

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 44 Number 8

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Bulletin

Annual poll results • Birth of
the Machin • Scouting issue



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



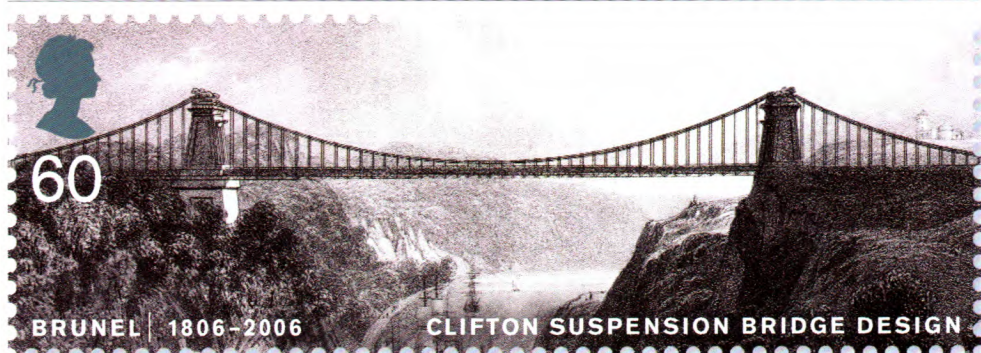
Cover St George with two of the stamps in the 'Celebrating England' miniature sheet, to be issued on St George's Day, 23 April. See page 136 of the January *Bulletin* for a preview of the sheet. Illustration: Mary Evans Picture Library.

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

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

27 March	Issue Definitives 16p, 48p, 50p (light grey), 69p, 78p; country stamps 48p and 78p for four countries; pack containing new definitives; pack containing new country stamps; business sheets of 50 × 1st and 50 × 2nd class 'Large' letter stamp (self-adhesive)
31 March	Withdrawal 42p and 68p country stamps and pack containing four 42p country stamps
17 April	Withdrawal The Queen's 80th Birthday stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards (commemorative document and coin cover remain on sale)
23 April	Issue Celebrating England miniature sheet, pack and stamp cards (five in set); Glorious England generic and Smilers sheets, England coin cover
24 April	Withdrawal 1st and 2nd class stamp books issued June 2002; 2nd class stamp book issued June 2004
30 April	Withdrawal Standard airletter, blue paper, issued June 2004
2 May	Withdrawal 35p, 40p, 47p and 68p definitives
8 May	Issue Beside the Seaside stamp cards
15 May	Issue Beside the Seaside stamps and pack
15 May	Withdrawal 1st & 2nd class business sheets issued June 2004
17 May	Issue Wembley Stadium miniature sheet; 'Memories of Wembley Stadium' generic sheet
20 May	Withdrawal Queen's 80th Birthday coin cover
24 May	Withdrawal Washington 2006 World Stamp Exhibition generic sheet (Hello stamp and exhibition labels)
25 May	Issue Country coin covers set in folder
29 May	Issue Machin Anniversary stamp cards (three cards: two special stamps and miniature sheet)

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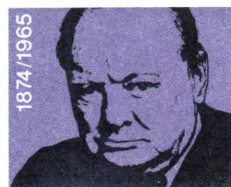
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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ ● **Editor** J R Holman ● **Price** £1.20 single copies from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents 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



Glenn Morgan

London 2010 press release The London 2010 Festival of Stamps departs significantly from the traditional large-scale, short-term FIP World International Stamp Exhibitions held in the UK in 1980, 1990 and 2000. It will involve multi-centre exhibitions and events which aim to raise the profile of stamps and philately, both within and outside the philatelic community. These will take place before, during and after the competitive show.

The London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition will include the competitive and trading aspects, at the Business Design Centre, Islington. To reduce the cost of providing exhibit space, the exhibits will be changed midway through the exhibition period, thus halving the unit cost and offering the possibility of over 2400 frames to be shown. This innovation will also enable economies of scale in judging and other support costs.

The British Library, the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) and the Royal Philatelic Collection are planning events which will last for up to three or more months, including exhibitions which will highlight the interaction of stamp collecting and philately with other areas of interest.

The Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) in conjunction with regional Federations and local societies will be promoting the idea of countrywide events and displays to link with the Festival and thus raise the profile of the hobby more generally.

An Advisory Board has been assembled to oversee the integration of the various aspects of the Festival, its membership being drawn from the ASBPS, British Library, BPMA, Royal Philatelic Collection, Royal Philatelic Society London, British Philatelic Trust and Philatelic Traders Society ●

Further details of the London 2010 Festival of Stamps will appear on a special website: www.london2010.org.uk

Banknote security The Bank of England museum currently has an on display an exhibition entitled 'Security by Design', which runs until 26 October between the hours of 10:00 and 17:00 Monday to Friday.

The bank has designed and issued banknotes for more than three centuries, making it the longest continuous issuer of paper money in the world. Over time, the designs for its notes have incorporated details and devices, some obvious, others less so, to make them very hard to copy. This exhibition looks at how these designs have evolved into today's banknotes.

Enquiries: www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum or call 020 7601 5545. The museum is located in Bartholomew Lane, London EC2R 8AH, close to Bank underground, after which the station is named. Admission is free ●

Australian Ashes win Australia Post has celebrated their convincing 5-0 Ashes Cricket series win over England by issuing two stamps, a miniature sheet, two FDCs, two maxi-cards, a coin and stamp cover (PNC), an 'Urn Returns' stamp pack, two 'cheque book' stamp booklets and two sheetlets of five stamps. The total cost of this collection for a 'one of everything' collector amounts to A\$283.30, or a princely £113.16 ●

Postal guide re-printed The first-ever postal guide, published in 1562, has been re-printed in the British Virgin Islands by Dr Giorgio Migliavacca, who states in his press release: 'This modern reprint of the 1562 postal guide makes this important book in the history of travel and communications easily available to 21st century readers and scholars' ●

Pierron's publications Three excellent reference works are available to collectors of modern British and Commonwealth errors and trial material.

Pierron's Online Catalogue contains images, quantities and values of all recorded modern GB and Commonwealth missing colour errors. Updates are made constantly (almost daily) to reflect dealer and auction prices, new finds, additional error and variety types and the latest research. There are already over 1400 varieties, 3000 images and 74,000 words on the site and it is a valuable new addition to the collectors' arsenal of available information about the errors scene. Visit www.errors.info from where new users must register. Enter your email address, choose a password and click to register. You'll have 30 days of unrestricted access and thereafter viewable information relating to errors will be limited. Full access can be restored by purchasing a year's subscription for a modest £9.95 (15 euros, \$18 USD).

Pierron's *Modern Great Britain Errors & Varieties* is an electronic book (e-book) sold as a CD to use on your computer. It features everything covered in the 2005 *Catalogue of Great Britain Stamp Errors and Varieties*, plus the very latest finds, quantities and values, benefiting from over 600 updates. Like the 2005 printed catalogue, the digital version features more than 550 pages, 13 colour-coded sections and detailed descriptions and market valuations of over 2,800 modern GB errors and varieties presented as PDF pages. Due to smart use of bookmarks and links, it is possible to navigate to areas of interest rapidly. Furthermore, pages can be magnified to 400% without any loss of image detail and pages can be printed out in high resolution ●

Society publications The three GB-related publications below could not, in many ways, be more different in their presentation, but all of the societies share the common desire to promote the collecting of British philately in all its different forms, and that is to be commended.

The January 2007 *GBCC Chronicle* contains its regular columns, plus features on Printed Matter: Triangular Cancellations, £1 and £5 stamps, Toppling Traditions, Postcard to Crete – Returned to Sender and An American Report on the British System of Postage in 1848. Each issue is printed in black only and even selective colour has yet to appear within its 28 pages – not that the articles are any less informative because of this omission ●

Rundbrief numbers 145 and 146 (September and December 2006) are, again, enhanced with the increasing use of colour throughout its 74 A4 pages. Modern British issues are given equal prominence to the classic stamps and postal history, because perhaps as it is a German publication its members would have less access to information in their own language. I wish I read German to get the full benefits. Each issue contains 15-20 articles, some of which cannot fail to be of interest to British collectors. ►



Postal guide reprint: available from Dr Giorgio Migliavacca, PO Box 7007, St Thomas VI, 00801-0007 USA.

Enquiries The CD is priced at £14.95 (22 euros, US\$28); the printed book is £49.95 (72 euros, US\$96). Postage free within the UK. Orders can be placed via orders@bacchic.com and payment by PayPal is easy for overseas buyers.

