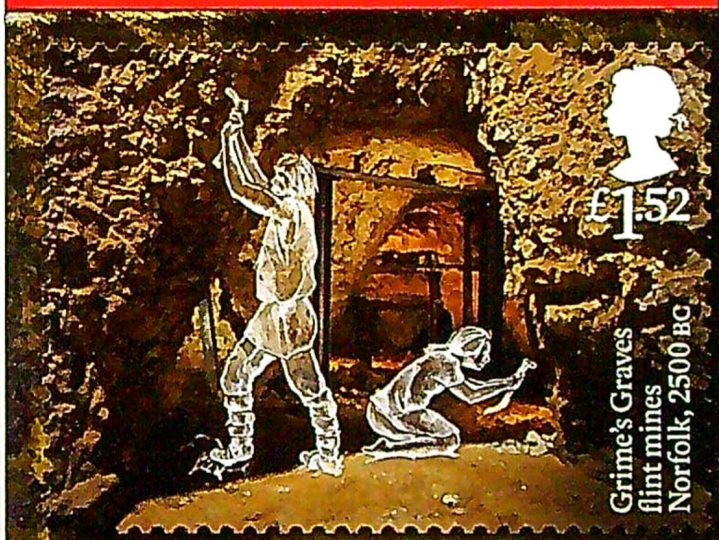
BRITISH PHILATELIC

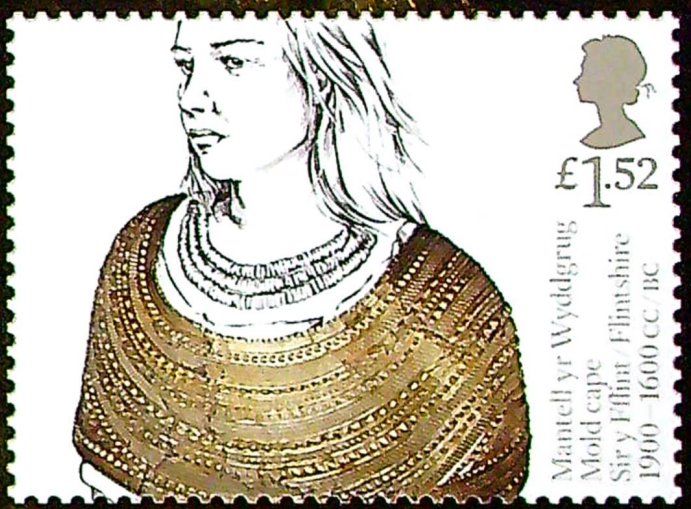
Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

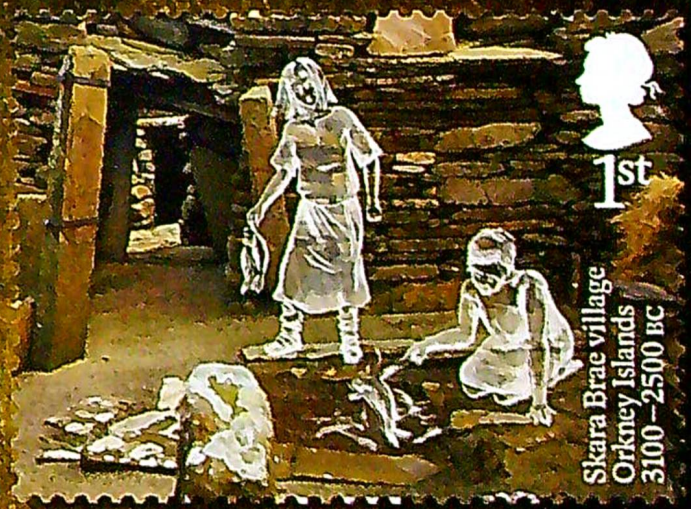
VOLUME 54 NUMBER 3 | NOVEMBER 2016 | £1.95

Edward VIII • Stamp Scene
• Celebration Smilers® Sheets









ANCIENT BRITAIN

SPECIAL STAMPS PREVIEW

Lest We Forget





Two classic poppies are back in time for Remembrance Sunday

Colin Baker on advertising rings





WIN latest Collectors Pack

The Glasgow Stamp Shop

Our stamp stock and customer service are first-class



The Glasgow Stamp Shop has been in business since 1908 in various guises but it has always offered collectors a huge stock of GB stamps, philatelic expertise and experience – and a very warm welcome.

Today this family-run business sells stamps all the way back to 1840 but also features a philatelic counter where the current ranges of British stamps are available at Post Office prices.

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Armistice days Peter Devine selects covers to mark Remembrance Sunday this month

Remember them Moving, immortal lines from Laurence Binyon's classic poem For the Fallen grace this powerful cover by the British Forces Philatelic Service with a Battlefield Poppy stamp from the First World War 2016 issue. Price: £6 (UK/BFPO p&p free) •



BFPS
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Links Place
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www.bfps.org.uk

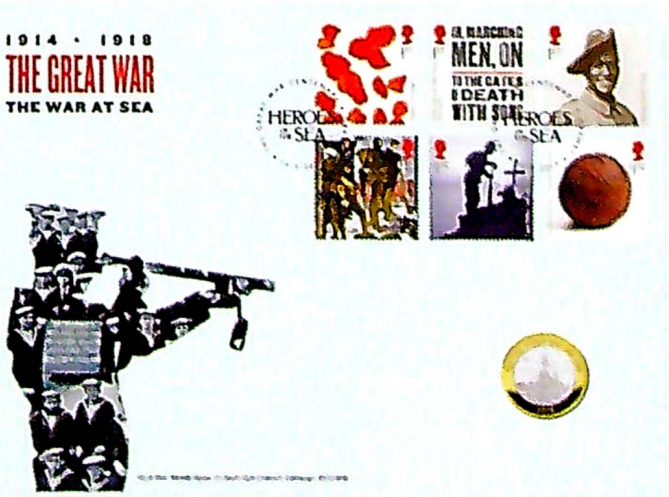




Symbols of sacrifice The centenary of the First World War and the battle of the Somme of 1916 are marked by this Buckingham cover with a special London SW1 postmark (21 June, 2016) and commemorative stamp set. Price: £17.50 + £2.45 including UK p&p. Code BC542 •

Buckingham Covers
Warren House
Shearway Road
Folkestone
Kent CT19 4BF
01303 278 137
www.buckinghamcovers.com

Salute the sailor Royal Mail's First World War 1915 Coin Cover, commemorating the Royal Navy's role in the conflict, features the 1915 stamp set and a £2 Brilliant Uncirculated Navy Coin in a limited edition of 15,000. Price: £17.50, code AN112 •



Royal Mail
Tallents House
21 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh EH 12 9PB
0131 316 7483
www.royalmail.com/stamps







a



d



f



b



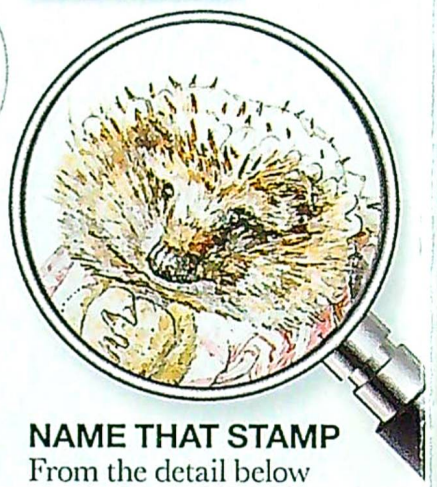
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Animal magic

October's cute, colourful Hibernating Animals Post & Go stamps shown here featured a bat, snake, hedgehog and dormouse. All of these creatures offer a charming theme for thematic collectors – they have appeared in previous issues and we proudly present them here. All you have to do for each of these six stamps from past issues is name the set and year it came out. Get them all right and you could win the new Collectors pack!

NAME THAT STAMP
From the detail below name the stamp issue and the year it was released for your chance to win an Animail Presentation Pack.

How to enter Write down the name and year of the issue for stamps a) to g) above. Send your answers, marked 'November quiz' and/or 'Nov Name That Stamp' to: Bulletin Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.

Closing date 20 December 2016.

Prizes The senders of the first three correct entries in each each section, drawn from the postbag after the closing date, win the Post & Go Hibernating Animals Collectors Pack.

August Landscape Gardens solution and winners
Solution: 1c, 2a, 3d, 4b. Winners: I D Povall, Upton. R Sayers, Stanford-Le-Hope. B Bertram, Caton. M Perry, Taunton. M Phillips, Chippenham. C van Gennep, Netherlands. D Slater, Congleton. A Harker, Oxford. E Emery, Portchester. J Woodbridge, Solihull.

Rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.



