, and a decision has been taken to extend its use to all definitives.

The new paper (I call it new because it is now in general use) has features which will enable collectors of even single stamps to distinguish them from stamps printed on other papers. Some authorities call it dull paper, which can be misleading because it refers to its appearance under ultraviolet irradiation. In daylight it is anything but dull, having a very glossy surface indeed. This greatly improves the appearance of the stamps, giving them a more intense colour. The Queen's head also stands out better against the background, al-

though it remains to be seen whether this is a permanent feature. The gum, for collectors who take account of such matters, has a creamier appearance than formerly, although it is still PVA. This too may change over time. The improved appearance is a direct result of the RMS paper, as new cylinders have not been necessary.

Royal Mail does not regard the stamps printed on RMS paper as new issues and no official first day dates are announced. However, I have seen privately produced first day covers bearing some of these stamps. These dates may be the earliest known, and until a non-philatelic cover appears with an earlier date they will serve the original purpose of first day covers. In fact supplies of the new stamps are sent to post offices as and when they requisition the values they need and there is no date which applies across the country.

The margins of today's sheet definitives contain the dates when they were printed. This appears in the left margin of no dot sheets and in the right margin of dot sheets. Nowadays they are below the marginal arrows which mark the centre of the sheet. If printed by De La Rue, the left margins also have a 1mm wide vertical line in the colour of the stamps, 15mm from the frames of the stamps in column 1. This provides a registration guide for the online perforator.



Many collectors like to have blocks showing these printing dates. The dates and cylinder numbers of all RMS printings known to me are given below. The colour cylinder number is given first, separated from the phosphor number by the forward slash. Dates are given in the form they are printed, and are in the European form: dd/mm/yy. I am writing this before Christmas so other values and dates might have appeared by the time you read this. I will update the list in my next article.

Value	Cylinders	Date(s) printed
1p	D1 / D1	20/05/05
2p	D1 / D1	22/04/05, 29/09/05
5p	D1 / D1	23/05/05
35p	D2 / D2	05/04/05, 24/07/05
46p	D1 / D1	04/04/05
47p	D1 / D1	12/04/05
50p	D1 / D1	25/05/05
£1	D1D1 / D1	06/04/05, 07/04/05

The reason the £1 block has two non-phosphor cylinders is because one of them prints a special ink over the whole stamp. This is made by Merck of Darmstadt in Germany, who market it under their registered trademark Iriodin. It is based on minute mica particles and gives the stamp a silvery lustre making attempts at colour photocopying impossible. It is used on all of the high value Machin sheet stamps, although the £1 value no longer comes into that category. This ink is quite expensive so it is possible that future printings of the £1 value may dispense with it.

The remaining sheet stamps in the range and yet to be seen on RMS paper are: 9p, 10p, 20p, 40p, 42p, 68p and the 2nd nv1. However the 68p (and 50p) in the Trafalgar prestige book appear to be on this shiny paper and were printed by Walsall.

Micro printing A curious feature of the Northern Ireland pictorial definitives has been brought to my attention by reader Brian Bearwish. You may have noticed that some figures of value contain a black line, looking like an imperfection. Under a good glass (at least $\times 20$ is recommended) this can be seen to be: ©2001 – as illustrated above. This exists on all values from all printers. Particularly, the Walsall 42p has it on the figure 2, and the De La Rue 42p has it on figure 4. Similarly, the 68p has it on the figure 8 on the borderless stamps, and on figure 6 on the stamps with white borders, both from DLR. Micro printing has been used occasionally on special issues, but it has not previously been seen on lithographic definitives.

Brunel PSB This will be issued on 23 February so I hope to write about it in my next article. Meanwhile, you may have noticed the se-tenant pane in the December *Bulletin*. This pane is printed in gravure by Enschedé and it will be interesting to see what paper it is printed on. This firm printed the 35p in sheet form in April last year, and that was on the old paper. The 40p stamp will be the first printing of this value by this famous firm.

Wales miniature sheet On 1 March, a sheet will be issued to mark the opening of the new building for the National Assembly for Wales. It is similar to the sheet issued on 5 October 2004 to mark the opening of the Scottish Parliament. Like that, the new sheet will have a horizontally se-tenant strip of five country pictorial definitives: 68p, 1st, 2nd, 1st, 68p. On the Scottish sheet the two outermost values were 40p. Both values pre-pay the worldwide 20g rate but the 40p is for surface mail while the 68p is for airmail. Was the lower rate considered to be more useful to the thrifty Scots?



Postage labels The now-ubiquitous labels used at post offices are called 'Horizon labels' after the name of the machines that dispense them. They are rapidly replacing postage stamps for everyday use, and some see them leading eventually to the demise of the Machins, which must also compete with country pictorials and now Smilers definitives. More than 21 years ago, different postage labels became available to the public at machines in four locations in England. The machines were made by Frama AG of Lauperswil in Switzerland, and the labels are commonly known as Framas. This was a trial and, in contrast with the Horizon labels, it did not catch on; commercially-used

examples are quite rare. Because of their plain design they did not appeal to collectors, but there has recently been a resurgence of interest so mint examples of some of the known errors are proving difficult to find. I will try to find room to mention some of these next time but meanwhile there is an unusual Frama missing from many collections which you might like to know of.