GBCC enquiries Secretary-Treasurer, Parker A Bailey, 2341 SW 86th Terrace, Davie, FL 33324, USA or e-mail him at: pbaileyjr@comcast.net

Rundbrief enquiries There is a website at www.fggb.de for those who wish to join this German group.

GBPS enquiries Peter Tanner, The Great Britain Philatelic Society, Highstandings, 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross SL9 7EN.

I&BPS enquiries Brian Sole FRPSL, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG.

ATA enquiries 411A Lillard Road, Arlington, TX 76012-3698. The British equivalent society is the British Thematic Association: 71 Churchward Avenue, Swindon SN2 1NW.

The *GB Journal* for January/February 2007 contains 14 features (some in colour) including book reviews, 9d KGV1 stamp use, Prince Consort Essay, Parcel Post Privy Council Licence 1935 Silver Jubilee quantities, Mulready Advertisements and the Mary Adshead Archive. The accompanying *GBPS Newsletter* continues to improve dramatically from its earlier days when it was typed and held together with a single staple in the top corner and contained virtually only ephemeral society news. These days, members receive a well-printed, 24 page A4 magazine-style publication with increasing use of colour and items of permanent reference value. The issue under review includes information about Wyon Medals, the KGV1 Coronation issue and many other short features, leaving the *Journal* as the repository for the longer studies. They complement each other perfectly, even if the differences between them is gradually blurring ●

The *I&BPS Newsletter* exists for members past and present of the financial services industry. Its December 2006 issue includes articles on Investing in Stamps, Captain Cook, UK Bankers' Mail Services, Modern Postal History and coverage of new British stamp issues ●

The January/February 2007 issue of the American Topical Association's *Topical Time* is available, including features on: Aviation in WWII, History of Tattoos, Garbage can be Golden, Tarantella Folk Dance, Changes in Apparel, A Contrast in [German] Cultures, Tragedies in Shakespeare and a useful index to 2006 ATA Publications ●

Croydon 2007 Entry forms for the competitive aspect of this show are available at www.croydon2007.org.uk or by post from Allan Jones, 21 Parkhill Road, Bexley DA5 1HF, being sure to enclose an A4 Large Letter stamped envelope. Note that the thematic class entries will be displayed at Themat-ica, Carisbrooke Hall, London and not at Fairfield Halls, Croydon ●



Brian Janes

Brian Janes Brian retired at the end of January after having been employed for 31 years by Harrison and Sons, where he reached the level of Works Director. He then spent almost five years at De La Rue following their purchase of Harrison and Sons, and finally worked five years with Walsall Security Printers in the role of Special Accounts Manager.

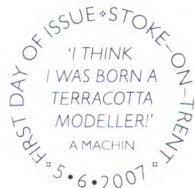
Some readers will be familiar with Brian's name, as he has always been a good friend to collectors and was always willing to share his considerable knowledge, as long as it did not infringe the security and confidentiality requirements that surround the production of postage stamps. Readers will recall that only recently he was able to provide fascinating information relating to the photograph utilised on the front cover of my *British Stamp Printers* booklet, produced for *Bulletin* readers. Brian's role at wsp has been filled by Paul Singleton, who once worked at the House of Ques-ta and is a current member of Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee.

On behalf of the many collectors who knew Brian and from all of the stamp production team at Royal Mail, with whom he worked closely over many years, I wish Brian a long and happy retirement playing golf and spending more time with his family ●

Royal Mail news New issues and products

Definitive and country stamp changes Readers are reminded that certain postal rates will be increased from 2 April, and that new national definitive and country stamps go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House from 27 March. Details were given in the February *Bulletin* (p191) and again in Royal Mail News last month •

Machin Anniversary issue As mentioned here in February, there will be an additional pictorial first day of issue postmark for this Machin miniature sheet and prestige book pane – for Stoke on Trent, where Arnold Machin was born in 1911. Covers bearing this postmark will not be sent automatically to FDC customers, and you should order from Tallents House by the day of issue, 5 June. Price £3.63 UK / £3.09 overseas with miniature sheet or £2.78 / £2.37 with PSB pane. Collectors can submit covers for this Stoke postmark to any Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre, requesting postmark FD0739 •



Coin covers and ingot sets A new coin cover, with the 2007 England £1 coin (Millennium Bridge, Gateshead) encapsulated, will be available from 23 April, price £13.50. The cover bears the four England country stamps cancelled by a special Newcastle upon Tyne postmark. This completes the series of four country coin covers – the Scotland (30 November 2004), Wales (1 March 2005) and Northern Ireland (17 March 2006) covers are all still available, price £13.50 each. The set of four will be available in a collection folder from 25 May, priced £54.



The Queen's 80th birthday coin cover (£17.95) will be withdrawn from sale on 20 May.

The third in the current series of ingots (stamps of Edward VIII and George VI) will be available from 19 June, and features the George VI Coronation stamp of 1937. Price £27.95. Nos 1 and 2 in the series (Edward VIII 1d and George VI 1d) are still available, priced £27.95 each. All orders for coin covers and ingots should be sent to Tallents House. Handling charge £1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 Rest of World •

The ingot (shown actual size) from the George VI 1d issue, the second in the current series (stamps of Edward VIII and George VI).

Definitives revisited It has been decided to return to the pre-Pricing in Proportion design for the 1st and 2nd class standard definitives, ie with service indicator at bottom rather than top left. These will be reintroduced from June onwards; sheets of 200 gummed 2nd class stamps printed by De La Rue will be available from Tallents House and philatelic outlets from 5 June. Previous supplies of this stamp were printed by Walsall. There will be no first day of issue facilities. Details of changes to stamp books and business sheets will be announced shortly •

Love stamp The Love stamp in the 16 January stamp book has elliptical perforations. Stanley Gibbons has given this variety catalogue listing as GB no 2693 •

Memories of Wembley Stadium

14 This mini stamp will be on sale 11 May 2007

133 Is the highest number of postal stamps ever issued in the UK

90,000 of national records the largest in England

23,000 tonnes of steel used in construction

WEMBLEY STADIUM

1923
A new landmark for London
In only 300 days, 25,000 tonnes of steel, 1,000 tonnes of iron and 1,000 tonnes of concrete were put together to construct the Empire Stadium.

1923
White Horse Final >
Parade ground for 250,000 fans attended the first FA Cup Final and was the only stadium to host the final.

1924
British Empire Exhibition
King George V opened the British Empire Exhibition, which ran for 17 months, on a track made from concrete from the Empire of Exhibition.

1936
Speedway Championships >
Australia's Eric Peckham won the first ever world speedway championships, which took place at Wembley.

1948
The Olympic Games
The world's largest sporting event, the 1948 Olympic Games, was held at Wembley Stadium.

1966
World Cup Final >
Wembley Stadium was the venue for the 1966 FIFA World Cup Final, which saw England defeat Germany 4-2.

1985
Live Aid
Wembley Stadium was the venue for the Live Aid concert, which was held on 7 July 1985.

1996
The Three Tenors >
Three of the world's greatest vocalists, Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo and José Carreras, performed at Wembley Stadium.

2007
New Stadium Opens
A new home for our nation and a new landmark for the London 2012 Olympic Games, Wembley Stadium's massive new arch, spanning 315 metres, can be seen from Canary Wharf 10 miles away.

Royal Mail



Wembley Stadium Generic sheet and miniature sheet, both to be issued 17 May.

Special issues This month's special issue comprises the 'Celebrating England' miniature sheet, which goes on sale on St George's Day, 23 April. It contains two special 78p stamps showing St George and the Houses of Parliament, the current England 1st class stamp and a new 1st class design showing the St George's flag. The sheet was shown here in January (p136). Five stamp cards will be available, showing the four stamps and the complete miniature sheet.