Fig 2

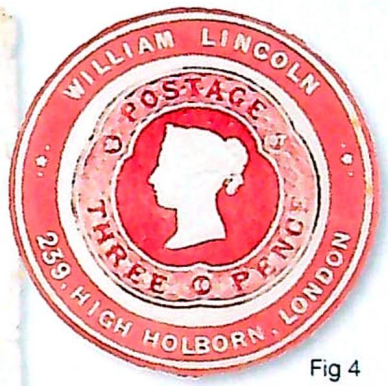


Fig 4

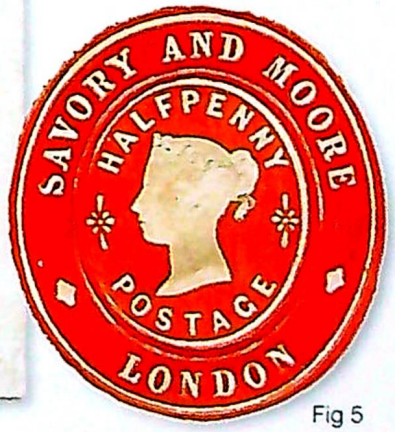


Fig 5

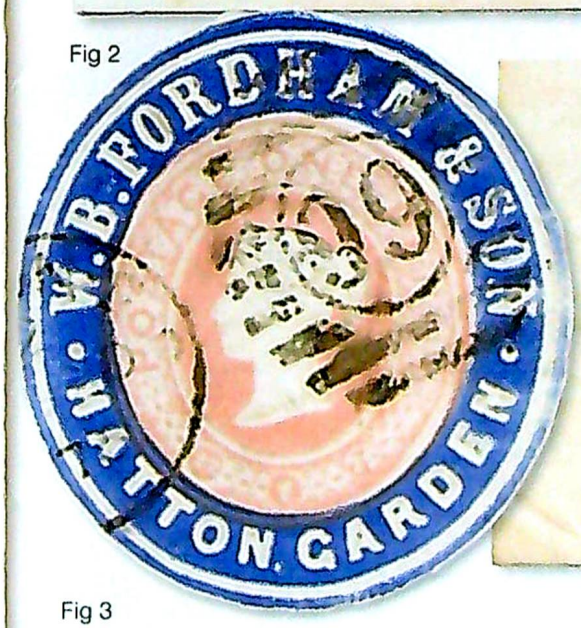


Fig 3



Fig 6



Fig 7

wrappers. Even so, many firms used just advertising rings, though some, like W H Smith, used both methods.

Advertising rings were impressed in two ways. One method was to print the rings together with the embossed stamps in one operation at Somerset House. In this case the colour of the rings matches exactly the colour of the embossed stamps. The alignment is also exact in every case. The other method was to have a private printer add the rings after the paper had been impressed with the required postage stamps. Here the rings are usually printed in a different shade to the stamps, making the item appear more attractive than a single stamp on a plain envelope. Because this was a two-part operation, the alignment of the stamps and rings is not always exact and occasionally the two clash.

Advertising rings with their stamps were often struck on newspaper wrappers, but envelopes were also treated in this way. Altogether ten firms are known to ▸

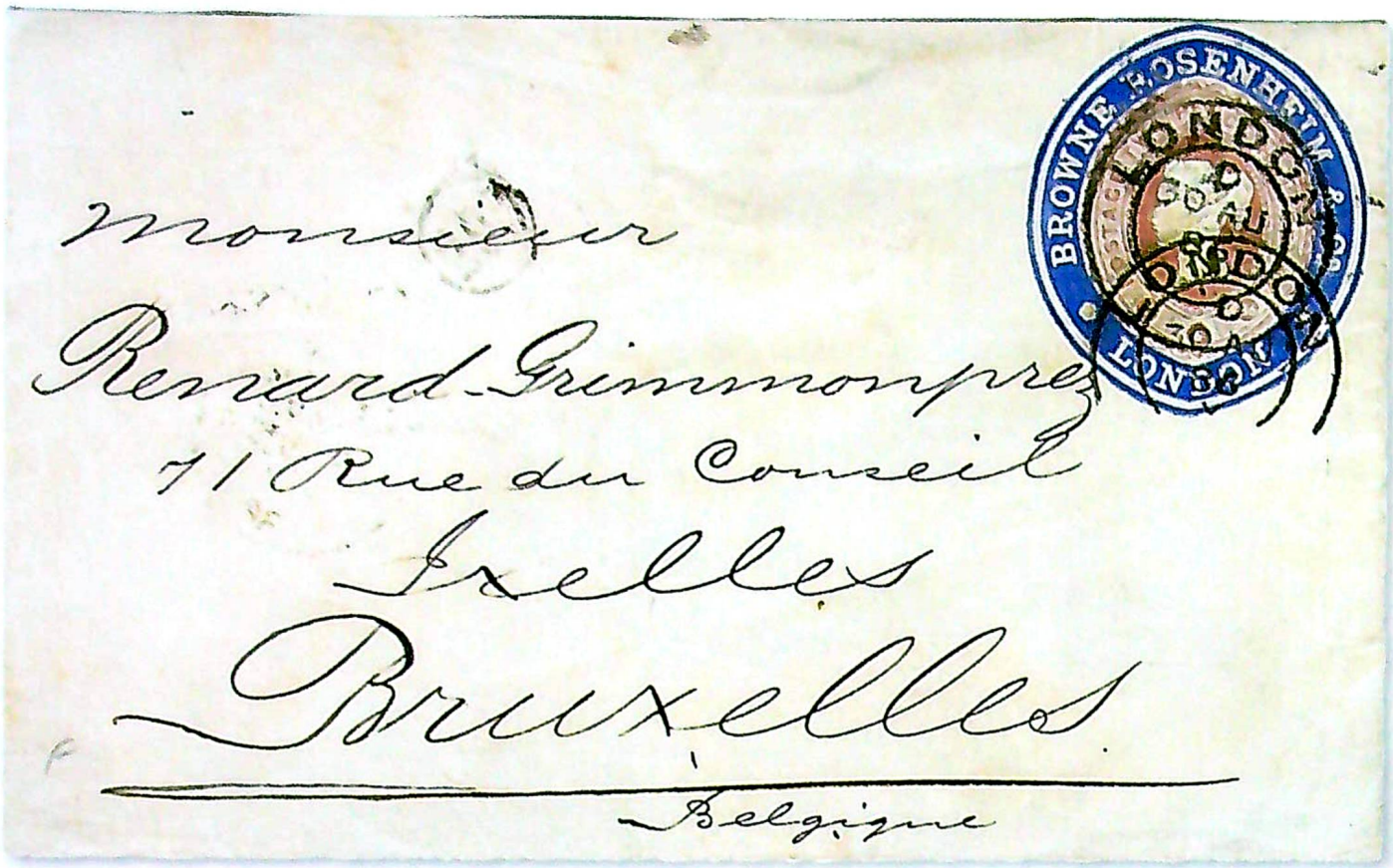


Fig 8



Fig 9

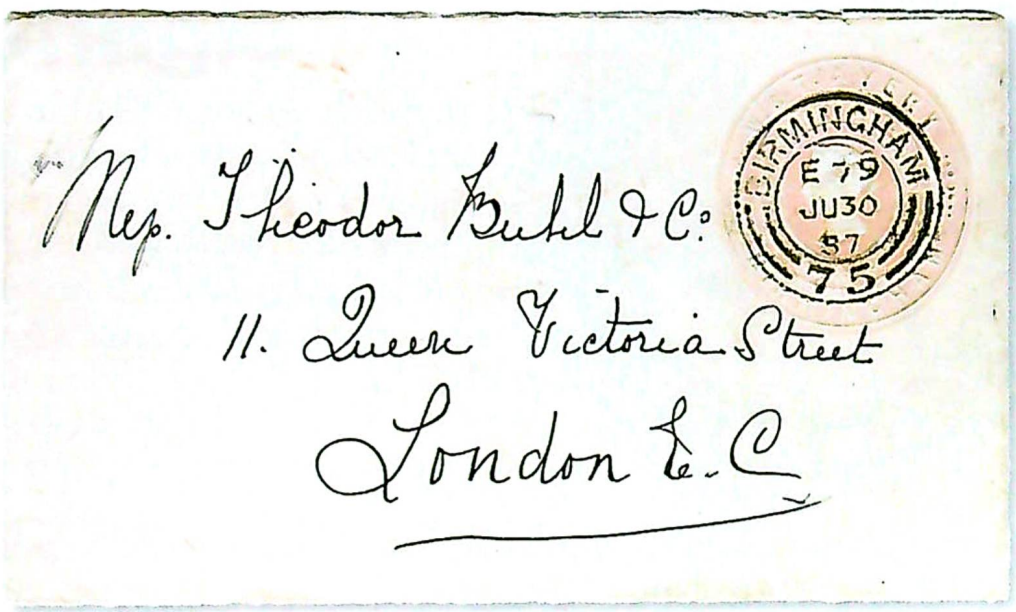


Fig 10

Fig 8 2½d envelope with ring for Brown Rosenheim & Co
Fig 9 1d cut-out for the International Fur Store
Fig 10 1d envelope for W & T Avery

have had rings printed at Somerset House and nearly 50 companies are known to have chosen the alternative method of employing a private printer to carry out the work. Over 100 different privately printed ring/stamp combinations have been recorded so far and more are gradually being discovered. Some of the less well known rings are only known to exist as cut-outs, no envelopes or wrappers having survived.

The facility for having rings impressed around embossed postage stamps at Somerset House was withdrawn in 1888, though the practice of employing private printers to do the work continued for a few more years •

Colin Baker welcomes your enquiries by email at pss.secretary@gmail.com

Reaction to the stamps The Edward VIII stamps sparked a debate on stamp design. A *Times* leader stated: 'The new postage stamps have been well received, though correspondence in these columns shows that satisfaction is not universal.' The leader's view that not all artists, however eminent, could design a good stamp evoked a response from Eric Gill who praised the stamps as 'exceedingly good in themselves' but made critical comments about the crown, the cropping of The King's head at the neck, and the lettering. He lauded the GPO for dispensing with 'the banalities of imitation hand-engraving and stupid ornamentation'. Fellow artist Edmund Dulac (who later worked with Gill on the George VI stamps) then entered the controversy, and this is documented in detail in Stuart Rose's *Royal Mail Stamps* and in a *Bulletin* article in June 1970. The GPO's hope of avoiding controversy by bypassing the art establishment misfired, but it led to new thinking on stamp design and undoubtedly better designs in the future.



Above: special handstamps from 1996 marking the 60th anniversary of Edward's accession and abdication

The stamps were welcomed in the philatelic press as breaking new ground, getting away from the fussy designs of the past. One criticism of the tiny crown described it a 'like a comic bowler hat blown off by the wind'. The big guns at Stanley Gibbons thought the GPO 'wise in throwing over the artists and calling in the photographer', and praised the 'straightforward' designs and rich colours. The Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society described them as 'the finest British stamps that have been issued.'