From 3 September 1984 to 31 March 1985 a letter cassette pack was offered by Royal Mail for four 1st-class stamps, then costing 17p each, and the coupon on the inside cover of a counter book of 10 of these stamps. The cover illustration on the book carrying the offer was the first in a Social Letter Writing series. The cassette had a blank 20-minute tape for recording messages, and was provided with a padded envelope bearing a label with a large figure 1, for 1st class post. This label bore a design very similar to the Framas but was never sold from a Frama machine; it was a special printing by Harrison. The packs were later sold to exhaustion (in 1990) at the National Postal Museum for the original cost of 68p •

Treasures of the BPMA Martin Robinson finds a window into the past at the Post Office's Photographic Archive

WHETHER the popular art of photography was invented by Nicéphore Niépce in 1827, creating a permanent image by combining the camera obscura with photo-sensitive paper; or by William Henry Fox Talbot with his negatives, which became positive images by contact printing, a process patented in 1834 under the name 'calotype'; or by Louis Daguerre, who by 1837 had managed to create images on silver-plated copper with an exposure of 30 minutes rather than eight hours, will remain a matter of lively discussion. The fact remains that, since it became accessible to everyone, photography has produced treasured archives for practically every family, and the power of the photograph in the modern world as the recorder of personal and public history, creator of popular icons or the vehicle for propaganda is indisputable. To someone such as myself who

has spent many years recording letter boxes, post offices, mechanised sorting offices, Royal Mail vehicles and personnel, photography is an indispensable tool (by the way, on the grounds of both courtesy and security, before taking a photograph of any of the above it is important to ask permission where possible). I started 35 years ago, and my postal history of Macclesfield, where I then lived, includes a K3 telephone kiosk/letter box of 1929, long since gone; and Wildboarclough post office, once reputed to be the biggest village post office in England, and situated in a former carpet factory.

Thus, by a slightly roundabout way, we come to the Post Office's own photographic archives. The BPMA contains a treasure-house of postal documents of all kinds and in the search room, immediately on your right as you stand facing the



Cobham PO, Kent in 1939, with the postmistress lace-making on her doorstep.

counter to sign in, are shelves containing ring-binders full of photographic prints – a small part of the vast collection of photographs covering the whole range of Post Office activities. You can take a binder to one of the comfortable readers' seats to look through them without having to complete a requisition form to call them up from the vaults below. If anything takes your fancy, or bears on a current or proposed line of research, you can have prints copied for a reasonable fee.

The photographs are divided into a number of subject areas: postmen and women; uniforms; telegraph boys; rural postmen; letter boxes of various kinds from Victorian to the present day; mail coaches, other horse-drawn vehicles; motor vehicles; cycles and motor cycles; packet boats; travelling post offices; the Post Office Railway; air mail; postal equipment of all kinds; personalities; post offices; forces postal service; bomb damage; and temporary post offices, to name but a few.

This wealth of material has often been used for National Postal Museum exhibition postcards – for example the King Edward Building during the Blitz ('The Post Office at War' of July 1983); the Brighton Transorma sorting machine (May 1981); postal staff for the Edwardian exhibition of Jan-

uary 1991; the Duke and Duchess of York at the opening of Mount Pleasant sorting office in 1934 ('Stamping the Mail', May 1991); 'People in the Post' (two sets in May 1992 and January 1993); Postal Uniforms in August 1994; 'Guarding the Mail' in August 1995; 'Post Haste for Christmas' in October 1995; 'Aerial Post' in June 1996, and 'Sub Post Offices' in August 1997.

On my last visit I sorted out a few photographs as examples: a parcel post handcart, c1883; Benbecula's post office; Woodbridge post office and staff; the last journey of the London to Brighton parcel post coach in 1905 and the first journey of the motor coach that replaced it (as shown in the August *Bulletin*); and a mail van at Land's End in 1935 with the Longships lighthouse. In the end, I came away with the photograph above – a peaceful image from a world which was to change irretrievably over the next six years •

Text © Martin Robinson 2005

The British Postal Museum & Archive Open Monday to Friday and selected Saturdays 10.00-17.00, Thursdays until 19.00. Call 020 7239 2570 or see www.postalheritage.org.uk for more details. To make an appointment to view philatelic material call the Curator of Philately, Douglas Muir, on 020 7239 2565.

Friends of Postal Heritage For details write to Mrs Avis Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel

by Dave Warriner

The problem with writing any article on Isambard Kingdom Brunel is not what to put in, but what to leave out. As Jeremy Clarkson said in the BBC's *Great Britons*: 'Darwin told us where we had come from. Brunel took us to where we were going.' Brunel's great legacy encompasses railways, bridges, stations and steamships, and without a doubt, his pioneering engineering achievements influenced the shaping of the modern world.



IT WAS ALMOST inevitable that Brunel would be an engineer, as his father, Marc, was one of some genius. When Isambard was born in 1806 Marc, a French royalist who had fled the revolution, was running a factory turning out the 100,000 pulley blocks required every year for the Royal Navy's fleet. As these had previously been laboriously crafted by hand it would be fair to say that Marc's machinery helped defeat Napoleon.

The young Isambard was fortunate enough to attend Dr Morrell's progressive boarding school, and then to go to France where, after studying in Caen and Paris, he was apprenticed to precision instrument maker Louis Bréguet. Back in Britain in 1822, he joined the family consulting engineering practice; soon father and son were working on an ambitious project to drive a tunnel beneath the Thames linking Limehouse to Rotherhithe, thanks to Marc's patented tunnelling shield.