To coincide with this miniature sheet, we are issuing a 'Glorious England' generic sheet containing 20 1st class England stamps (self-adhesive) and labels featuring buildings and scenery of England. This sheet was shown here in March (p203). A Smilers version, with your own image

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

On 17 May we will issue a miniature sheet to commemorate the new Wembley Stadium (see left, previewed in March, p201) which contains two English country stamps and an amended version of the 2002 Crowned Lion World Cup stamp. The miniature sheet will be on sale at selected Post Office branches. On the same day will be issued a new generic sheet (above) containing the amended Crowned Lion stamp and labels featuring scenes from the old Wembley stadium and images of the new •

Special Handstamp Centres Addresses for Royal Mail's five Special Handstamp Centres are published in each issue of our companion magazine, the *British Postmark Bulletin*. For the convenience of *Philatelic Bulletin* readers who do not subscribe to that publication, we will give the addresses here from time to time. To receive a free sample copy of the *Postmark Bulletin* write to: The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ •

London Special Handstamp Centre Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB

Northern England Special Handstamp Centre South Shields DO, Keppell Street, South Shields NE33 1AA

Midland Special Handstamp Centre Birmingham Mail Centre, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA

Wales & The West Special Handstamp Centre 220-228 Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA

Scotland & Northern Ireland Special Handstamp Centre Rutherglen DO, Duchess Place, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1BT

British Postal Museum & Archive On show at the BPMA until 19 April is the 'Elizabeth: Queen & Icon' exhibition, some of the highlights of which were featured here last July (pages 339-41). A new exhibition, marking the 40th anniversary of the Machin definitive, will open on 3 May. The BPMA is run by the Postal Heritage Trust, and comprises the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum •

BPMA British Postal Museum and Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Phone 020 7239 2570 or visit www.postalheritage.org.uk

Dates of withdrawals The Queen's 80th birthday stamps, pack, and stamp cards: 17 April. Standard airletter issued June 2004: 30 April. Three stamp books, issued in June 2002 and June 2004: 24 April •

Storing the Bulletin Binders and box files are available for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The sturdy box files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin* are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £9.95 each. Order codes PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the Philatelic and about 50 of the Postmark Bulletins. The traditional binders for the Philatelic (BB001) and Postmark (PB322) Bulletins cost £8.50 each •



Special draw Win a 2006 de luxe Yearbook

FOR THIS month's draw we have a leather-bound de luxe 2006 Royal Mail Yearbook for the sender of the first card drawn on 30 April. Five runners-up will win packs of Beside the Seaside stamps. Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send to: Yearbook Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ •

Stamp poll draws Voters in our 2006 stamp poll (see p234) were entered in two draws. Winners of £50 each in the Favourite Stamps draw were: Dr C Jansen, Germany; Mrs M Kent, Padstow; Mr D Burnham, Cowbridge; and Mr A Groat, Edinburgh. The winners of £50 each in the Favourite *Bulletin* Author draw were: Mr R Plummer, Poole; and Mr A Hill, Edgware •

Results of 2006 Bulletin readers poll by Glenn Morgan

In December, you were invited to vote for your favourite 2006 set of special stamps and miniature sheet, individual stamp, FDC design and presentation pack, and favourite *Bulletin* author. This was the 21st annual poll, and a good response was received from 1237 readers residing in many parts of the world, with voting higher than last year.

Keying the entries into my laptop soon showed a pattern of popularity, with the favourite individual stamp being way ahead of rivals and, as the results below will reveal, I had to type in the number 77 rather a lot!

Thanks to all who took the time to vote, and for your comments. These have been submitted to Royal Mail's product managers for their consideration when producing future issues.

Favourite set As always, points were allocated for each vote for the set: three points for first choice, two points for second and one point for third. This enabled me to get a clear picture of the relative popularity of each issue. The voting was as shown opposite.

The Brunel issue was the outright winner (with 1833 points and 25.5% of total vote), British Journey: England came second (1090 points, 15.2%), and in third place was The Queen's 80th Birthday issue (798 points, 11.1%). Therefore over 51% of the total vote went to just three sets.

For interest, past winners were: 1987 Flowers; 1988 Linnean Society; 1989 Birds; 1990 Queen Mother; 1991 Maps; 1992 Wintertime; 1993 Autumn; 1994 Age of Steam; 1995 Christmas; 1996 Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust; 1997 The Great Tudor (Henry VIII); 1998 Lighthouses; 1999 Scientists' Tale; 2000 Tree and Leaf; 2001 Weather; 2002 London Bridges; 2003 Extreme Endeavours; 2004 Woodlands Animals; 2005 Trafalgar.

Favourite stamps The Lest We Forget stamp from the miniature sheet, showing the emotive barbed wire and poppy design was decisively your favourite individual stamp (358 votes, 34.1% of total vote) and would have scored even higher had it been available in counter sheets, as some voters

felt that as it was in a MS it should not count. The Brunel design depicting the Clifton Suspension Bridge was in second place (78 votes, 7.4%); while the Brunel design with the Royal Albert Bridge was in third place (54 votes, 5.1%).

58 of the 79 individual stamp designs attracted 10 or fewer votes each (including 11 stamps with zero points) and 69 out of the 79 designs received 20 or fewer votes each.

For the record, the previous favourite individual stamp designs were: 1996 Wildfowl and Wetlands 19p; 1997 The Great Tudor (Henry VIII) 26p; 1998 Endangered Species 20p; 1999 Scientists' Tale 64p; 2000 Above and Beyond 19p; 2001 Flags Union Jack; 2002 London Bridges 1st class; 2003 Coronation 1st (Cecil Beaton's Coronation portrait of The Queen), 2004 Woodland Animals 1st class Red squirrel; 2005 Trooping the Colour 1st class.

When the single stamps are put back into their sets and votes re-counted, four of the 13 stamp issues attracted 20 or fewer votes for the entire set. These were: Victoria Cross (16 votes), Christmas (12), Sounds of Britain (11), and World Cup Winners (3). The top four issues were: Lest We Forget MS (358), Brunel (201), The Queen's 80th Birthday (140) and British Journey: England (125).

Favourite FDC envelope and Presentation Pack

This was the first year that a poll was held to find your favourite Royal Mail FDC envelope and presentation pack designs. The four favourites for each were: FDC – Brunel (winner), Animal Tales (2nd), Lest We Forget MS (3rd) and Victoria Cross (4th); presentation pack – Brunel (winner), Victoria Cross (2nd), Lest We Forget MS (3rd) and The Queen's 80th Birthday (4th).

Favourite Bulletin authors This was the 11th year that a poll has been conducted. Douglas Myall (Mainly Machins) was once again your favourite author – he appears able to do no wrong in your eyes, having a very strong and loyal following. Ron Negus, Dorothy Martin and Richard West came second, third and fourth respectively ●



Favourite stamps and sets The number following each value is as shown in the December *Bulletin*.

Lest We Forget (MS) 1st 77	358	Christmas 2nd 71	7	World Cup Winners 44p 40	1
Brunel 60p 23	78	Animal Tales 2nd 2	6	National Portrait Gallery 1st 52	1
Brunel 1st 19	54	Queen's 80th Birthday 44p 35	6	National Portrait Gallery 1st 53	1
Queen's 80th Birthday 2nd 30	47	Celebrating Scotland (MS) 72p 78	6	Victoria Cross 64p 62	1
Queen's 80th Birthday 1st 32	36	British Journey: England 1st 13	5	Victoria Cross 64p 63	1
Animal Tales 1st 4	30	National Portrait Gallery 1st 51	5	Victoria Cross 72p 65	1
British Journey: England 1st 10	28	National Portrait Gallery 1st 54	5	Animal Tales 42p 6	0
Brunel 68p 24	24	National Portrait Gallery 1st 59	5	World Cup Winners 50p 41	0
Queen's 80th Birthday 44p 34	22	Animal Tales 42p 5	4	World Cup Winners 64p 42	0
Celebrating Scotland (MS) 72p 79	21	Ice Age Animals 68p 28	4	World Cup Winners 72p 43	0
Brunel 47p 22	20	National Portrait Gallery 1st 55	4	Modern Architecture 64p 48	0
British Journey: England 1st 11	18	National Portrait Gallery 1st 56	4	National Portrait Gallery 1st 58	0
British Journey: England 1st 16	17	Animal Tales 2nd 1	3	Victoria Cross 72p 64	0
Brunel 40p 20	17	British Journey: England 1st 15	3	Sounds of Britain 1st 66	0
British Journey: England 1st 14	16	British Journey: England 1st 17	3	Christmas 2nd Large 72	0
British Journey: England 1st 12	13	Ice Age Animals 42p 26	3	Christmas 1st Large 74	0
Ice Age Animals 1st 25	13	Ice Age Animals 47p 27	3	Christmas 72p 75	0
Queen's 80th Birthday 1st 33	13	National Portrait Gallery 1st 50	3	FAVOURITE SETS	
British Journey: England 1st 9	11	Sounds of Britain 42p 67	3	Brunel	1833
British Journey: England 1st 18	11	Sounds of Britain 50p 68	3	British Journey: England	1090
Victoria Cross 1st 61	11	Sounds of Britain 72p 69	3	Queen's 80th Birthday	798
Animal Tales 68p 7	10	Christmas 1st 73	3	Victoria Cross	707
Modern Architecture 72p 49	10	Animal Tales 1st 3	2	Lest We Forget (MS)	594
National Portrait Gallery 1st 57	9	Modern Architecture 50p 47	2	National Portrait Gallery	589
Brunel 42p 21	8	Victoria Cross 1st 60	2	Animal Tales	463
Queen's 80th Birthday 72p 37	8	Sounds of Britain £1.19 70	2	Modern Architecture	309
Modern Architecture 42p 45	8	Christmas £1 76	2	Ice Age Animals	225
Animal Tales 68p 8	7	Ice Age Animals £1.12 29	1	Christmas	201
Queen's 80th Birthday 2nd 31	7	Queen's 80th Birthday 72p 36	1	Sounds of Britain	131
Modern Architecture 1st 44	7	World Cup Winners 1st 38	1	World Cup Winners	122
Modern Architecture 44p 46	7	World Cup Winners 42p 39	1	Celebrating Scotland (MS)	120

Treasures of the BPMA The restoration of a TPO carriage, by Martin Robinson



Opposite: Sorting in a TPO carriage at Euston in 1958. Above: inside a working TPO before the service's closure in January 2004.