First day covers Queues formed when the stamps hit the shelves, and in London many men and women in evening dress bought the stamps when they went on sale at midnight at main post offices. *Stamp Magazine* reported total stamp sales up six-fold in the week after issue. Thousands of FDCs were posted by individual collectors and dealers, and are still available at fairly modest cost. More expensive are covers with related postmarks such as King Edward, Banff (Scotland); Buckingham Gate (London); King Street, Dundee; and Windsor •

In part two next month John Holman examines the Coronation stamp essays, postal dues and other philatelic mementos of King Edward VIII's brief reign.

Further reading Much useful information on Edward VIII stamps is found in Allan Griffiths' *Special Stamp History: 1936 Proposed Edward VIII Coronation Issue* (National Postal Museum, 1998), and Douglas Muir's *George V and the G.P.O.: Stamps, Conflict & Creativity* (British Postal Museum & Archive, 2010). Erudite articles by Douglas Muir appeared in *Stamp Magazine*, January-December 1987, and *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, October 2016. For more on Edward on non-British stamps and philatelic souvenirs see articles in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in January and February 2011. Good articles on Edward VIII stamps were published in the *Bulletin* in December 1968, December 1971, January 1972 and February 1994.



R... is for advertising rings

Many a smart 19th century businessman had his address added around the embossed stamp on pre-printed envelopes, resulting in a growing niche for collectors today, as Colin Baker explains

Fig 1



Fig 1 1d wrapper with advertising ring for W H Smith
Fig 2 2d wrapper with advertising ring for W H Smith
Fig 3 1d cut-out for W B Fordham & Son
Fig 4 4d cut-out for William Lincoln
Fig 5 ½d cut-out for Savory & Moore
Fig 6 1d wrapper for The Home News
Fig 7 3d cut-out for The Home News, Grindley & Co

In the mid-19th century a small advertising revolution took place in the world of postal stationery: in 1855 it became possible for companies and individuals to submit their own paper to Somerset House for impressing with embossed stamps to whatever value they required. Two years later they were also permitted to have an embossed ring added around each stamp with their name, address and perhaps the nature of their business if there was sufficient space. Today we call these circular devices 'advertising rings', and I say advertising revolution, but in reality the rings' main function was more likely to have been to prevent fraudulent use of stationery by a firm's employees rather than as a tool for promoting its business. It would have been much more effective, and probably cheaper, to have had advertising matter added to envelopes and newspaper









Above: variations of the Kings head essays with Edward in the Seaforth Highlanders uniform
Above left: an essay by Harrisons & Sons Limited with a coin design
Left: this design was submitted by the President of the Scottish Philatelic Society W G Syme, on 31 January 1936. Below: 2006 Three Kings Bradbury commemorative sheet



by a professional photographer as large and stamp-size prints. He sent two stamp-size prints off to the GPO, which acknowledged receipt in February 1936. In August the GPO told him that 'the design was not considered suitable for adoption as it stood', but that the final design would include 'some features in common with that which you suggested'.

When the stamps were issued in September, Brown's family contacted Stanley Gibbons pointing out the close similarity with his design. The story was published in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in January 1937 and then taken up by *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Morning Post*, *Daily Mail* and *Punch*. Brown received letters from collectors worldwide. In correspondence in 1985 he noted that his ideas on stamp design owed much to an article in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in October 1934 and to F J Melville's book *Postage Stamps in the Making*. Brown thought the George V definitives printed in photogravure would have ▸

been better with a larger head, as on the Penny Black, and without the ribbons, wreaths and dolphins. He considered that the crown had become too 'conventionalised in recent designs'; on some it 'looked more like a basket of fruit than a royal crown'.

Brown remained interested in stamps, and in particular his own design, until his death in 1998, co-operating with philatelists writing on the subject and with Stuart Rose for his 1980 book *Royal Mail Stamps*. Rose regarded Brown's design 'as being a turning point in our approach to stamp design and therefore a very significant issue'. For more on Hubert Brown and his archive, see my article in the *Bulletin* in July 1999 and *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in August 1999.



Above: Edward VIII stamp from the 2012 House of Windsor stamp issue

The issued stamps Three of the four stamps – ½d green, 1½d red-brown and 2½d bright blue – went on sale at post offices on 1 September 1936, the 1d scarlet following on 14 September. Covering the main postal rates for UK printed matter, postcards, letters and overseas letters, they were printed in large quantities, ranging from 32 million of the 2½d to 1.81 billion of the 1½d. The stamps were printed in sheets of 240 using 13 cylinders for the ½d, seven for 1d, 11 for 1½d and just one for the 2½d. Surprisingly, given the quantities printed, shade differences are minor, and most noticeable in the background near the crown and on The King's head on the 1½d value. The *Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue* lists two constant varieties on the ½d, and one each on the other values. The ½d is listed (unpriced) with double impression and as imperforate (pair) on 1½d, and catalogued at £40,000. All values exist with Specimen and Cancelled overprints and as imprimaturs from National Postal Museum sales in the 1980s. The sheet stamps were withdrawn from sale on 29 July 1937 after the equivalent values of George VI definitives had been issued.

The three lower values were also issued in booklets in October 1936 and exist with both upright and inverted watermark, the ½d inverted being the scarcest of the three. Most interesting are the panes of four 1½d stamps with two adjoining advertising labels. Of the 16 different advertising panes, one promoted the famous stamp firm of Charles Nissen. Owing to delays in introducing George VI booklets, Edward VIII issues remained on sale until December 1937. Three of the four stamps were also issued in coils (rolls) in 1937. The ½d and 1d values were printed in continuous rolls containing 480, 960 or 1,920 stamps. The 2½d coils of 480 (sideways) and 960 (vertical) were made up from sheet stamps, with joins every 12th or 20th stamp. They remained on sale until January 1938 when replaced by coils of George VI stamps. Edward VIII stamps remained valid for postage, along with other pre-decimal issues, until 29 February 1972, shortly before Edward's death in May 1972.

The stamps were overprinted for use at British post offices in Tangier and the Morocco Agencies, and these were all issued on 26 October 1936. For Tangier, this comprised a simple 'TANGIER' overprint on the ½d, 1d and 1½d values. For the Morocco Agencies, three versions are catalogue listed.



This page: the four Edward VIII 'Accession' stamps issued in September 1936

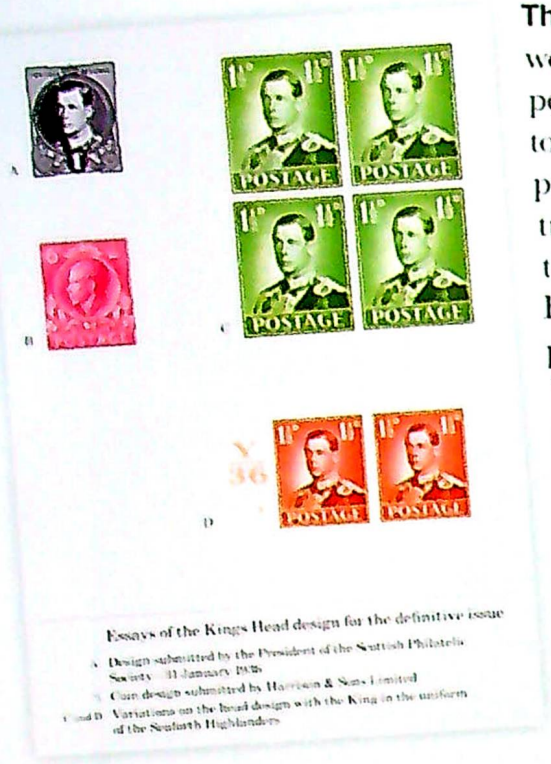
the four stamps depicting Edward VIII issued in September 1936 are all there is to remember him by. And yet there is much else that could be included in an Edward VIII philatelic collection, in addition to the 1936 issue.

Shortly before his father, King George V, passed away at Sandringham on 20 January 1936, Prince Edward ordered that all the clocks there, kept half a hour fast on George's instruction, were to be set at normal Greenwich time. He is alleged to have said: 'I'll fix those bloody clocks.' Father and son were like chalk and cheese: George the disciplinarian, obsessed by duty and correctness; Edward more wayward, yet possessing the common touch his father so lacked.

The first stamp of Edward's reign may well have been a memorial issue to his father. Just two days after King George V had died, the subject of memorial stamps had been raised in the press – a letter in *The Times* suggested a black-bordered ½d definitive. The King George V Jubilee Trust was to be converted to the King George V Memorial Fund, and Edward favoured the idea of a special stamp with a premium that went to the Fund.

Harrisons quickly produced essays for an 'In Memoriam' stamp, examples of which are held by The Postal Museum, along with further designs in February and March 1936. But the essays shown to Edward did not find favour and nothing further was done. Some memorial stamp essays are now in private hands as not all essays sent to Buckingham Palace for The King's examination were returned to the GPO. Designs for the proposed George V memorial stamp featured on a National Postal Museum postcard (series 8/6) issued in May 1980. Proposed new 7d and 8d George V definitives and 6d printed in photogravure were not proceeded with after George's death, though 5d, 10d and 1s photogravure definitives were issued in February 1936. These might be seen as the first stamps of Edward's reign as well as the last of those of his father's. ▸





Above: a selection of the designs submitted for illustrating The King's head in the definitive issue – they are seen in more detail on the opposite page

The Accession issue Almost immediately after Edward's Accession work started on a set of temporary stamps, to be followed later by a permanent definitive series. The Accession stamps, in values from ½d to 1s, were to be issued in July and used for about a year. This was a pet project of the Postmaster General, Major George Tryon. To avoid trouble with the artistic establishment, the GPO dealt directly with the printers, Harrisons, who had expertise in photogravure printing. Harrisons staff artists experimented with a three-quarter facing portrait of Edward in military uniform (Seaforth Highlanders and Welsh Guards) and a profile by society photographers Hugh Cecil Studios. The King requested a 'selection of the best of the newer foreign stamps' be sent to him; these included the Bavarian King Ludwig III series of 1914 that the GPO felt 'particularly attractive for a standard issue which has to be confined to the small size'.