Marc contracted pleurisy working in the hellish conditions of the tunnel, and at 21 Isambard was left in sole charge of the excavation. Despite problems with funding and two tunnel collapses, the tunnel was eventually completed in 1843, and is still in use today as part of the London Underground system. Isambard was seriously injured

in the second collapse, and it was while he was recuperating in Bristol that he entered a competition to design a bridge to span the Avon Gorge.

Brunel won a second competition to design the Clifton Suspension Bridge (60p), as none of the entries in the first contest had been deemed good enough by the judge, Thomas Telford, and Telford's decision to use his own design was unpopular. Brunel's design for a single span suspension bridge, at 702 feet the longest in the world at the time, was initially rejected, but a modified version persuaded the judges to grant Isambard his first major independent commission.

Fated never to be completed in his lifetime, the bridge's foundation stone was laid in 1836, but by 1843 funds had run out leaving only the piers built. It was completed in 1864 by members of the Institution of Civil Engineers as a tribute to the Victorian age's most innovative engineer. One of Bristol's most distinctive landmarks the bridge was intended only for pedestrians and the occasional horse-drawn wagon, but today it carries around 12,000 motor vehicles every day.

Appointed as Chief Engineer to the Bristol to London Railway in 1833 Brunel told its directors 'the route I will survey will not be the cheapest



The Brunel stamps will also be issued in a miniature sheet and in a prestige stamp book. The issue goes on sale on 23 February.

but it will be the best'. Although he had no experience of railway design, Brunel knew that locomotives were not very good at climbing hills, so he set about making the route as flat as possible, with bridges, cuttings, tunnels and viaducts. With a mean gradient of 1 in 1,380 the finished line was known as 'Brunel's billiard table'. A formidable obstacle on his route was Box Hill, between Bath and Chippenham. Brunel resolved to cut through it. The Box Tunnel (40p) is almost two miles long, lined with 30 million bricks, and took five years to complete. At its peak, the operation employed 4,000 men and 300 horses and consumed a ton of gunpowder and a ton of candle every week.

Another problem for the Great Western Railway lay closer to London where it had to cross the Thames. Brunel solved this with the Maidenhead Bridge (68p). This comprises of two brick arches, at that time the widest and flattest in the world. The pier foundations were sunk using a revolutionary caisson which helped prove the value of compressed-air technology in underground construction. Each span of the bridge is 128 feet long and critics said it would surely fall down. Originally built for two lines of Brunel's broad gauge track the bridge was later widened and today carries trains at 125 mph from London to the southwest and Wales on four lines of standard track.

Brunel was involved in nearly all aspects of the railway's construction, from stations and locomotive works to the ornament of lampposts. It was intended that the GWR should share the London terminus of the London and Birmingham Railway at Euston, but a failure to agree terms meant that a new site to the west of London was chosen. Paddington Station (42p) was designed in collaboration with the architect Matthew Digby Wyatt

'After my own fancy.' Inspired by Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace, Brunel hired the same contractors to supply the 69 cast iron columns for the three-span, 700 foot long iron and glass structure.

The Royal Albert Bridge (1st), at Saltash, was Brunel's final bridge. Two main spans supported by a single deep water pier in midstream and two masonry piers on either bank carry the Cornwall Railway, at a height of 100 feet, 2,000 feet across the Tamar. Brunel had the two iron spans floated on the river and lifted into place under his direction with flag signals. The main spans are based on the principle of a suspension bridge; this is the only bridge of its type carrying main line trains.

Brunel's genius was not confined to the land. A chance remark at a GWR board meeting caused him to think about how a passenger could board a train in London and continue on to New York. Convention held that a steamship could not carry enough coal to cross the Atlantic. Brunel saw that the larger a ship was, the more fuel it could carry, while using proportionally less to drive it through the water. His first ship, the paddle steamer *Great Western*, made its first Atlantic crossing in 1838.

Brunel's next ship, the *Great Britain*, was even larger, with a hull of iron and a screw propeller instead of paddles. His third ship, the *Great Eastern*, (47p) was a monster: 692ft long, 83ft wide, displacing 22,500 tons with four steam engines driving a screw and a pair of paddle wheels, she was six times the size of any other vessel in the world. Designed to take 4,000 passengers, she was intended to run to Australia and back without refuelling. Construction was dogged by problems, and while Brunel was on board watching preparations for her maiden voyage, he had a seizure. He died ten days later on 15 September 1859 •

Philately on-line Ron Negus looks at an overprint in detail

1919 KRAKOW ISSUE - SUPPLEMENT

Introduction	Software	Scanning	Enhancements
Measurements	Comparisons	Internet	Home Page

From the original image, the correct width of the stamp design is 21.9 mm. After the rescanning, the width of the stamp design is 13.5 mm. The width can only be increased by increasing the number of pixels. The factor that is required is 21.9/13.5. The new width then would be 400 X (21.9/13.5) or 649 pixels which is close to the correct value of 645 pixels.



Fig. 10

Any image on the Internet can be captured by clicking on the image with the right cursor button, then clicking on Save Picture As... and finally selecting the name and location of the to be saved image. An image I captured from an auction item on eBay is displayed in Fig. 11.