MOST philatelists will be familiar with Travelling Post Offices, formerly used to sort mails en route to their destination. As early as 1838, mail coaches bound for Manchester, Liverpool and Carlisle were being carried by rail between Euston and Birmingham. The 1838 Railways (Conveyance of Mails) Act allowed the Post Office to adapt carriages for mail sorting, and the TPO network expanded rapidly. The first TPO ran in January of 1838 on the Grand Junction Railway between Birmingham and Liverpool. It was a converted horse box fitted out for sorting of mail by Post Office staff. The experiment was successful and the Railway Company was asked to equip four

carriages for this service. On 17 September 1838 the London and Birmingham Railway was completely opened, and TPOs were permanently established with two departures from Euston each day, a Day Mail at 11.00am, and a Night Mail at 8.30pm.

Some of the larger TPOs consisted of six carriages and eleven stowage vans with a staff of fifty, whilst others comprised a single carriage. The sorting frames were normally on the right facing forwards with a table below on to which the mailbags were emptied. On the opposite side were pegs with destination labels to hang bags to receive the bundles of sorted mail. The early TPOs had poor facilities with oil lighting, low roofs and no heating or toilets. In the 1860s improvements were made as ventilation and better lights were installed along with arched roofs, floor covering, padding and seats. In 1911 some carriages were fitted with retractable arms and nets to exchange pouches at speed to avoid having to stop at stations.

TPO operations were mostly suspended during the First and Second World Wars. Before the First World War, 130 TPOs were running, but afterwards reduced to only 70. During the Second World War some mail trains ran, but only as bag tenders. After the war, some of the TPOs were not reinstated and Dr Beeching's cuts of 1963 had a further impact; the TPO network was in decline. A 1988 review brought about the reduction, re-routing and closure of several more TPOs. This left only 35 in service, and six years later this number was reduced to 24. In 2003 Royal Mail announced a new combined road, rail and air network, but failed to reach agreement with EWS (English, Welsh and Scottish Railway), so the railway element was excluded. By 2003 few services were still operating and the TPO era was nearly at an end. Most mail was now being distributed by road and air, and with high-speed sorting machines available in mail centres, the decision was taken to close the remaining TPO routes, the last services running on the night of 9 January 2004. ►





Above: BPMA's TPO carriage before restoration. Opposite: the interior before restoration; work in progress at L&NWR workshops, Crewe; and three views of the final results.

In 1999 the National Postal Museum (now BPMA) acquired its own TPO carriage, transferred from the Tyseley Locomotive Works, part of the Birmingham Railway Museum Trust. This carriage was going to be scrapped in 1960, but had been saved by the Railway Preservation Society. Restoration began in 2003 when funding was agreed, and although many of the original fittings such as the door handles and brasswork had survived, much of the fabric was in poor condition and a huge task lay ahead.

The carriage was built at Wolverton in 1908, and originally carried the number L^NWR 20. It

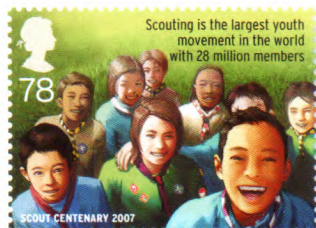
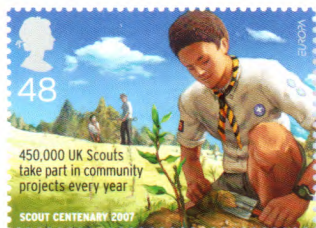
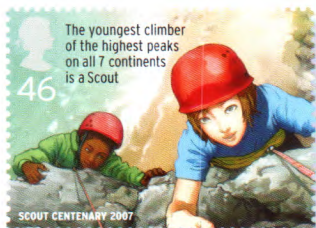
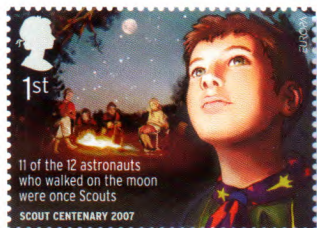
was re-numbered by the L^MS and was eventually given BR number M 30244 M. It weighs 27 tons and still has its original underframe and 4-wheel bogies. The carriage is 50ft long and 9ft 1in wide, and would have been a bustling, crowded place at the height of its working life. The 1915 Roster of PO Carriages shows that the vehicle was used on the Crewe-Holyhead route as part of the Night Down and Day Up between Euston and Holyhead. The Down left Euston at 8.45pm and arrived at Holyhead at 2.26am, the Up leaving Holyhead at 12.12am and reaching Euston at 6.10am. The carriage served on the Irish Mail until about 1940; its bag exchange apparatus was removed in 1945, and thereafter it was used only as a bag tender.

Before restoration proper began, the carriage was stripped and dried out for several months. The floor and panels were rotten, so new woodwork was fitted where necessary. The sorting frames were in better condition and were rebuilt using the original fittings wherever possible. On the inside, the roof had been painted grey when electric lighting was installed in the 1920s, but the original (rather cheerless) colours of pea green with a white roof have been restored, following the pattern of a preserved carriage at the National Railway Museum, York. It was also decided to change the external livery of Royal Mail red back to its original L^NWR colours of carmine lake and cream. L^NWR & Co's joiner, Colin Worrall, has spent four years doing most of the restoration, which was carried out at the L^NWR workshops in Crewe. He was joined by specialists who worked on the upholstery, netting, painting and signwriting, and advice was given by the Nene Valley Railway. The work was supported by the L^NWR Society's archivist and research was carried out at BPMA, the National Railway Museum, York, and the National Archives at Kew.

Thanks to Louise Mitton and Zoë Lewis of BPMA for providing most of the information contained in this article, and to the former BPMA curator Christine Jones, who wrote about the restoration of the TPO carriage and Mobile Post Office GPO2 in last autumn's edition of *Crosspost*, the journal of the Friends of BPMA. The Museum's Access and Outreach team have produced a display to accompany the restored carriage, which will be on show at The Railway Age, in Crewe, when it re-opens on 3 April for the summer season ●



Scouts A new issue to celebrate a centenary



Technical details

Printer Enschedé Security Printers

Process Lithography

Stamp size 41 × 30mm

Sheets 25 and 50

Perforation 14.5 × 14

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Barcode and stock code A barcode and an internal stock code (not the Tallents House order code) will be printed in the margins of most sheets of special stamps, starting with the Scout issue. The barcode and stock code will usually appear in the top right margin of the sheets.

SIX STAMPS commemorating the centenary of the Scouts will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 26 July, one day ahead of the opening of the 21st World Scout Jamboree 2007 at Hylands Park, Chelmsford, Essex. The Jamboree will be attended by 40,000 young people and will last until 8 August.

The stamps feature illustrations of Scouts engaged in various activities – at a camp fire (1st class), rock climbing (46p), planting trees (48p), learning archery (54p), learning gliding (69p), and in a group (78p). The stamps were designed by The Work Room design group of London, using illustrations by Gez Fry.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25; sheets of 50 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 26 July. Orders for serviced FDCs 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 their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres (Brownsea Island postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0729' or 'FD0730'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Brownsea Island postmark.

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

Set of stamps	£3.04
Presentation pack	£3.80
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£4.34
Serviced FDC (overseas customers)	£3.70
Stamp cards set	£1.80



Celebrating 100 Years of Adventure



Young people join Scouting for the activities – from abseiling to dragon-boat racing, it is all about trying new things and ‘learning by doing’.