The Seaforth Highlanders portrait of Edward (when Prince of Wales) was selected by the GPO and designs prepared using a variety of frames. Some essays were based on a design submitted by the President of the Scottish Philatelic Society, others modelled on the Bavarian stamps. The portrait had already been used on a Canadian stamp of 1935. A version of the Seaforth design with a very plain frame, value in upper corners and 'POSTAGE' at base, was taken to colour trial stage but rejected by The King in June. Thereafter efforts concentrated on a design incorporating a frame by young Hubert Brown (see below) and the Cecil profile head. Finally four versions were shown to Edward, who selected one. The photograph of The King, taken by Hugh Cecil Studios, as used on the issued stamps, was reproduced on a National Postal Museum postcard (reference 87/6) issued in May 1987.

Released in September, the stamps were very plain and simple, comprising just the Cecil profile head of the King over the word 'POSTAGE', with value at top left and crown at top right. Essays had been prepared with the words 'POSTAGE REVENUE' in side panels and the value in words at the foot, and as the issued design but with values at top left and right, and no crown. The design was in fact almost identical to that submitted to the GPO in February by a 17-year-old student, Hubert Brown.

The student designer Hubert Brown was, by the time of Edward's accession, a keen stamp collector. He later recalled that during revision for actuarial exams, 'my thoughts strayed and I began wondering what sort of stamps we should have for the new reign. After a few minutes' idle sketching I worked out a rough design, drawn on the back of a test paper'.

Pleased with his design, Brown obtained permission from the Postmaster General to submit it, and made a proper drawing using photographs as models for The King's head and crown. The final drawing, of a 3d value, is now in The Postal Museum, but Brown's sketches and detailed drawings of the crown, value and wording, together with his personal archive of his work, were sold at Sotheby's in 1999. In 1985 Hubert Brown told the GB Philatelic Society that his original drawing was ten times stamp size. He had the drawing copied





post offices to mark the annual remembrance ceremonies. Also printed in 2016 was the 2nd Class stamp with a new '2nd Class' background design to align with the Christmas version introduced in 2015.

As requested by collectors, new printings from 2017 will see the year code moved to a consistent position for both Machin and pictorial design layouts to avoid clashes with machine printed information.

New SSK Labels October marked the completion of the roll-out of new labels for post office SSK machines. The new labels closely align with the revamped Horizon label introduced last year and carry barcodes for parcels and packets. They replace the majority of the 'open value' Post & Go stamps used for items weighing over 100g. Below 100g the machines will continue to vend open value stamps for machineable mail items •

Post & Go Exhibitions 2017

Spring Stampex	The Business Design Centre London	15-18 February 2017
88th Scottish Congress	The Dewar Centre Perth	21-22 April 2017
MIDPEX	The Warwickshire Exhibition Centre	8 July 2017
Autumn Stampex	The Business Design Centre London	13-16 September 2017

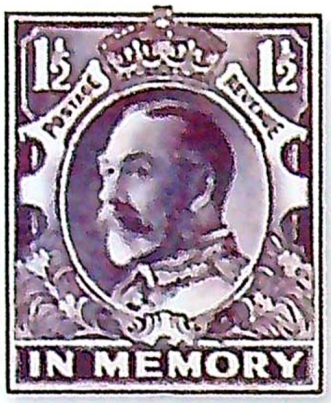
PART ONE

Collecting The King

In the first of two features John Holman explores the fascinating philatelic story behind the accession and abdication of King Edward VIII

Below: Harrisons photogravure memorial essay

Bottom: stamp designs and essays for the George V memorial set



It was the briefest of reigns but has left a lasting legacy of philatelic treasures much coveted by collectors ever since. On 10 December 1936 King Edward VIII signed the Instrument of Abdication. On the following day Parliament gave assent to this and his reign ended. His brother, the Duke of York, was then proclaimed King George VI, and Edward, no longer our monarch, made a farewell radio broadcast from Windsor Castle. On 12 December the new King announced that his brother would be known as the Duke of Windsor and the Duke sailed into exile from Portsmouth aboard the Royal Navy ship *Fury*.

Even now Edward remains an enigmatic and controversial figure, revered by some and reviled by others. As Prince of Wales, he won praise for his tours of the British Empire and for taking the monarchy out to the public, but of course his reign was overshadowed by his romance with the American socialite Wallis Simpson which ultimately led to his departure. Millions of words have been written about Edward in books, magazines and newspapers, and his reign has been the subject of a West End play, *Crown Matrimonial*, and several TV dramas. There is also a fascinating philatelic story behind the extraordinary narrative of his 46-week reign, even though, for most collectors,



King George V Memorial Essays
a to f: Essays and designs for a projected memorial issue
g: Photogravure essays by Harrison & Sons















All the images on the labels of the Smilers® Sheets shown here are personalised and not for sale.

omething to grin about
eason with the 2016
ssue Smilers® Sheets.
s accompanying the
ps can be personalised
ly photograph and used
d parcels – a perfect
nas gift to loved ones.
come in batches of ten or 20 stamps featuring 1st Class, 2nd Class, Worldwide Letter up to 20g, Airmail Europe Letter up to 100g and Europe Letter up to 20g.

Also guaranteed to raise a chuckle come Yuletide are the MR. MEN LITTLE MISS Smilers® Sheets from the issue released in October. Each Sheet features ten Smilers® stamps and labels, featuring one of the following characters: MR. BUMP, MR. GRUMPY, MR. HAPPY, MR. MESSY, LITTLE MISS PRINCESS and LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE.

To personalise your Smilers® Sheet use the Smilers® app from the App Store or visit www.royalmail.com/smilers. Sheets are delivered within five working days •



Post & Go update Martyn Fry summarises recent activity in the world of Post & Go stamps



Autumn Stampex Another successful Stampex exhibition at the Business Design Centre in Islington saw the new Post & Go Ladybirds stamps flying out of the machines along with the special exhibition overprint to mark the Battle of the Somme. For the first time Royal Mail included an image as part of the machine stamp printing. This was to commemorate the first use of a tank in the battlefield as the centenary coincided exactly with the exhibition.

New Static Sites Two new sites have been added to the list of Post & Go locations with A009 going to the Royal Corp of Signals in Blandford Forum Camp, Dorset on 31 October and A011 at The Shakespeare Trust in Stratford Upon Avon on 1 November. A009 carries Machin and Union Flag designs and A011 has the Symbolic Flowers designs as well as the Machin. Location identifiers are 'Royal Signals' plus logo ' and 'Shakespeare Birthplace Trust' in the form of a logo.

Post & Go printings A 2016 printing of the Poppy stamp appeared in SSK



c



d

represented as an exhibit. £30, www.shop.postalmuseum.org

Good call (**f**) The history of communications is at your fingertips with this Penny Black phone case displaying the world's first stamp and fitting one of today's most advanced mobiles. The Watson iPhone 6/6s Wallet case has slots for cash and cards. The price also includes personalised name printing. £50.85, www.zazzle.co.uk.



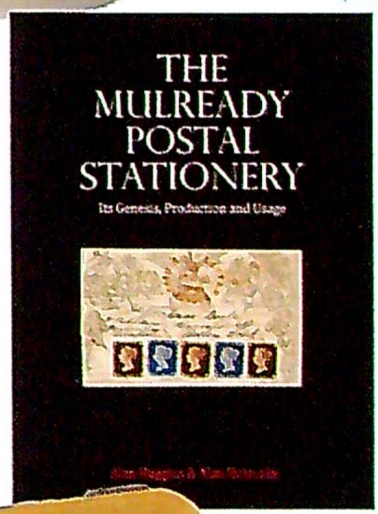
g

A perfect year (**g**) All the amazing issues from 2016 are gathered together in the richly designed Royal Mail Yearpack. £120, Royal Mail website as before.

Jeepers sleepers (**h**) Sponsor a sleeper from The Postal Museum's new Mail Rail ride for a pal and secure them a place in postal history. Their name will be inscribed on the sleeper and installed on the track of this historic mail transport system. They will also get two free tickets for an exclusive trip on Mail Rail before it officially opens next year. £250, www.sponsorasleeper.org.

Beautifully presented (**i**) Show off your collection to stunning effect with the Royal Mail presentation pack album and slipcase, which will protect every lovingly filled page. The album comes with 17 leaves. £24.99, code: PA680, www.royalmail.com/inspiredideas.