THE WIDER USE of digital photography and the low price of scanners have meant that most computer users now have access to image editing software. For stamp collectors, these photo-editing programs can provide an easy means to examine overprints. Since forgers have often used bogus overprints to make a common stamp look more valuable, the techniques needed to use this type of software for this purpose are interesting.

Overprinted stamps that have been extensively forged are found in many Polish collections. Examples are the 1919 Krakow issue, which were provisionals for use in Southern Poland, created by overprinting existing Austrian stamp stocks. Michael E Melnichek published a monograph on these stamps and their forgeries in 1990, and this was summarised on the web site of the Polonus Philatelic Society – the US based Polish study circle (address above). This American collector has now expanded this information to explain how he can detect forgeries by using the image processing software on his computer. The program he has described is 'Photoshop Elements', but the techniques employed can be achieved using most editing software available on the market today.

The home page of the Polonus Philatelic Society's site provides a navigation bar. In this, selecting the heading 'Krakow Review' will display the original 1990 monograph about the stamps. This should be read first. A second heading, entitled 'Krakow Supplement', will lead to details of the computer techniques used. These pages can be

www.polonus.org This site is a specialist one for collectors of Polish issues, but the techniques it describes for investigating forged overprints have a general application to the stamps of any country in which this problem can occur.

searched using subject headings at the top of each section. The first two subjects, 'Introduction' and 'Software', simply explain what the Supplement is intended to do and how it is achieved.

The third subject, 'Scanning', explains the various settings used on the scanner to obtain a suitable digital image of the particular stamp being examined. There is a link on this page to another website that gives more details about scanning, which is more general than the philatelic site I reviewed in the *Bulletin* in May 2004 on the same topic. Next, the subject of 'Enhancements' is featured, and this explains the major ways in which any image can be manipulated to provide a more useful basis for examining an overprint. This is the area where differences will be found between one make of image editing software and another. Although all programs will probably perform the enhancements described, the actual method, and its terminology, will vary.

With forged overprints, it is often the case that the size or position of the impression varies from that found on the genuine stamp. It is important, therefore, to be able to check these features, and the next subject covered is 'Measurements'. This gives examples of how a program can display the distances of any part of an overprint from a given reference point. These distances can be checked against the known measurements for the genuine article, which are usually quoted in specialist reference works. If an example of a genuine stamp is available, however, comparing scans of overprints on this against the suspect stamp is possible, and this is described under the next heading, entitled 'Comparisons'.

The final section in the Supplement is called 'Internet' and answers the question 'Can I make measurements from images that are displayed on the internet?'. Now that many more web sites are becoming available with actual stamp images, this discussion contains very useful information •

The centenary of the Caledonian PS by Richard West

IN JULY the annual Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at Renfrew, organised by the Caledonian Philatelic Society. It will be a fitting celebration of a significant event, as the society is this year celebrating its centenary.

It all began on 14 February 1906 with a preliminary meeting in the offices of the stamp dealers Douglas, Cook and Co, in Sauchiehall Street in Glasgow. It was initially called the Junior Philatelic Society of Scotland, perhaps inspired by the Junior Philatelic Society, which had been established in London in 1899 by Fred Melville (now the National Philatelic Society). The first proper meeting was held on 28 February, at which the officers were elected. The first President was Sir John Ure Primrose, Lord Provost of Glasgow.

Just three further meetings, of a more conventional nature with speaker and display, were held in the opening season, a full programme resuming on 5 September with two meetings a month. Hopefully members enjoyed Australian States, as E Heginbottom provided a display every month, covering each of the states in turn. Almost immediately an exchange packet was set up.

Change of name At first, Douglas, Cook and Co provided a meeting room, but later other venues were used. In 1922 there was a proposal to change the name of the society, but it was defeated. When the idea was resurrected in 1930, agreement was reached that the name should thereafter be the Caledonian Philatelic Society.

The society has always played a prominent part in the organising of major events in Scotland, and in 1913 was involved with other Scottish societies in arranging an exhibition in conjunction with the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, the fifth, held in 1913 in Edinburgh.

In 1924 Congress was held in Glasgow, clearly an occasion for another exhibition. This exhibition welcomed exhibits in various classes, but not as we are familiar today, such as postal history or thematic. Back then, collectors were able to submit exhibits of 'curiously shaped stamps', 'errors on stamps', 'low values (face value less than one

penny)', and others. On this occasion special souvenir labels were produced. Among the papers presented to the Congress, which at that time ran from Monday to Friday, was one given by Fred Melville on 'Sources of Information for the Philatelic Student'.

The 1947 British Philatelic Exhibition was held at South Kensington in London, moving to Glasgow at the end of November. Caledonian Philatelic Society members contributed to the event, as they also did to an exhibition that was held at the People's Palace Museum in Glasgow in 1949.

In its early years the Society took the bold step of publishing a journal, the *Scots Philatelist*. This caused a strain on the society's finances, so after five years had to cease. Nevertheless, it was quickly followed by a similar venture, this time called *Philately in Scotland*, published together with other societies in Scotland.