Adventure – at all levels and in many forms – is the ‘essence’ of Scouting. Rather than just extreme sports, it encompasses the many ways that Scouting challenges and stretches the lives of young people. For a Beaver Scout, waking up the morning after her first night away from home is as much an adventure as hang-gliding or scuba diving.

In the United Kingdom, Scouts aged 6 – 25 take part in a balanced programme, learning not just climbing and practical outdoor skills such as navigation and pioneering, but about health and fitness, community, the environment, and global issues. Scouting is not afraid to change and when the new Street Sports Activity Badge came along in 2006, it may have raised a few eyebrows – but not among the young people themselves.



Britain abroad

In part two of a new series, James Mackay

BRITISH PHILATELIC BULLETIN

In addition, the British had been considerably cheered by the success of the lightning May 15 raid by 50 commandos on nearby Pebble Island. London claimed the destruction of Argentine aircraft at the cost of one minor British casualty.

In the revised plan, "attrition" was the name of the game," said one Whitehall official. He meant Britain planned to launch a series of quick attacks that were aimed at weakening Argentine strength without causing major concentrations. "We will

...would also use their maneuver as one defense official, "like a boxer who has taken his opponent for the blow."

The eventual aim of the plan was to occupy Argentine garrisons and use of air, to force the Argentine to British defense. It may never be known if the Argentines have given up the plan. The plan were left to the task force commander in the



FALKLAND ISLANDS

LT. COLONEL H. JONES V.C. OBE

VICTORIA CROSS

SERGEANT IAN J. MCKAY V.C.



FALKLAND ISLANDS



FALKLAND ISLANDS



FALKLAND ISLANDS

150TH ANNIVERSARY

WEST FALKLAND

Pebble Island



FALKLAND ISLANDS

Port Stanley

Bluff Cove



remembers two heroes of the Falklands War

THE VICTORIA CROSS was awarded posthumously to two soldiers for gallantry in the South Atlantic campaign for the liberation of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia in 1982. The stamps, which were designed by Andrew Robinson and printed by Cartor, concentrated on two Regiment, which bore the brunt of the ferocious don that marked the turning point in the campaign.

During the night of 11-12 July, 1982 the men of the third battalion (3 Para) mounted an attack on the Argentine stronghold on Mount Longdon, blocking the approach to Port Stanley. It was a bitter fight, echoing other frontal assaults up steep mountain slopes, such as that on the Heights of Alma, where some of the first vcs were won. The Paras sustained heavy casualties from the withering gunfire as they stormed the hillside, and eventually two platoons were pinned down among the rocks.

Ian McKay, aged 29, was the platoon sergeant of 4 platoon of B Company, and took command when his commanding officer was shot. Realising that the loss of momentum would be fatal, he rallied his men and led an attack with a squad of three others. They came under heavy fire and the three men fell, but McKay continued to charge the enemy position, regardless of his own safety. Reaching the enemy, he despatched them with grenades and automatic fire but was cut down in the moment of victory. By his sacrifice, he turned the tide of battle and enabled the men of 4 and 5 platoons to complete the assault.

The other VC of the Falklands War was also awarded posthumously, to 42 year old Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Jones, the commanding officer of the second battalion (2 Para). Known to officers and men alike simply as 'Colonel H', he led the assault on Argentine positions at Goose Green and Darwin on the night of 28 May 1982. What began as a reconnaissance of the dozen trenches on a mountain ridge, strongly defended by the enemy, ended as a frontal assault led by the colonel firing a sub-machine gun. Although wounded several times, his superb courage inspired his men and the enemy position was overrun. Jones, however, fell at the moment of victory, fatally wounded. By his example, the Paras scored a decisive victory, leading to the capture of 1,200 prisoners and the liberation of Darwin and Goose Green.

Two 60p stamps reproduce photographs of Jones and McKay, while a miniature sheet has a central £1 stamp showing the Victoria Cross. The regimental badge of the Paras is featured in the sheet margin.

The Jones vc is now on display at the National Army Museum, while the McKay vc is held in the collection formed by Lord Ashcroft, who has amassed no fewer than 142 VCs.

3 Para are again in the news, on account of the award of a posthumous VC on 16 December 2006 to Corporal Bryan Budd of A Company, killed during the defence of Sangin, southern Afghanistan on 20 August 2006 ●

We continue this new series on Britons and British achievements depicted on stamps issued by other countries, with the Falkland Islands stamps issued on 11 November 2006 for the 150th anniversary of the institution of the Victoria Cross.



Off with her head! The first part of a series



This three-part article (to be continued in May and June) is abridged from chapter 5 of Douglas Muir's book *A Timeless Classic: The Evolution of Machin's Icon*, which will be published shortly by the British Postal Museum & Archive.

It is ironic that the actions of a republican Postmaster General, intended to remove The Queen's head from stamps, should ultimately lead instead to the greatest regal icon of the 20th century. The revolution which took place in British stamp design and issuing policy in the mid 1960s resulted in the timeless sculpture of The Queen by Arnold Machin.

Tony Benn was appointed Postmaster General by Harold Wilson in the new Labour government of October 1964. He took up his post with definite and determined ideas about stamps, namely to try and remove The Queen's head from them, as well as widening their scope. He had not been in office a month when he informed his shocked senior officials that he wanted commemorative issues without The Queen's head, and informed a meeting of the Post Office Board on 25 November of new criteria for stamp issues: 'to celebrate events of national or international importance,

to commemorate appropriate anniversaries and occasions, to reflect Britain's unique contribution to the arts and world affairs, to extend public patronage of the arts by promoting philately and to raise revenue.'

Only 10 months before, the *Philatelic Bulletin* (the GPO's new information sheet for stamp collectors) had felt able to announce, loftily: 'we receive many suggestions for [special stamp] issues and to keep their number within reasonable limits the policy of the Post Office is to confine them to marking outstanding national or international events and Royal and postal anniversaries. We do not mark anniversaries other than Royal and Postal ones nor do we issue stamps to support charities or other good causes.'

The result had been stamp issues for various international congresses or festivals (Lifeboat, Red Cross, Geographical, Botanical and Shakespeare) which may have coincided with an anniversary, and National Productivity Year, Nature Week, etc, but they were distinctly few in number. So the change now was dramatic and sudden.

Benn made his announcement in a written reply to a parliamentary question on 15 December and, referring to forthcoming 1965 issues, invited MPs and the public to submit suggestions to him as quickly as possible.

Examples of special issues prior to the changes of 1965:
1963 National Nature Week,
1964 Geographical Congress
and 1964 Botanical Congress.



on the origins of the Machin, by Douglas Muir

Paul Reilly, of the Council of Industrial Design, and Sir Kenneth Clark, Chairman of the CDD's Stamp Advisory Committee, had a meeting with Benn on 13 January 1965, when he informed them of the proposed 1965 programme and that he wanted to establish a Fellowship in Minusculé Design. It was at this meeting that a new profile head of the Queen on definitives was first proposed. Discussion then continued about the design of commemorative stamps. Benn suggested that designers might have more scope if the stamp were designed 'independently of the Queen's Head'.

First contact with David Gentleman Undoubtedly, the most important suggestion from Benn's public invitation came with a letter from David Gentleman, who already had a number of accepted stamp designs to his credit. Recently, Gentleman described what happened.

'By 1964 I'd already designed enough stamps to know what the problems were – mainly how to fit the Queen's head in alongside anything else – and had discovered ways of coping with them. But I had also found out how immovable the Post Office's rules and usages were, particularly about this very subject. It was by a happy chance that Benn – determined, energetic, imaginative and eager for change – arrived just as I had become certain what these changes ought to be. So when he asked for suggestions I wrote to him proposing more interesting subject-matter and no Queen's head. This last suggestion was prompted not by any conscious republican leanings but purely by considerations of what would work best as designs.'

In his original letter he wrote that he was convinced that 'the main single drawback to the realisation of unified modern designs is the Monarch's head: not merely the unsatisfactory angle of the present photograph, but the traditional inclusion of the head at all.' He continued: 'The problem is only in part one of insufficient space: it is essentially a problem of reconciling two conflicting elements and conventions within one design. In practice, the stamp design has to be split into two parts: the head and the rest. This can be managed with ingenuity, but, although interesting results are possible, they will always remain at best adequate and increasingly repetitive solutions to the same problem.'