Save the day (**j**) Make a great occasion truly memorable for loved ones by making them the stars of their very own 'stamp'. This photo frame comes with perforated mount and stamp value and The Queen's head etched on the glass – simply place a photo of a special day inside for a commemorative gift they will treasure. £16.99, Royal Mail website as before.



e



f



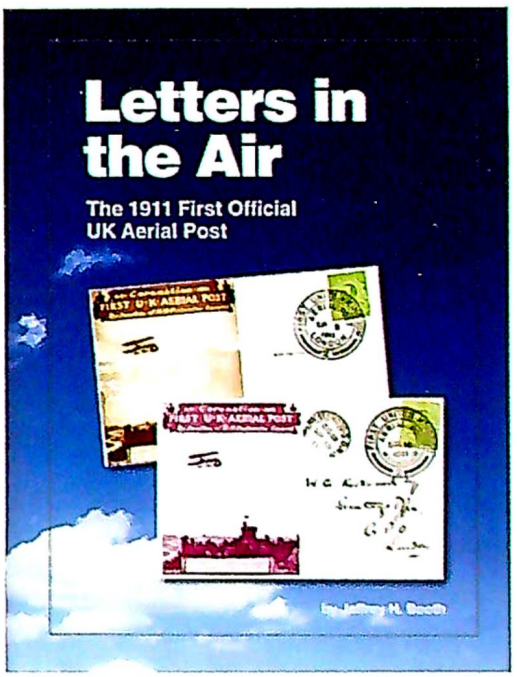
Make Christmas smiles better

Fun Smilers® Sheets will fill your loved ones with Christmas cheer – simply personalise them with a family photo for a heart-warming early festive gift

Give them some
this festive seas
Christmas issue

The labels ac
Sheet stamps ca
with a family ph
on cards and pa
pre-Christmas g
The Sheets com

took part. Reproduced are the official programme, Aerial Post leaflets prepared by the GPO, receipts for aerial post envelopes sold at London shops such as D H Evans & Co, and photographs of the public writing messages on cards at Gamages store and of postmen emptying the post box there. The envelopes and postcards, showing a biplane over Windsor Castle, proved very popular and the book shows all types as well as privilege mail versions not available to the general public. Such was the heavy demand when the envelopes went on sale at London shops on 8 September that they sold out the same day and an emergency printing was required.



Proof envelopes in various test colours were also released for general sale. 'Mail bag No 1', flown by Hamel on 9 September, weighed 23.5lb and contained privilege mail envelopes and cards addressed to rulers across the globe, overseas postal officials and other VIPs. One sent to Captain Scott, who offered to carry it to the South Pole and back, was returned in 1913 marked 'undelivered owing to the sad death of Captain Scott'.

One of the letters sent to George V, staying at Balmoral at the time, is reproduced by permission of HM The Queen. Among many other important documents shown is the telegram sent by the organising committee to the Postmaster General informing him of the arrival of the inaugural flight. The book provides a day by day account of the flights, of the printing of the aerial post stationery, with identification of the 30 positions on the printing plate, and a part-reconstructed sheet of the postcard.

Other intriguing items include mail addressed to famous people, reply paid advertising cards, based on the Aerial Post design, produced by P C Burton & Co Ltd, and a letter sent by Gustav Hamel to the daughter of the Chief Ranger of Windsor Great Park inviting her 'to come for a flight in the looping machine one day'. Hamel sadly died in a flying accident in 1914.

Mr Booth provides a useful valuation guide for cards, envelopes, proofs and souvenirs with prices ranging from £45 to £6,000 so putting Aerial Post material within the reach of modest as well as the more affluent collectors. Some items produced for the 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th anniversaries of the 1911 flights are also shown, including a first day cover bearing the centenary miniature sheet. I have just one minor quibble: the list of references is somewhat sparse. Should the book prove as popular as the cards and envelopes in 1911 a reprint might be in order and perhaps a fuller bibliography could be included. Letters in the Air comprises 148 pages, is hardbound with dust jacket, and costs £35. It is available from First Day Publishing Co Ltd, PO Box 11, Arundel BN18 9SS, 01903 884421, or jhbfdc@gmail.com •

New from the islands

Jersey Post will issue sets entitled Jersey Seasons: Winter on 4 November and Father Christmas in Jersey on 25 November. Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AE, or www.jerseystamps.com.

Guernsey's next issues will be Christmas and Centenary of the First World War on 8 and 11 November respectively. New Christmas stamps for Alderney go on sale on 8 November. Enquiries: www.guernseystamps.com, 01481 716486 •



a



b

Stamp spree

Buy brilliant Christmas gifts for philatelistic friends and family with James Cooper's festive shopping guide



j

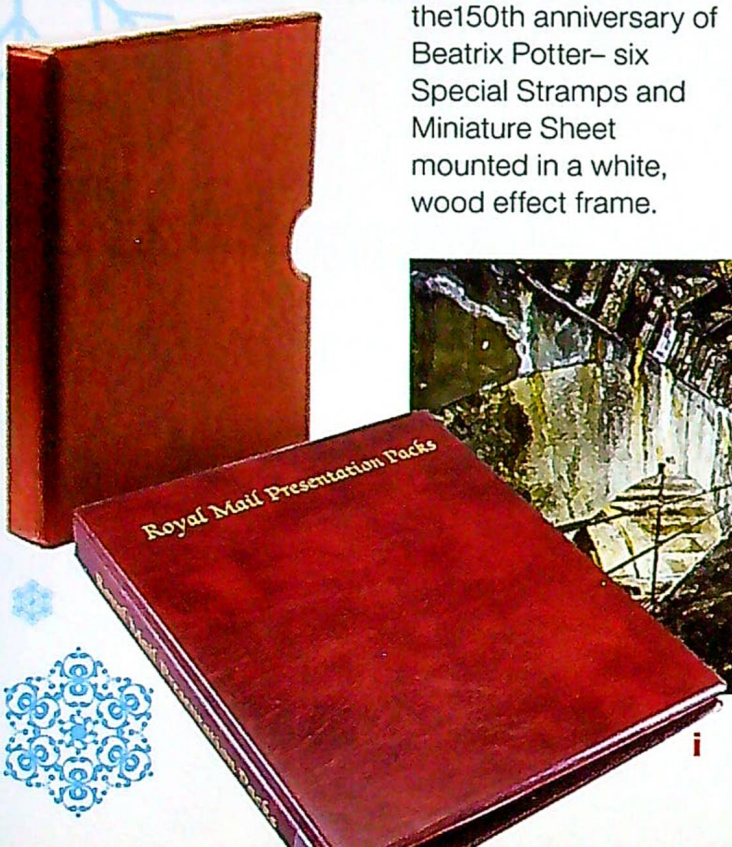
Stamp pendants (**a**) A variety of British stamps are available in this vintage-style pendant. This one has a 24-inch chain and features a franked stamp from 2015. £16, JustKJewellery at www.etsy.com.

Framed Specials (**b**) An official product of the150th anniversary of Beatrix Potter– six Special Stramps and Miniature Sheet mounted in a white, wood effect frame. £29.99, www.royalmail.com/inspiredideas.

Butterfly surprise (**c**) Set a philatelist friend's heart a-flutter with a pretty framed 3D Small Copper butterfly stamp print from 2013's Butterflies set – (voted readers' favourite of the year) £34.99, Code: N3063, Royal Mail website as before.

Buy George! (**d**) Toast the reign of King George V with this fabulously philatelic mug and coaster set. The set shows the London 2010 Accession of King George V Miniature Sheet, with the Sheet's George and dragon artwork on the coaster. £4.99 (was £9.95), Royal Mail website as before.

Page-turner (**e**) This scholarly book gives you a fascinating insight into the origins, production and issue of Mulready letter sheets and envelopes. The Mulready Stationery also features an award-winning study that shows how this historically significant subject can be

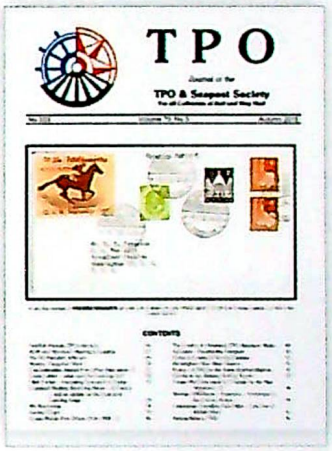


i



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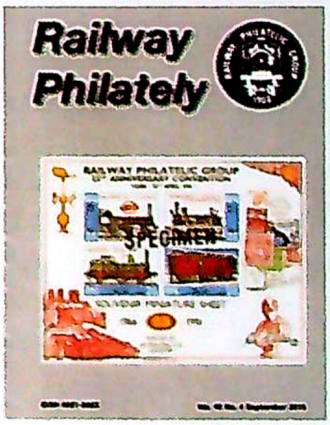
features a mystery PAQUEBOT handstamp found on a George V 1d postcard addressed to London dated 31 March 1920, an interesting transatlantic use of the Holyhead & Kingston Packet handstamp in 1890, and notes on postmarks of the Liverpool Floating Receiving House and Liverpool Landing Stage, London & Hoyhead TPO, Crewe-Liverpool Sorting Carriage, Carlisle & Ayr Sorting Tender, and Caledonian TPO, as well as features on TPO and seapost services in other countries. For more information contact TPO & Seapost Society Secretary Tony Nicholson; Burracoppin, Parkersfield, North Petherton, Bridgwater TA6 6PN, 01278 662702, or www.tpo-seapost.org.uk.



The Autumn 2016 issue of the *Letter Box Study Group Newsletter* contains 52 pages all illustrated in colour. Features cover postboxes in Southport, Guernsey, Isle of Man and Gibraltar; stations of the former Midland & Great Northern Railway; former post offices that are now Wetherspoons pubs (including one called The Arnold Machin in Newcastle-under-Lyme), Capel Celyn, a welsh village flooded in 1965 to create a reservoir; and 'non-genuine' boxes offered for sale on sites such as eBay. For those interested in smaller items to collect, there is the usual feature on letter boxes on mugs, key-rings, and as models. Three of the most intriguing photographs (of over 100) show a great tit sitting in the aperture of a posting box and a red squirrel on a bird feeder in the shape of a letter box. There is plenty of good reading material here, and even those with limited interest in posting boxes would enjoy the photographs. For information about the Letter Box Study Group contact Val Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Birmingham B20 1ES, email membership@lbsg.org or visit www.lbsg.org.