Membership has fluctuated over the years – a pattern similar to many others – and today stands at around 85, roughly the same as at the society's launch. The peak came shortly after the Second World War, when the number reached 300. The huge rise in the 1940s was matched by a similar fall in the 1950s, although at the time the society celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1956, the membership was still a very respectable 250. This was the occasion for another exhibition, staged with in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

Scotex As well as the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, each year societies in Scotland hold their own Congress. In 1962 this was organised by the Caledonian Philatelic Society, with an exhibition called Scotex, at the McLellan Galleries in Glasgow. This is fondly remembered as one of the best held in Scotland, and was marked by a souvenir label, a postcard showing postmarks peculiar to Scotland, and a souvenir sheet which reproduced the 3d, 6d and 1s 3d Scotland 'Regional' stamps.

The Society has hosted the Congress of Scottish Philatelic Societies on subsequent occasions, providing displays for the enjoyment of visitors: in 1972 in Stirling; in 1981 in Stirling; in 1996 in

R GLASGOW 303
No 0041

Kelvingrove Art Galleries, Glasgow

75th anniversary

The Caledonian

Edward VII booklet pane with a St Andrew's cross obliterating the blank label. Issued in 1906, the year of the founding of the Society

Philatelic Society

The Society has produced a fine book, *The Caledonian Philatelic Society 1906-2006 a Century of Scottish Philately*, by Stewart Gardiner. Priced £25 plus £3.50 postage UK (Europe £6.50; rest of world £8.50 at small packet rate or £4.50 surface mail). Available from Stewart Gardiner, 62 Balshagray Drive, Broomhill, Glasgow G11 7BZ.

Falkirk; and will do so again this year in Perth. The 1981 event coincided with the 75th anniversary of the society, and so saw a number of philatelic souvenirs produced, including a souvenir sheet which reproduced a booklet pane of 1906 comprising five King Edward VII 1/2d stamps together with the 'St Andrew's Cross'.

In 1969 the Society was asked to give a display to the members of the Royal Philatelic Society London, quite an honour as this was the 'Royal's' centenary year.

In 1975 the Society helped with an exhibition on the Postal History of Glasgow, staged by the Glasgow Philatelic Society, and in 2000 was a major contributor to Glasgow 2000, the third of the biennial exhibitions organised on behalf of the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Eminent members Over the years the Society has welcomed many eminent collectors to its ranks, far too many to record here. To single out a few: A Bruce Auckland, who was still philatelically active up until his death at 102 in 1997; Niall Diarmid Campbell, who was the 10th Duke of Argyll, and the Postmaster General in 1855; Captain Philippe

Durand, regarded by many as the father of thematic collecting in Britain; John Easton, famous for his books *Postage Stamps in the Making* and *British Postage Stamp Design*; and Sir John Wilson, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, 1938-69.

The Society continues steadily, with around 85 members, of which about a third attend meetings which are held on Thursday evenings. The President in this centenary year is Margaret Morris. To mark its centenary, the Society has been accorded a Civic Reception by the Lord Provost of the City of Glasgow. From 6-9 July it will be hosting the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain at the Normandy Hotel in Renfrew (near Glasgow Airport). Displays will include a collection of Laurel and Hardy postcards by Bill Spalding, and humorous items from Robert Johnson's collection. A paper from David Beech will relate to philatelic literature of the Edwardian era. The Kay Goodman Memorial Lecture will be presented by Richard Beith on the subject of aviation from the former Renfrew Airport. More details are available from Elizabeth Nairn, 4 Strenabey Avenue, Burnside, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 5DL. Telephone 0141 634 4067 •

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



November identify The detail is from the 1994 Alice Greetings stamp. The winner was Philippa T Backe of Norway.

November knowledge The answers: 1) orange & black; 2) blue; 3) Irene von Treskow. The winner was Frank Hamill of Bristol.

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

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

- 1 What is the colour of the current 9p definitive?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps features a sunflower?
- 3 Who designed the 1984 Greenwich Meridian stamps?

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, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 17 March will each receive £100. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

Until 26 February Banbury Stamp Society 25th anniversary displays in Banbury Museum & Library. Banbury postal history, general collecting. Commemorative cover. Enquiries John Davies, 01295 255831.

26 January - 23 April Art for Mailing: Wildlife Stamp Designs by Ian Loe exhibition at Octagon Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Sketches & artwork for over 500 stamps designed by Ian Loe.

10-13 February Wildlife Stamp Weekend, Edinburgh Zoo. Philatelic displays, Zoo Trail, Stamp Art at Magic Forest, etc. Normal Zoo admission charge. Enquiries 0131 314 0350, www.edinburghzoo.org.uk

11 February Rotherham Stamp & Postcard Club Open Day, Broom Valley Club Room, Brunswick Rd, Broom Valley, Rotherham, 10.00-16.00. Dealer present, displays, refreshments, free adjacent car parking. Enquiries J Bradley, 01709 837073.

11 February Streetly PS Annual Stamp, Postcard and Postal History Fair at Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF. 09.30-16.00. Admission 20p, children 10p. National stamp dealers, refreshments available, car parking. Enquiries L Rennison, 0121 308 2260.

22-26 February Spring Stampex. See page 164.