The alternative could be a title, which would be adaptable and readily absorbed into the design 'without as at present destroying it.' Suggestions were UNITED KINGDOM, UK or GREAT BRITAIN. This gave Benn a great opportunity – to deal with the Queen's head in terms of design, rather than politically. Dismissing the official, predictably negative, draft reply he telephoned Gentleman and asked him to come and see him. 'In contrast with my earlier talks with Post Office officials the meeting was taken up with discussion not about what would be feasible or popular or acceptable to the Committee or to the Palace, but what was necessary and right.'

Thus began a unique co-operation between PMG and designer, and a lasting personal friendship. Often of like mind, the one was to inspire the other over 18 months of fervent, creative endeavour. ►



Opposite page: official photograph of the new Postmaster General, Anthony Wedgwood Benn, 1964. Above: designer David Gentleman, c1966.



Top row, from left: essay by Harrisons combining Karsh's portrait of Churchill with the Wilding definitive; an essay of Abram Games' design, which was preferred by the SAC; and an essay of Gentleman's design without The Queen's portrait (replaced with 'Great Britain').

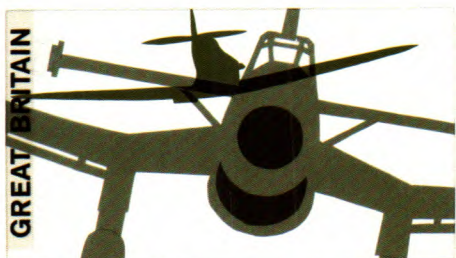
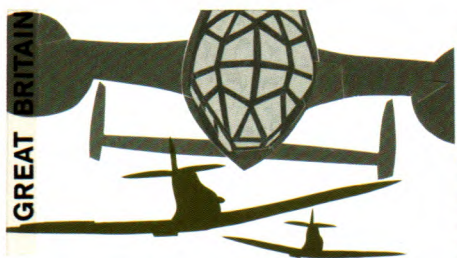
Bottom row: essays showing variations of accepted design by David Gentleman.

Churchill stamp Sir Winston Churchill had died on Sunday, 24 January. By the next day, Benn had decided he wanted a commemorative stamp. On his behalf, the question of Churchill's head appearing beside that of The Queen was raised by Harold Wilson with The Queen at his next audience on 28 January. She approved, although Benn had already publicly announced that a stamp would be issued. At the same time postal officials had approached David Gentleman, and invited him to submit designs quickly. The famous Karsh portrait of Churchill was to be used together with The Queen's head.

So it was that when Gentleman came to see Benn on 15 February he had already provided designs to the Post Office. Benn recorded that Gentleman had a Churchill stamp 'with a tiny Queen's head on Churchill's massive shoulder, and asked whether he could have the stamp reprinted without the Queen's head to see what it looked like. I said I could see no objection to this and that it would go before the Stamp Advisory Committee.' The SAC met the next day, and Benn was furious to discover that Gentleman's design without The Queen's head had not been shown to them. Subsequently, at his insistence, essays were printed in this format.

In the accepted designs, detail about a white line dividing Queen from commoner, inserted in both of Gentleman's designs rather than just the one as supplied, caused arguments with the designer and difficulties for the printers. The final designs were sombre, but very effective, conveying Churchill's overwhelming contribution, and in so doing reducing the Queen's head to a small cameo in comparison.

Battle of Britain stamps and the Stamp Advisory Committee When David Gentleman wrote his radical letter to the Postmaster General on 21 January he was already at work on designs for proposed stamps marking the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. At his first meeting with Benn, as already noted, it was agreed that his Churchill design would be essayed without The Queen's head. Gentleman decided to use the Battle of Britain commission as an opportunity to experiment with these ideas: specifically the omission of The Queen's head from the outset, and the printing of stamp designs together in se-tenant blocks.



Perhaps significantly, there seem to be no minutes of the meeting of the Stamp Advisory Committee at which the resulting designs were first shown. Gentleman provided a synopsis to go with the designs. In February he had been warned by the Post Office about the politics surrounding the issue. Preference would be given to designs which were not too controversial, as it was a time when the government wanted to be on good terms with the Germans in connection with possible entry to the EEC and The Queen's forthcoming visit. Tactful handling was required and 'flaming Heinkels etc' should be balanced by ack-ack batteries and fire over London with the familiar vapour trails of high-flying aircraft.

In his synopsis, Gentleman discussed at some length avoiding a controversial approach. He concentrated instead on the two types of plane most identified with the Battle of Britain – the Hurricane and the Spitfire. 'The familiar and acceptable convention of aircraft recognition silhouettes has therefore been developed purposely in these designs in order to tone down a too lurid or propaganda interpretation of what was, after all, the essential basis of the Battle of Britain – duels in the air.' ►

9 March 1965: six of David Gentleman's original designs for the Battle of Britain issue, without The Queen's head. Refined versions of the lower four designs were eventually included in the issued stamp set, with The Queen's head replacing 'Great Britain'.

'I said that the new Government saw stamps in an entirely new context, as part of the arts, and not just as adhesive money labels for postage purposes.' Tony Benn

He said almost nothing about The Queen's head – merely noting that the designs were submitted without it. A sample repeat design indicated how the designs could be adapted. Detail was given about printing multiple designs in one sheet.

The Committee saw all the designs and it was explained to them that Gentleman had exceeded his brief. They selected three of his designs, to be returned to him for the inclusion of The Queen's head. They ignored the idea of se-tenant stamps.

The next morning Gentleman had breakfast with Benn, who was seeing The Queen that day. Benn was enthralled with the designs and took them with him. His trip to the Palace is described, with great gusto, in his diaries.

He had prepared his speech carefully. 'What I wanted to do was to talk about stamp design policy generally. I said that the new Government saw stamps in an entirely new context as part of the arts and not just as adhesive money labels for postage purposes. That was why we had set up a Fellowship in Minuscule Design and wanted to improve design generally.'

Specifically, he wanted to have new definitives with 'a more beautiful picture of the Queen on them'. On commemoratives, the criteria had been broadened and designers were keen to produce pictorial stamps – a most exciting field that had never been explored.

'"However", I said, "this raised the whole question of the use of the head on the stamps."' The Queen frowned and smiled. I said that there was a view held by many designers that the necessity of depicting the head on the stamp was restrictive and embarrassing.

'The Queen of course was extremely anxious not to give the impression that she was the obstacle to new design. I said that I foresaw a controversy developing about the heads on stamps which I thought would be most undesirable. I said the pressure to review this particular aspect of our stamp design policy was growing and at the same time there would be great opposition to taking the head off the stamp unless it were done with royal consent and approval. In these circumstances it seemed to me that the right thing to do was for us to establish that designers could put in any designs they liked, and that they could all be submitted to The Queen for approval.'

The Queen then indicated that she knew that in some Commonwealth countries the head had been removed, or a crown substituted. Benn said that all he wanted was the right to submit stamps of all kinds to her. Then she said she had never seen any of these stamps and would be interested.

'I said, "Well, I've got some in my bag." The Queen wanted me to leave the new designs with her but I explained the difficulties and she agreed to see them on the spot, so I spread out on the floor twelve huge design models of the stamps provided by Gentleman and one after the other passed up to the Queen the Battle of Britain stamps bearing the words "Great Britain" and no royal head on them...'

At the end he declared himself delighted to hear he could submit things to her for her consideration ●



Two of the panes contain definitives. A pane of six country pictorials comprises three Scotland 2nd class and three Wales 44p stamps alternating in se-tenant pairs. The Scotland stamp is a good match to the one on the pane in the *Letters by Night* book of March 2004, and may well have been printed from the same cylinder. (There are no cylinder numbers visible in the issued book.) The Wales 44p stamp has previously appeared in sheets but differs from it in being printed sideways. The usual se-tenant pane of *Machins* has four 5p Ash pink and four gold 91p letter NVTIS alternating around a centre label depicting Rowland Hill, whose initiatives did so much to improve world communications. This 5p is a new stamp to specialists, being the first De La Rue 5p booklet stamp with blue fluor phosphor, which phosphoresces under long- as well as short-wave ultraviolet irradiation. The 1st class stamp is indistinguishable from this printer's sheet and coil stamps with PVA, unless you keep a piece of the pane selvage attached to it. ►



New stamps Five new Machins and eight new country pictorials printed by De La Rue in gravure with PVA were issued in sheets on 27 March. Some of the Machins are of unusual interest.

The 16p is bright pink, the first use of this colour which Jeffery Matthews added to his palette in 1999. The figures are in the narrower font also devised by him. This was previously used for the 16p country stamps issued in April 1983, and is the first use of it on a 16p national Machin.