The Railway Philatelic Group (RPG) celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. The September 2016 issue of its journal *Railway Philately* includes articles on station postmarks, railway sub offices, and light railway letter stamps to interest collectors of British material, as well as features on stamps of Australian tramways, monorails, and the usual well-presented 'Theme Scene' recording railway-related new issues from over 40 stamp-issuing administrations. The journal is printed on quality art paper and illustrated throughout in colour. RPG membership details are available from: Patricia Peters, 81 Kirriemuir Avenue, Glasgow G52 3DP, or visit www.railwayphilatelicgroup.co.uk •



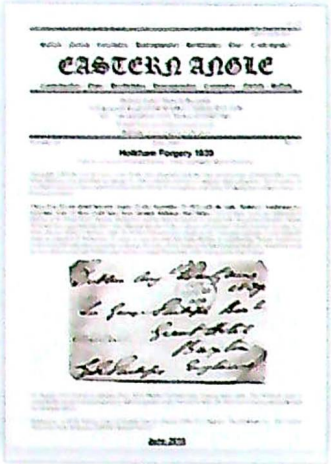
Society anniversaries

The City of Preston Philatelic Society marks its 80th anniversary this month. A celebratory dinner and displays were held on 19 October. For details of this active society contact Mrs Ann Beaver-Thomson on 01772 716556 or ann.beaver-thomson@hotmail.com. The society meets fortnightly at the Thurlby Club, Egerton Road, Ashton, Preston, and new members are welcome.

Many of the UK's local and specialist philatelic societies and stamp clubs celebrate significant anniversaries during 2017. Three societies mark over 100 years of service to their local philatelic communities: the Bristol PS will celebrate its 120th anniversary, and Croydon and Huddersfield its 110th. The Edinburgh, Kingston upon Thames, and Tynemouth societies mark their 90th anniversaries, and Crewe, Halifax, Horsham, Redhill, Stirling, and Watford celebrate their 80th anniversaries.

2017 marks the 75th anniversary of the Sevenoaks Philatelic Society and no ▸

fewer than 11 societies were formed after the war in 1947, and so commemorate 70 years: Cheltenham, Chester, Coventry, Gateshead, Great Yarmouth, Hertford, Loughborough, Morecambe, Newport and Gwent, Perth, Portsmouth and Shropshire. The Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies and the Yorkshire Philatelic Association also date from 1947, as do the specialist societies for collectors of Belgium, Canada, Germany, Sarawak, and South Africa.



Marking their diamond jubilees next year will be the Rayleigh Philatelic Society and the specialist Thailand Stamp Collectors Club. Golden jubilees in 2017 include Burnham and Highbridge, Camberley, Castletown (Isle of Man), Lanarkshire, Maplethorpe and Sutton, Poole, Bournemouth and District, and Ringwood. The Streetley society and Sudan Study Group will be 40 years old, and the Postal Stationery Society marks its silver jubilee.

The East Anglia Postal History Study Circle covers Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. We have been asked to announce that the 2017 AGM will be held in Stowmarket on 1 April. For details contact John Copeland, 20 The Vale, Brentwood CM15 4UP, call 01277 218128 or see www.eaphsc.webs.com

Details of British philatelic societies and stamp clubs are to be found in the *Handbook & Directory of the Association of British Philatelic Societies*, which was reviewed here in May. The dates of formation of societies used in preparing this note were taken from the Handbook •

Book review

Jeffrey Booth has compiled and edited a most interesting book *Letters in the Air*: The 1911 First Official UK Aerial Post, about the Coronation air flights from Hendon to Windsor which captured the public imagination then and has been a popular subject for philatelists ever since.

In the foreword, Peter Lister, a past President of the British Air Mail Society, notes that the last major work on this subject was published by Francis Field and N Baldwin way back in 1934 and praises Jeffrey Booth for skilfully putting together much new material and records into this new book.

The story begins when Captain Walter Windham was invited to go to India and organise flying demonstrations as part of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh exhibition in Allahabad in 1910. The Chaplain of Holy Trinity Church in Allahabad asked Windham if he could help raise funds towards building a student hostel. Windham had the idea of raising money with flying letters, which were given a special postmark.

The resulting flight carrying these 'flying letters' was the world's first airmail flight. It took place on 18 February 1911 and Mr Booth described it as 'a small unofficial regional affair with just one flight of only 13 minutes across the nearby Jumna river'.

After returning to the UK, Windham developed the idea of an official aerial post to mark George V's coronation. Flights authorised by the Postmaster General took place over 18 days, with a total of 20 mail-carrying flights – 16 from Hendon to Windsor and four in the other direction.

Letters in the Air opens with photographs of Windham and other key Aerial Post figures, including Gustav Hamel – Scandinavian by birth but part English – who made the inaugural flight and is the best-known of the pilots who

Future exhibitions

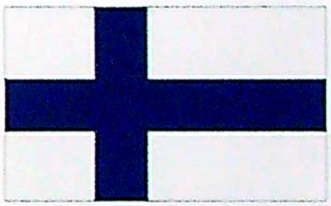
Looking ahead to 2017, Spring and Autumn Stampex will be held in London from 15 to 18 February and from 13 to 16 September. Spring Stampex is a full national exhibition with all classes and countries, but focusing on the former Ottoman Empire.

The Scottish Philatelic Congress takes place at the Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth, PH2 0TH on 21 and 22 April, and Stampa (Irish national stamp exhibition) from 6 to 8 October in Dublin.

Midpex, the specialist society exhibition, is on at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa CV31 1XN on 8 July, and the 99th Philatelic Congress of GB takes place in Cardiff from 27 to 30 July – watch out for details in your *Bulletin*.

Next year international exhibitions will be held in Melbourne, Australia (30 March to 2 April) and Tampere, Finland (24-28 May) to mark the centenary of independence of the Republic of Finland. See www.finlandia2007.fi •





The Postal Museum

The Postal Museum (formerly the British Postal Museum & Archive), at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, will close at 5pm on 11 November in preparation for its relocation to new premises nearby in 2017 (date to be announced). Meanwhile staff will continue to deal with telephone and email enquiries, but will not be able to undertake detailed research for enquirers. Until 11 November the Post & Go machine at the Museum will dispense stamps with a 'King Edward VIII 1936' inscription marking the 80th anniversary of his short reign (see feature on page 84). Opening times, until 11 November, are: Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 5pm, Thursdays until 7pm.

For more about the new Museum see the interview with its Director Adrian Steel, in February 2016 *Bulletin* (pages 179 to 181). The Museum's 'Post Office in the Community' exhibition continues at the Blists Hill Victorian Town, Leggs Way, Telford TF7 5DU (see the *Bulletin* of May 2012, visit www.ironbridge.org.uk, or call 01952 884391). Online exhibitions at The Postal Museum website – www.postalheritage.org.uk – include Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes.

Below: Adrian Steel, Director of the Postal Museum,and an illustrated wall panel advertising the new museum



The popular Pillar to Post: GPO Walking Tour takes place on 26 November, starting at Farringdon station at 11am and lasting about two hours (fee payable). For details of all events visit www.postalheritage.org.uk, call 020 7239 2570, or email info@postalheritage.org.uk.



The Postal Museum's online shop online shop offers a wide range of cards, DVDs ▸

and CDs, gift sets, homeware, maps, postcards, posters, prints, publications and stationery.

The Friends of The Postal Museum have a programme of visits, publish Cross Post magazine, and raise money to pay for specific projects for The Postal Museum and Mail Rail experience, both due to open in 2017. For details about becoming a Friend go to www.postalmuseum.org/friends or write to: Friends of the Postal Museum, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL •

Stamp-related exhibitions



Stamps commemorating The Queen's 90th birthday were issued in April. The exhibition, Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style From The Queen's Wardrobe, is on at Windsor Castle until 8 January. A Shakespeare and the Royal Library display is at the Castle until 1 January. See the Royal Collection Trust website, www.royalcollection.org.uk, or call 0303 123 7326 for details.

Stamps marking First World War centenaries went on sale on 21 June. An exhibition, called Real to Reel: A Century of War Movies, marking the centenary of the iconic film The Battle of the Somme, is on view at the Imperial War Museum in London until 8 January. Special stamps issued on 2 September commemorated the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London. The Fire! Fire! exhibition can be seen at the Museum of London until April 2017.

Visit www.museumoflondon.org for further information and to book tickets •

Forthcoming auction

The December sale of Cavendish Philatelic Auctions will include GB Queen Victoria stamps and 19th and 20th century postal history. For details see www.cavendish-auctions.com or call 001332 250970 •