23-25 February Philatex at Lawrence Hall, Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, London SW1. Open Thurs 11.00-19.00; Fri 10.00-18.00; Sat 10.00-17.00. Admission free. Enquiries C Rainey 01793 513431 or T Davis, 020 8946 4489, or see website www.stampshows.net

11 March - 2 April STAMP Lincs (annual exhibition by Lincoln PS), Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Boston Road, Lincoln. Thematic displays. Enquiries P Wain 01522 525984 •

Late news

2010 London exhibition London will host a major international philatelic exhibition in 2010. Entitled London 2010, Festival of Stamps, it will comprise a number of linked events focussed around the primary competitive exhibition, which will be held 8-15 May 2010. The principal venue will be the Business Design Centre in Islington, utilising all the space available which is almost double that normally used by Stampex. The BDC will be the centre for dealers, postal administrations, competitive exhibits and invited displays representing the world of philately. A novel addition will be the link with the philatelic organisations based in London who are planning parallel events, at different locations, which will overlap with the main exhibition. These added attractions will extend over the year as part of the capital's preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games. Brian Trotter, the Chairman of the primary exhibition to be held at the BDC, said 'I am delighted that London will be able to continue its established tradition of staging a major stamp exhibition every 10 years. Past exhibitions in London have each proved to be landmark events, and we are determined that 2010 will be no exception. We have a dedicated team involved in the overall event which includes Royal Mail, Royal Philatelic Collection, British Postal Museum & Archive, Royal Philatelic Society London, the British Library Philatelic Collections, Philatelic Traders Society and Association of British Philatelic Societies.'

The name has been registered and a logo is being prepared. As planning progresses, up-to-date information will be available on a website soon to be established •

Royal Mail update The Motorcycles stamps, FDC and presentation pack have been short-listed as finalists for the prestigious Design Week Print Design Award. Issued in July 2005, these stamps feature illustrations by Michael English of classic British motorcycles made by Royal Enfield, Brough, BSA, Triumph, Vincent and Norton.

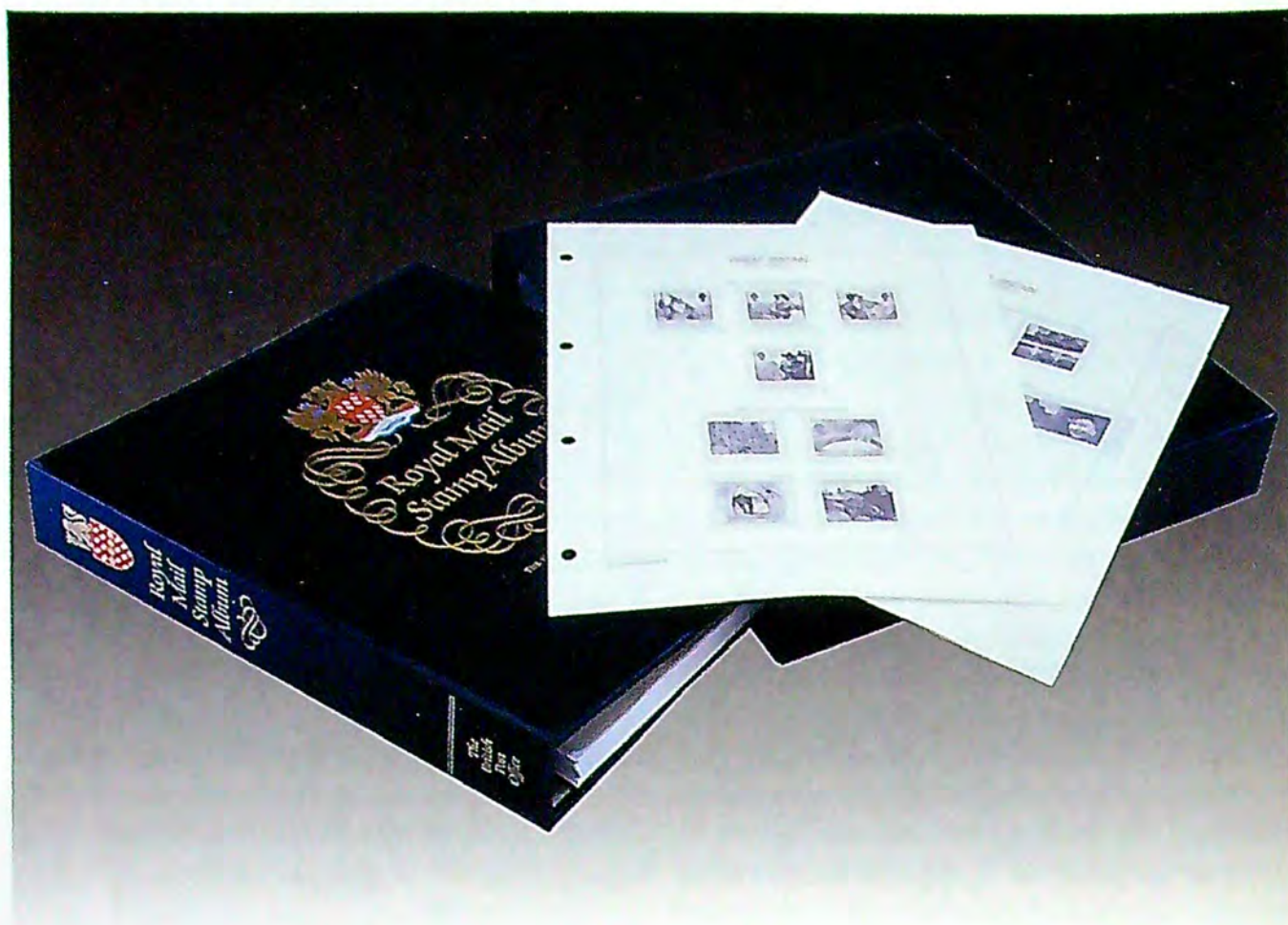
Alan Cook, Chief Executive of National Savings and Investments (NS&I), has been appointed