The 46p old gold is the same colour used for the stamp issued on 7 April 2005 to pre-pay the second weight step for inland letters by the first-class service. This was withdrawn from general sale when that rate became 49p on 3 April 2006. Stamps remain on sale from Tallents House for another year if stocks last and it was due to be finally withdrawn on 2 April 2007. On that very day a 46p stamp was needed to pay the basic rate for letters and cards by surface mail to destinations outside Europe. The decision was taken to re-issue it for the new duty, in the same colour. The cylinder used should have been numbered D2 but, probably in error, was numbered D1, the same as that used for the earlier stamp. Cylinders which are no longer required are not stored, but are stripped to the basic copper surface ready for engraving with a new value. The original 46p cylinder was no longer available when the new one was required at a very late stage, and this led to

the error in numbering. How do I know it is not the same D1 cylinder used previously? There are two ways: one needs a cylinder block, the other works with any single stamp. There is no printer's imprint on the new block but there was one on the previous issue. (I have seen only dot blocks as I write, and none of the new stamps has the imprint except the 50p, which is a good indication that, in this case, the same cylinder printed both colours, sand and light grey. I do not know why the printer's imprint is missing on the other new stamps; perhaps it is a change in Royal Mail policy.) Every stamp from the new printing has the value set .35mm lower in the frame, a difference which is obvious even to the naked eye. A cylinder block or even a cylinder single from the two D1 cylinders would make an interesting pair shown side by side in a collection.

The colour rust for the 54p is a surprise. This colour was in use for the 49p value as recently as 20 August 2006, when it was withdrawn on the advent of P1P. It is still on sale at Tallents House. Normally, a gap of at least three months occurs before a colour is re-used. This allows stocks of the former value to be used up if it has not been withdrawn from general sale. This 'rule' is not mandatory, but there is normally a good reason to depart from it. For example, the 20p grey was withdrawn on 22 August 1988 and replaced with a green version the next day. In that case, though,



The eight new country pictorials and five new Machins printed by De La Rue in gravure with PVA, issued in sheets on 27 March. Some of the Machins are of unusual interest, particularly the 16p (bright pink, the first use of this colour), 46p (old gold), and the 54p (rust).

the green colour had never been used before; it was one of the new range from Jeffery Matthews. There are several colours that have been out of use for longer than rust, and which could have been used for the new 54p; among them flame (last used for the 1st class XVI, withdrawn in 2002) and dark blue (the E stamp 1 April 2004).

The eight country pictorials, 48p for the 20g airmail letter rate to Europe and 78p for the 40g airmail letter rate to other destinations, for each country, use the same images as their predecessors but with the new values. Each has now been used five times, except for England and Northern Ireland, which did not have a 64p pictorial stamp. Cylinder numbers seen, reading downwards in the left margin are: 48p England D1 D2 / D1, 48p N Ireland D1 D1 / D1, 48p Scotland D1 D1 D1 / D1, 48p Wales D1 D1 D1 / D1; 78p England D1 D1 / D1, 78p N Ireland D1 D1 D1 / D1, 78p Scotland D1 D1 D2 D1 D1 / D1 and 78p Wales D1 D1 D1 D1 / D1.

The Northern Ireland stamps are printed gravure; all previous pictorials for this country were printed in lithography, except the 72p on the *Let's We Forget* miniature sheet. I expect that the two inland letter NVIs will also be printed in gravure soon. The gravure stamps do not have a hidden copyright symbol and date. The 48p is printed from only two colour cylinders, the yellow of the lithographic printing not being required.

Stamp cards From time to time, Royal Mail has issued cards showing enlarged images of selected stamps. The latest of these seen at the time of writing is the set of five for the miniature sheet issued for Scotland's Saints Day; one for each of the four stamps and one for the sheet itself. The card for the 1st class Lion stamp, numbered CGB 1(a), is very similar to the one issued on 14 October 2003 numbered D25b, but it is slightly larger and from a different printer. Both cards have images with the wrong perforation, showing only 13 holes on the short side instead of 14. The later card also omits the ellipses. In fact all of the previous definitive stamp cards, including those for the decimal Wildings, have the wrong number of perforations. You might say they depict stamps that never were •



Stamp card CGB1A, with one missing hole on the short side.

Philately online Ron Negus returns to a free reference site

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... the non-commercial, all-reference site sponsored by the Collectors Club of Chicago

www.askphil.org Details of how to submit questions about stamp collecting are given on the first page of the 'Questions & Answers' section. A keyword search option is also provided here that can be used to check if a similar question has been answered previously.

An example is found in the 'AskPhil Academy', which is the next main heading. This provides a menu for the individual values of stamps in the Washington and Franklin definitives of early USA. These are given a separate page with an illustration, plus details of printing method, perforation, colour and Scott catalogue number. The 'AskPhil Academy' heading also includes some pages described as 'Courses' which explain different aspects of the hobby, such as Thematic collecting, Stamp Terms, Sources of material, etc.

Another sectional heading provides access to the six Salm Foundation Reports. The Collectors Club of Chicago formed the Salm Foundation in 1991, in order to conduct research on philatelic products. The Foundation purchased commercial philatelic products manufactured around the world that are sold in the United States. These materials were submitted to a professional commercial laboratory for testing. The products covered included album pages, stamp hinges, stock books, corners, glassine envelopes, stamped envelopes, computer paper for printing pages, false stamps, pressure-sensitive self-adhesive us stamps and more. The various reports included here explain the potential problems of damage to stamps and covers which arise from using some of these types of products and how acidity, in particular, can be harmful.

There are another four main sectional headings. The first three of these are titled 'Auction Information', 'UPU Illegal Stamps' and 'Plan Your Philatelic Estate'. The final section, 'Special Features' is a miscellany. It includes rare stamps from members of Le Club de Monte-Carlo that were displayed at the non-competitive exhibition held in 2002 in Monaco under the patronage of Prince Rainier III. This is included as an opportunity for novice collectors to learn about rare stamps that are not often displayed •

IN THE July 2004 *Bulletin*, I mentioned a website called AskPhil (address above), operated by the Collectors Club of Chicago. That brief reference concerned only the Questions & Answers section of the site, which is just a small part of the whole.

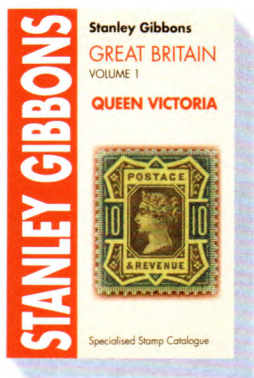
According to the Club, the site is 'provided as a service to offer general answers to questions about stamp collecting'. The sponsors state that their creation is a 100% non-commercial site for the benefit of collectors, and they are not seeking funds nor looking for new members. These aims make the site resemble a free first book on stamp collecting, and viewed in this way it will be seen as an excellent beginners' reference source.

On the home page, the left-hand column is a navigation bar, with eleven headings. Selecting any of these provides further menus that identify individual subject pages on the site. At the top of the eleven main headings, the words 'Expand All' appear. Clicking on this phrase opens up all the drop-down menus at once, and the user can see the scope of the coverage available.

Under the main heading 'How-to articles', the full listing reveals that there are 30 separate subjects covered, with introductory information, in this format. These range from simple topics, like 'How to soak stamps' up to more advanced subjects such as 'How to mount and save booklets'.

The next main heading is 'Reference Library' where worldwide addresses are given for Philatelic Museums, Study Groups, Stamp Magazines, etc. Some of the other material quoted here, and in other areas of the site, is aimed at collectors of American material, of course, as may be expected with the originators being from Chicago.

Book review A must for the GB collector, by Chris Harman



Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue Volume 1 Queen Victoria.

Price £39.95. Available from Stanley Gibbons, 7 Parkside, Christchurch Rd, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH. Telephone 0800 611622 (UK callers) or +44 1425 472 363 (overseas). Also available from Stanley Gibbons' shop at 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX.

THE Gibbons Great Britain Specialised series of catalogues are the Bible to anyone who collects GB in depth. Volume 1 covers all the stamps of the reign of Queen Victoria in considerable detail.

The first Line Engraved issues from the 1840 1d black to the 1d red of 1864 with letters in four corners have extensive information on their plating, re-entries, papers, perforations and varieties. The Embossed issues and the De La Rue Surface Printed issues are dealt with value by value in detail, with notes on the proofs, issued stamps and varieties. The Departmental Overprints, Postal Fiscals and Government Telegraphs are included, and recent editions include added sections on Security Overprints and Underprints, College Stamps of Oxford and Cambridge and the issues of the Circular Delivery Companies.