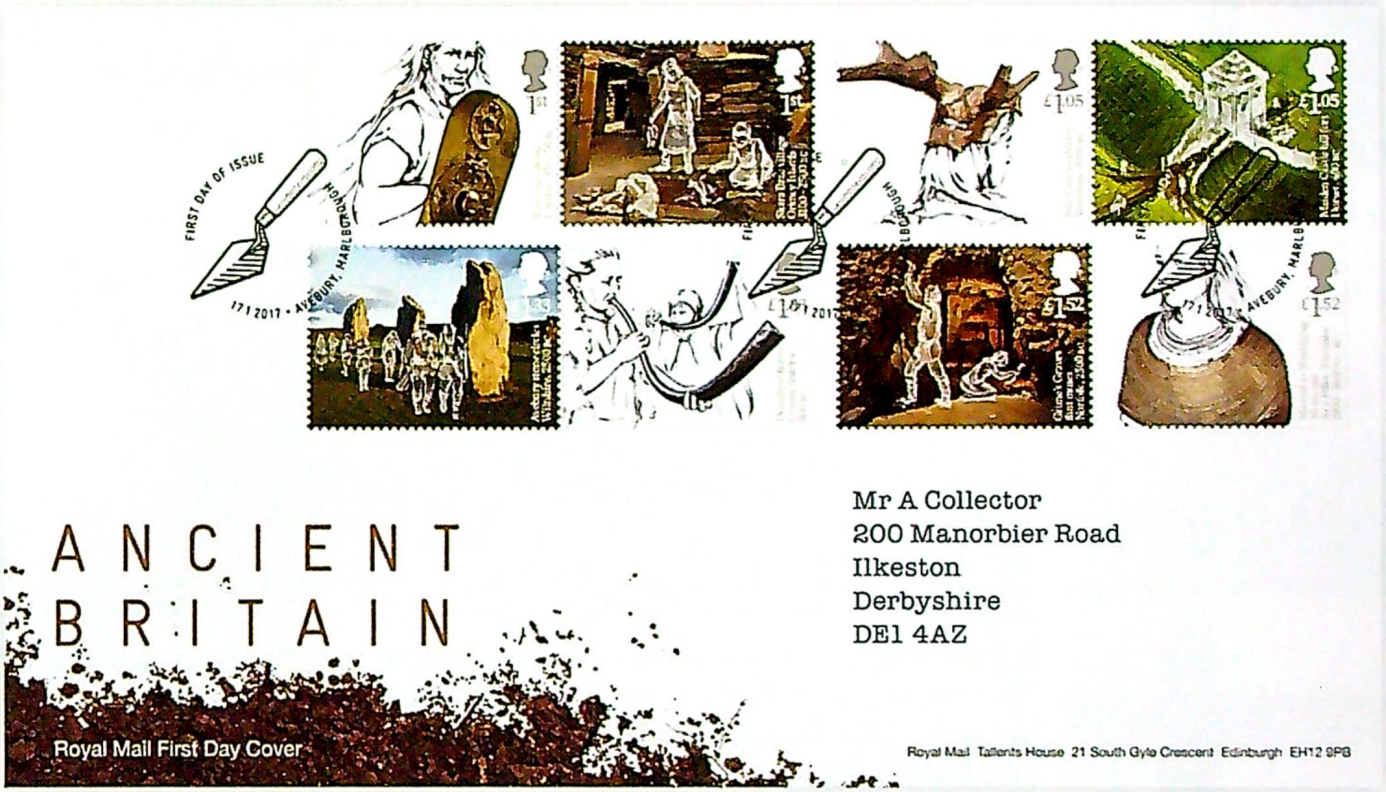
Society news and publications



Eastern Angle, journal of the East Anglia Postal History Study Circle, included in its June edition a comprehensive round-up of changes to postal services and post office provision from local media reports – essential information for both today's and future collectors. The Study Circle covers Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The 2017 AGM will be held in Stowmarket on 1 April. For details of the Study Circle and its activities contact John Copeland, 20 The Vale, Brentwood CM15 4UP, call 01277 218128 or see www.eaphsc.webs.com.

The Welsh Postal History Society (Cymdeithas Hanes Y Post Cymreig) publishes a well-produced magazine, the *Newsletter*. The September 2016 edition covers spelling problems in the datestamp of Bwlch-y-ffridd near Newtown, postcards of Caldicot Church, Welsh mail vans, early Pembrokeshire letters, Welsh Post Offices openings and closures, and a piece on Lionel Wilmot Brabazon Rees VC who was commemorated by a special postmark for Caernarfon, applied at the Wales & the West Special Handstamp Centre in Cardiff on 1 July 2016. The well-written and illustrated reports of Welsh Postal History Society meetings demonstrate the range of members' interests. Future meetings will be held in Llanelli on 12 November, and next year at Abersystwyth and Maentwrog on 4 March and 15 to 18 June. For membership and meeting details contact Aled Rhys-Jones, 12 St Patrick's Court, Linnet Close, Cyncoed, Cardiff CF23 7HG or see the Society's website: www.wps.wales.org.

The Autumn 2016 issue of *TPO*, journal of the TPO & Seapost Society,





Above: the Ancient Britain issue's First Day Cover

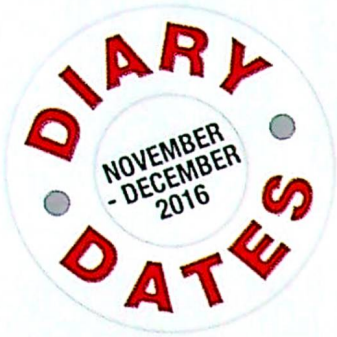
Left: the Filler Card with explanation of ancient objects and landmarks

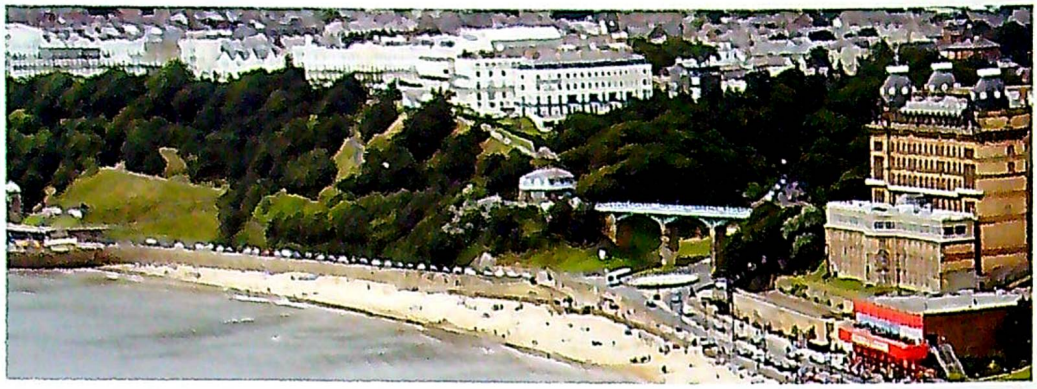
Pack written by leading prehistorian Professor Timothy Darvill of Bournemouth University. It focuses on the significance of monuments, the development of farming, and the importance of forts as communities fought for land in Ancient Britain.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 17 November. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (the address is on page 96 – please quote the *Bulletin* code 17BUL8) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. The Tallents House postmark has an illustration of a flint arrow head. The alternative postmarks have the location Avebury, Marlborough, because of Avebury's relevance as a prehistoric site. The pictorial version features a picture of an archaeologist's trowel •



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





1 November The Scarborough Philatelic Society, now in its 78th year, welcomes new members. Competition Night on 1 November is followed by a Christmas social on 6 December. Contact Chris Phillips at chris@philatelic.org.uk or on 01723 368475 for full details.

4 November Stuart Rossiter Trust Memorial Lecture: Challenges and Opportunities of Researching Online: Napoleonic Denmark, a Case Study, by Chris King, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, 5pm. Free admission by non-transferable ticket on application to: Rex Dixon at rexdixon@btinternet.com.

4-5 November Stafford Stamp Show, Staffordshire County Showground, Ingestre Suite, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD. Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Over 50 dealers, free parking. Details: JRS Fairs 01785 259350.



11 November This month's Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Admission free. Details: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

25-26 November Leeds Philatelic Society Annual Stamp Fair, Civic Hall, Dawsons Corner, Pudsey LS28 5TA. Details: www.leedsps.org.uk.

26 November GB Philatelic Society meeting at Grosvenor Auctions, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LT: British Printed Papers by Post 1836-76 by Gavin Fryer (11am), Leeds Postal History by Richard Wheatley (2.15pm). Details: Peter Tanner, 01753 887755.

7 December GB Philatelic Society Evening Reception at Stanley Gibbons, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX, 6pm onwards, with Members' Displays. Details: Peter Tanner 01753 887755.

9 December Strand Stamp Fair: see 11 November above for details •

Top: South Bay, Scarborough
Above: Pudsey, near Leeds



Above and opposite page: the Ancient Britain stamps released on 17 January

Opposite page: the Tallents House and alternative pictorial and non-pictorial postmarks; Presentation Pack showing the Ancient Britain stamps

Thames in the 1850s. The panels are made from thin beaten sheet bronze, decorated with repoussé, engraving and red enamel inlay. The designs are Celtic in style, comprising interlocking circles and spirals connected by S-shaped curves. First Class

Skara Brae Village, Orkney Islands, Scotland, c.3100–2500 BC The full extent of this Neolithic settlement is not known, but there is evidence that some houses had been replaced and the village remodelled during its long history. Each house has a single entrance, central hearth, a dresser opposite the door and bed-boxes and storage facilities to either side. The inhabitants had a rich material culture of worked stone and bone. First Class

Star Carr Headdress, Yorkshire, England, c.9000 BC Excavations by what was once Lake Flixton have revealed more than 30 'frontlets' of red deer, extensively worked, from the Mesolithic era. They were probably masks, possibly used during ritual performances in which people took the place of an animal. The original skin could have formed part of the attire, worn by shamans when communicating with animal spirits. £1.05

Maiden Castle Hill Fort, Dorset, England, c.400 BC The great Iron Age hill fort whose earthworks dominate the site today was built around 400 BC – and at 47 acres the largest fort of its type in Britain. Three concentric ramparts follow the contours of the hill. Entrances at either end have strengthened defences with outworks and staggered gateways. £1.05

Avebury Stone Circles, Wiltshire, England, c.2500 BC Neolithic Avebury is Britain's largest prehistoric ceremonial monument, defined by a bank five metres high and an internal ditch originally some nine metres deep. Following the edge of the ▸

Ancient Britain Stamps – Specifications

Date of issue	17 January (preorder from 6 Jan)
Number of stamps	Eight (se-tenant horizontal pairs)
Stamp design	True North
Illustrations	Rebecca Strickson
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	30/60
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



Top: the Presentation Pack inner and outer section

ditch was Britain's largest stone circle, comprising 98 unworked pillars of local sarsen stone. £1.33

Drumbest Horns, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, c.800 BC Four complete cast bronze horns were found in a bog in 1840. Such finds from wet places are not uncommon and must have been offerings to the gods of the underworld. Experiments show that these Bronze Age instruments would have made deep resonating sounds when played like an Australian didgeridoo. £1.33

Grime's Graves Flint Mines, Norfolk, England, c.2500 BC Flint was crucial for making edged tools and weapons in prehistoric times. In the Neolithic age, much of the best flint was obtained from mines in the chalklands of south-eastern Britain. Typically, a shaft about six metres across was dug to reach bands of good-quality flint. At Grime's Graves, around 600 shafts are currently known. £1.52