Managing Director of Post Office Ltd. Reporting to Adam Crozier, Royal Mail Group Chief Executive, Mr Cook will develop the Post Office network in its key role of providing products and services to 28 million customers each week. Mr Crozier commented: 'Alan has a fantastic track-record in growing business at NS&I where investments in Premium Bonds and other savings and investment products have grown by an impressive £10 billion in the past three years.' Mr Cook, aged 52, is a Fellow of the Council at the Institute of Financial Services, a Chartered Insurer, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Member of the Chartered Institute of Management, and Freeman of the City of London. He was appointed a CBE in the 2006 New Year Honours List •

Auction news Harmers All World Stamps & Postal History auction on 20 December included 38 trial stamps by Perkins, Bacon for the 1878 stamp tender; estimated at £480, the collection realised £518. A rare 1988 Christmas stamp with 13p instead of 14p value made £3529 (est £3000), and a recently discovered 2004 Ocean Liners miniature sheet with 53p instead of 57p stamp (*City of New York*) made £4411 (£3000). A 10p book for London 1980 (SG FA11) with miscut pane with 1p vertical pair in centre and part of two 8p at left and right went for £118 against an estimate of £50. Enquiries: Harmers, 020 8747 6100, or see www.harmers.com •

Washington 2006 The Virtual Stamp Club will sponsor and operate the Computers in Philately booth at Washington 2006. 'We expect to offer Internet access, demonstrations of software and web sites, and informal lectures by publishers,' said vsc President Lloyd de Vries. The four-sided Computers in Philately area will be located near the Youth and Literature Reading Areas. It will be staffed for the entire run of the show. The vsc website (www.VirtualStampClub.com) contains hundreds of pages, with weekly show calendars, audio features, us stamp program listing, etc •

Royal Mail Deluxe Stamp Album



Royal Mail's Deluxe Album is the ideal way to display your collection of Elizabeth II stamps. The album comes complete with plastic mounts to secure your stamps safely, having been specially designed to carefully preserve your collection. Spaces are provided for all definitive, country, special, and postage due stamps, also miniature sheets. The album is available in three volumes. Vol 1 covers the pre-decimal issues (1952-70), Vol 2 the decimal issues of the 1970s and 80s, and Vol 3 the issues of the 1990s.

Prices: Vol 1 £79.95 (order code PA634), Vols 2 & 3 £99.94 each (PA635 & PA636). The three volumes can be supplied together for £245 (PA685). Additional (empty) album binders and slip cases cost £39.95 (PA194).

Continuation pages (supplements) are available for each year, 2000 to 2005, price £14.95 per year.

Handling charge £1.30 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 elsewhere for continuation pages; £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 elsewhere for albums and binders.

Order from Royal Mail as shown at right, or see www.royalmail.com/stamps

Royal Mail

Tallents House, 21 South Gyle
Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
Telephone orders: UK 08457
641 641; overseas +44 131 316
7483



NEW DEFINITIVES AND COUNTRY STAMPS

Postal rate changes to be introduced from 3 April, necessitate some new definitive and country stamps. These will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House from 28 March. The new definitives will comprise: 37p olive green (2nd class second weight step), 44p ultramarine (European basic weight), 49p rust (UK 1st class second weight step), and 72p red (airmail, second weight step). There will be new 44p and 72p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in the same designs as the current 42p and 68p stamps. The new basic UK 1st and 2nd class rates (to 60g) will be 23p and 32p, covered by existing 2nd and 1st class NVI stamps. The new stamps will all be printed by De La Rue in gravure, except the 44p and 72p Northern Ireland stamps which will be printed in litho.

First Day facilities First day covers will be available from Tallents House bearing the new 37p, 44p, 49p, and 72p definitives cancelled Tallents House or Windsor, price £2.79 UK, £2.38 overseas. Covers for each of the four countries with the new 44p and 72p country stamps cancelled Tallents House or the country capital (London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, or Belfast) will each cost £1.78 UK, £1.52 overseas.

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: FDo611 Tallents House, FDo612 Windsor, FDo613 London, FDo614 Edinburgh, FDo615 Cardiff, and FDo616 Belfast. These postmarks can be applied to any of the new stamps issued on 28 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 (also philatelic outlets and Tallents House), price 25p each. There will be no new stamp cards.

A presentation pack containing the four new 37p, 44p, 49p, and 72p definitives will cost £2.40 and a pack with the eight new country stamps £5.00.

Withdrawal of current values The 35p, 40p, 46p, 47p, and 68p definitives and 42p and 68p country stamps will be withdrawn from general sale at Post Office branches on 1 April (2 April if open on a Sunday). They will remain on philatelic sale until further notice. Also to be withdrawn from sale at Post Office branches on 1 or 2 April will be any remaining stock of British Journey stamps (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and South West England) other than the 2nd and 1st class values, together with any residual stocks of the booklets for the Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland stamps in this series.

Increase in price of existing stamps The 3 April rate increase will result in all existing 2nd and 1st class stamps (definitives, country and special) being sold at 23p and 32p respectively. The Universal overseas rate stamps (sold only in books) will now cost 50p (postcards), 64p (Europe to 40g), and £1.19 (worldwide to 40g). The increase also applies to miniature sheets containing 2nd and 1st class stamps. Books of six 1st class stamps will cost £1.92, books of 12 2nd and 1st class £2.76 and £3.84 respectively.