Contrary to the pattern seen in other SG catalogues the illustrations (except for dealers' advertisements) remain black-and-white, but this does not really detract from this excellent volume.

It must be difficult for a catalogue editor to decide whether to add to a listing or when to change an existing listing. One of the new additions for this current edition is an extensive expansion of the coverage of the advertisements to be found on Mulready covers, and a rather surprising inclusion of double perforation varieties.

Some new inverted watermark varieties are included, but I do wish the Gibbons would decide to show all of these when seen from the back of the stamp. Currently the basis of the illustration

varies from one Gibbons catalogue to another, and even within the catalogue itself.

Undoubtedly the main change from the previous catalogue comes in the pricing. To many, the frenetic rise in prices for better quality GB stamps and, particularly, proofs seems astonishing. With Gibbons promoting investment in stamps, it is no surprise to see notable uplifts in valuations across all standard sections. It is instructive to compare this new edition with the last but one, published in 2001. To take just one example; the 'average' price for a surface-printed die proof in the 12th edition (2001) was roughly £350; today that price is between £1,000 and £1,500. The basic 1d black price is now £6,500 for an unused copy and £275 for a used, compared to £3,500 and £190 in the 12th edition. However, in a number of areas Gibbons' prices are still well ahead of most current auction realisations and other dealers' prices. As their index of prices is based on their own catalogue valuations, this virtuous circle may do the index a considerable favour. Whether their investor clients will see anything like the returns currently suggested, indeed promised in some at least of their offerings, only time will tell. We have been there before where the ending was less than happy; but maybe the fundamentals for collectibles like stamps really have changed this time.

As it always has been, this is the best and most comprehensive catalogue of the stamps of Queen Victoria Great Britain, and is a must for every specialist collector's library. Recommended ●

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



January identify The detail was from the Beside the Seaside 46p stamp. The winner was R Ellis of County Galway, Ireland.

January knowledge Answers: 1) red; 2) the Tudor Crown; 3) Jeff Fisher. The winner was P Wood of Hampshire.

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 April *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to April *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 In which year did Admiral Blake feature on a 19½p stamp?
- 2 What colour was the George VI 8d stamp?
- 3 Who was recently chosen by *Bulletin* readers as their favourite author of 2006?

Send your answer (addressed to either the April *Identify* competition or the April *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 11 May will receive £100. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, FDCs or stamp cards will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

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

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

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

14 April Kent Federation Spring Rally, hosted by the Maidstone & Mid-Kent PS at New Line Learning, Sen-acre School, Sutton Road, Maidstone, 10.00-16.00. 25-30 dealers. **Enquiries** Jill Stonestreet, 01622 675784.

20 - 21 April Scottish Philatelic Congress at Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth, 10.00-17.00. 50 plus stamp, postal history & postcard dealers, national & junior competitions, invited displays. Hosted by Perth Philatelic Society. See www.scottishphilately.co.uk

22 April Post Office Vehicle Rally. Amberley Working Museum, Amberley, Arundel, West Sussex. **Enquiries** 01798 831370.

28 April Assn of Sussex Phil Socs Spring Convention at University of Brighton, Lewes Road, Brighton. Talk on The Queen's Philatelic Collection by Michael Sefi.

5 May Federation of South Wales Phil Socs Annual Convention Stamp & Postcard Fair at Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. Dealers, kids activity area, refreshments, souvenir postcard. **Enquiries** G Prior 01656 740520 •

Late news

2008 stamp programme We regret that we were unable to publish the 2008 stamp programme in last month's *Bulletin*, resulting in an empty space on page 202. The programme had not been finalised at time of going to press, but we will publish it as soon as it is ready •

Royal Mail update Sales at the Royal Mail stand at Spring Stampex were the best for some years, with strong demand for albums, album leaves, the 2006 Yearbook and Yearpack • The Machin generic sheet, shown here in February, is being modified: the ½d to 10s images will bear a thin defacement arc, and the £1 stamp will be reproduced without value •

Exhibitions Vehicles from the celebrated 'Moving the Mail' exhibition will be on display at the Grampian Transport Museum, Aberdeenshire from 1 April to 31 October 2007. The exhibition, tracing the fascinating history of road transport in the postal service, has been organised by, and contains vehicles from the British Postal Museum & Archive. It includes a remarkable replica of a 19th century pentacycle, and a mail coach from the 1840s •

To mark its 75th anniversary, the Bolton Philatelic Society is holding an exhibition at Bolton Museum, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, 5-26 May. Open 09.30-17.00 except Sundays and Bank Holiday. Enquiries 01204 307252 •

New publications Smilers stamp sheets were first made available to the British public at the International Stamp Show 2000. For the first time, the British public could have their own photo-image printed next to a British postage stamp and send it to a friend or a relative. Customised mail had arrived! These customised sheets have opened up a whole new area of British stamp collecting and study, now recorded in a new catalogue detailing nearly 60 generic stamp sheet designs, over 100 attractive business customised sheets, and customised sheets. The catalogue also includes a price guide to current market values. With more than

150 colour illustrations, it tells the 'Smilers Story' of Royal Mail's customised stamp issues, from the Greetings stamps of the 1980s up to the present. Price £19.95 + £2.55 UK postage. Cheques payable to Ridgewood Publishing. Order through website www.smilers-info.com/ or by post from: Ridgewood Publishing, Ridgewood, Pine View Close, Haslemere GU27 1DU. Copies also available from Tallents House •

In 1995, Glenn Morgan published a printed catalogue detailing 783 souvenir items from 215 British stamp exhibitions. The second edition, in conjunction with Graham Wilson, is available on a CD, and lists about 1200 items – almost 1000 of which are now illustrated, compared to just 65 in the printed edition. The CD catalogue includes all the stamp exhibition souvenir sheets, cards and labels known to the authors, together with information on recent sale prices, titles of shows, dates and locations, artist, printer, design data, etc. The masterfile is updated every three to four months, and CDs are burned to order; CDs may be exchanged for the latest version at any time. The original CD is £16; subsequent exchanges are £8, both postpaid worldwide. Orders to: G M Wilson, Bulls Head Barn, Honeyholme Lane, Cliviger, Burnley BB10 4SR. Paypal is accepted – email payment to gwilson@waterworths.co.uk •

Obituary We are sorry to report the death in February of Major Richard (Dickie) Pratt, President of the National Philatelic Society. An acknowledged authority on the stamps of China and the author of a number of articles and books, he had made an important contribution to Stampex and to the Philymphia 1970 and London 1980 international exhibitions. A profile of Major Pratt, by Richard West, was published here in September 2002. Dane Garrod, Vice President, takes over as Acting NPS President •

Back issues J Tiffney offers a run of the *Bulletin* from February 1968 to December which can be collected from his home for a donation to a local charity. Contact him on 01372 453332 •

Books for philatelists and postal historians



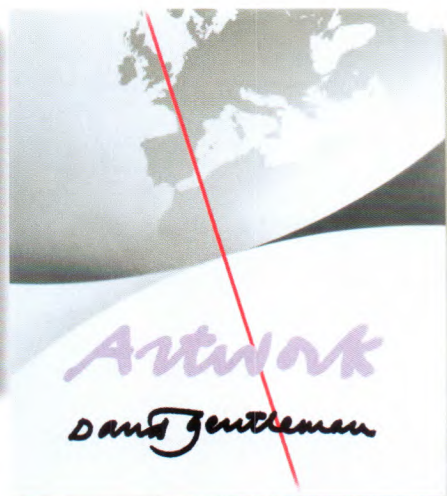
Stanley Gibbons Collect British stamps The annual full-colour listing of all British stamps since 1840. 2007 edition. Price £9.95, order code PB394.



Bulletin Publications *The Travelling Post Office 1838-2004* by Peter Johnson. Price £2.95, order code PB376 • *The First Elizabeth II Castle High Value Definitives*. Price £2.95, order code PB384 • *British Stamp Printers* by Glenn Morgan. Price £2.95, order code PB390.



Stoneham Great Britain Stamp Catalogue Comprehensive list of GB stamps, books etc. Market prices. 13th edition. Price £15.95, order code PB393.



Artwork Design biography of David Gentleman, Britain's best-known stamp designer. Hardback. Price £27, order code PB363.

Royal Mail

Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
Telephone orders: UK 08457 641 641; overseas +44 131 316 7483. Internet orders: www.royalmail.com/stamps

Handling charges: £1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 elsewhere, except *Artwork* and *Stoneham Catalogue*: £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 elsewhere