QUEEN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY ISSUE

The values for this set are now confirmed as 2 x 2nd class (23p), 2 x 1st class (32p), 2 x 44p, and 2 x 72p. The presentation pack will cost £3.95; FDC prices are £4.31 UK and £3.67 overseas.

Review

Supplied with the BRITISH PHILATELIC BULLETIN

The information service for
collectors and cover producers

FEBRUARY 2006

Special announcement to cover producers The number of requests for announcements in this Review has grown rapidly in recent months. Regrettably we must now restrict announcements to one cover per producer per month •

Bletchley Park PO Julie Bailey has illustrated St Mary's Church for the Bletchley Park Post Office Christmas FDC. St Mary's is the parish church for Bletchley Park, where 60 years ago Bletchley Park codebreakers probably celebrated the peace that their efforts made possible. At that time BPPPO was known only by its undercover address of Box 111 Bletchley. The first day of issue cancel celebrates the 10th anniversary of cover issues from BPPPO. Limited edition of 200. Price £12.50 plus £1.50 postage •



Orders and enquiries Bletchley Park Post Office, The Mansion, Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes MK3 6EB. Telephone/fax 01908 631797. Website www.bletchleycovers.com

M Tanner offers a cover, limited to 25 numbered copies, to celebrate England winning the 2005 Ashes series. The cover comes with a colour filler postcard of the cover image. Cover photography features crowd scenes at the Tests. Stamps in the Ashes miniature sheet are cancelled twice with the 'Victory at the Ashes/The Oval/Bat & Ball' pictorial handstamp on 6 October. Price £15.99 postpaid UK; £16.99 overseas. Additional postcards are available at 60p each plus postage 60p UK or £1.20 overseas per order if ordered separately. Also available: a Lords/Ashes Urn single maximum card (68p Michael Vaughan) limited

to 12 only at £8 UK or £9 overseas. Readers seeking pictorial information should enclose three 1st class stamps or value •



Orders and enquiries M Tanner, 180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon CR0 2LA. Fax/answerphone 020 8684 9757 (credit card orders only).

GB Covers Hand made, limited edition, full set FDCs are produced by the founder and Life President of GBFDC (Association of Collectors of GB First Day Covers) for Association members. The cover for The Ashes stamp issue is limited to 55 signed and numbered. Two remain for sale, at £19.50 each including insert and postage •



Orders and enquiries GB Covers, 102 Regal Way, Kenton, Harrow HA3 0RY. E-mail derek@gbcovers.co.uk

Benham I K Brunel was the greatest of the many gifted 19th century British engineers. His vision, inventiveness and extraordinary work-rate put him in the forefront of this country's industrial growth. The Royal Albert Bridge is the last and the greatest of his railway works and features on this cover. It was opened by Prince Albert on 3 May 1859, and when Brunel died four months later the bridge became a memorial to his genius. The stamps are cancelled with a complementary pictorial first day Saltash postmark. Price £9.95 plus £1.95 postage. When ordering quote media code BPE0602A, product code BLCS322B, and mention *Philatelic Bulletin* •



Orders Benham Covers Ltd, Kelvedon Park, Rivenhall End, Witham CM8 3HB. Telephone 08708 500 654.

Enquiries Benham Group, Unit K Concept Court, Shearway Business Park, Folkestone CT19 4RG. Telephone 08708 500 654. E-mail benham@benham.co.uk

Royal Naval Philatelic Society The Royal Navy produced a limited edition of 530 covers for the Trafalgar issue. As a reminder of the relevance of the modern Royal Navy today and tomorrow, the cover features an impression of a future aircraft carrier and its aircraft. Each cover is numbered and has been signed by the First Sea Lord, Sir Alan West. Enclosed is a copy of the address given by him at the Trafalgar Night dinner on board HMS *Victory* on the 200th anniversary of the battle. The cover carries the official handstamp of the office of the First Sea Lord and the stamps have been cancelled with the Royal Mail

London WC postmark of Nelson's column dated 21 October. Price £25, plus £2.50 postage. Remittances to Royal Naval Philatelic Society •



Orders and enquiries Royal Naval Philatelic Society, 19 College Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LJ. Telephone 01730 231668. E-mail fosterjohn@clara.net

Dawn Cover Productions A cover was issued for the 2005 Carling Cup Final, when Chelsea won their first major trophy under the current regime, and a special handstamp was used for the event. A small number were later double handstamped on the last day of the season when Chelsea also became Football League Champions. The covers celebrate the club's most successful season, and add another piece of football postal history to the Official Series which commenced in 1971. The covers, including a filler card, cost £10 plus £1 postage and insurance to *Bulletin* readers. Further details of the Official Football Series can be seen on www.footballcovers.co.uk •



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Cover producers wishing to announce a **recent** or **forthcoming** cover should submit typed copy of up to 100 words. Please follow the style above: the text should give a brief description of the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear and give retail price and address to which collectors should send orders or write for further information. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis, and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Copy for consideration for the April 2006 *Review* should be sent to The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ by 9 February. Copy for May should arrive by 8 March. The Editor regrets he cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations with collectors or cover producers concerning covers announced in this *Review*.