Mold Cape, Flintshire, Wales, c.1900-1600 BC The cape was discovered in Mold, Flintshire in 1833 by workmen while levelling a field and quarrying for stone. They uncovered a stone-lined grave with the remains of a skeleton and the crushed gold cape. This was probably at the centre of a circular mounded burial monument, known as a barrow. £1.52

Also in the issue is an informative Presentation

Ancient Britain – Prices

Stamps	£9.08
Presentation Pack	£9.60
First Day Cover	£11.32
Stamp Souvenir	£11.32
Stamp Cards (set of 8)	£3.60

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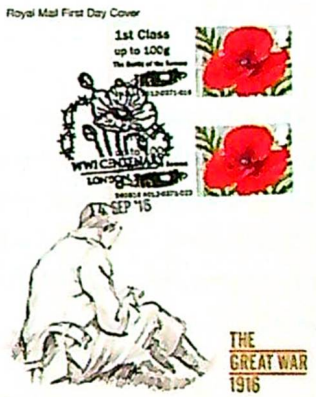
Royal Mail Editor William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, 26 Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AN ● Price £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Annual subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address above) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail publishes online the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps ● Stamp images

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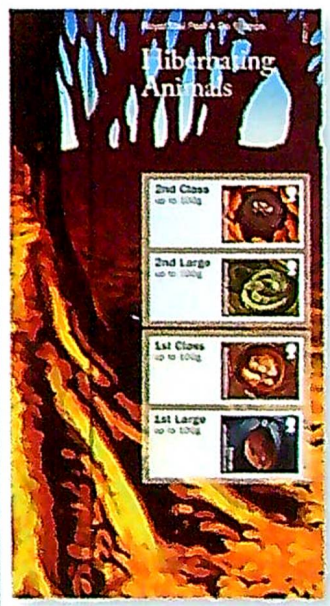




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FD1701-PL



FD1701-NP



FD1701-TH





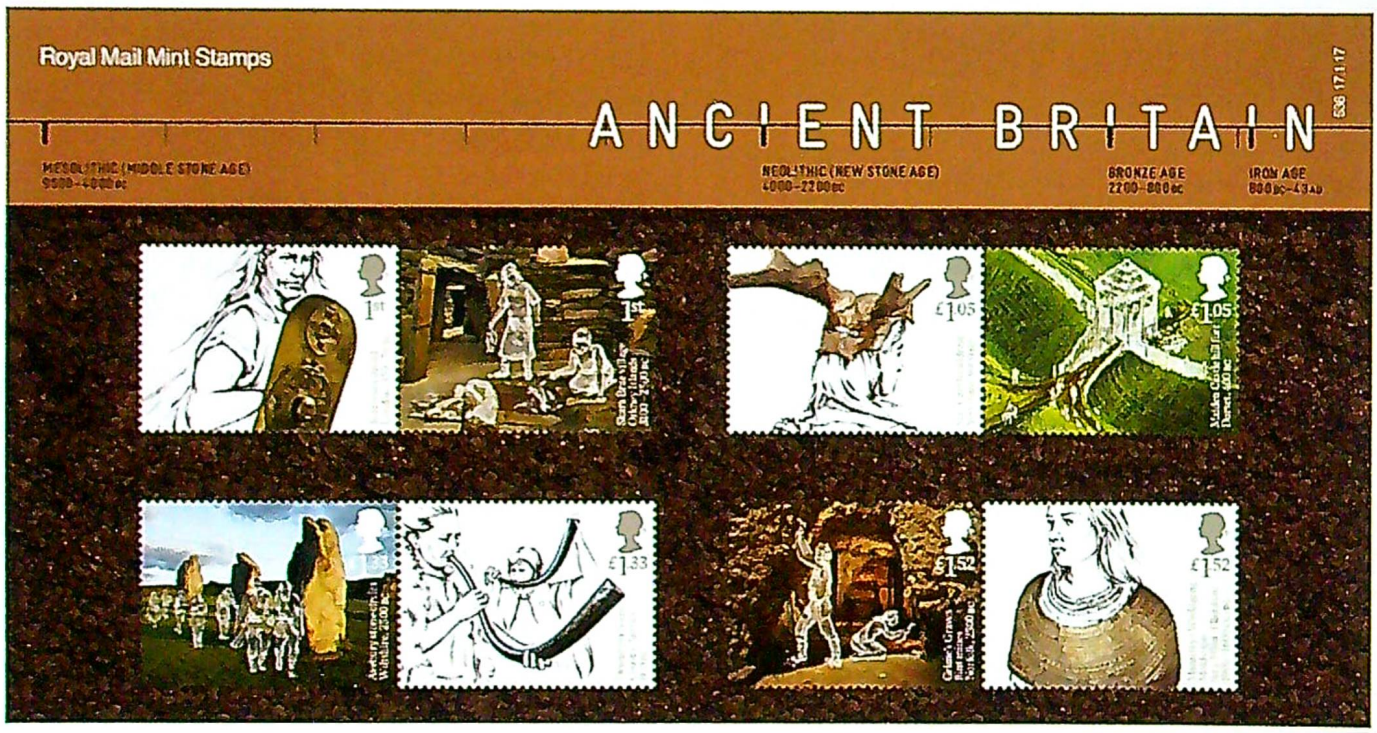
Biography of Britain

A new stamp set reveals the daily life of the nation in prehistoric times

Fascinating finds and intriguing landmarks tell the colourful prehistory of our country in the new Ancient Britain issue. The eight stamps feature a bronze shield, ritual headdress and other relics, and famous monuments such as Maiden Castle and Avebury Stone Circles, reflecting the lives of our ancestors. Accompanying the Issue, released on 17 January, are a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir and Stamp Cards.

Stamp by stamp The Ancient Britain stamp issue comes in a range of values – two each of First Class, £1.05, £1.33 and £1.52.

Battersea Shield, London, England, c.350–50 BC A masterpiece of artistry and skilled metalworking, this Iron Age shield was found in the bed of the River

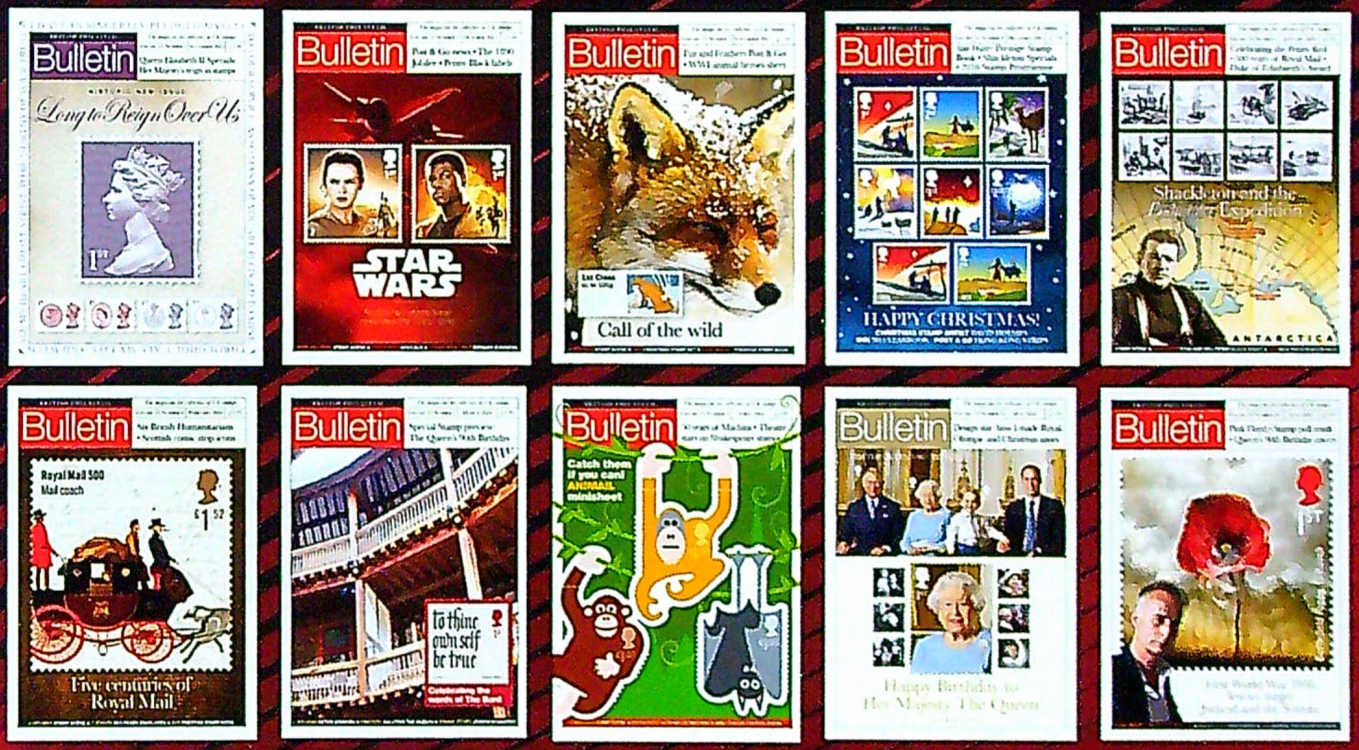


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Royal Mail stamp issues and withdrawals

3 November — **Withdrawal** Christmas 2015: Stamps (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class Large, 1 x 2nd Class Large, 1 x £1, 1 x £1.33, 1 x £1.52, 1 x £2.25), Miniature Sheet, Generic Sheet (8 x 1st Class, 8 x 2nd Class, 1 x £1, 1 x £1.33, 1 x £1.52, 1 x £2.25), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (9 in set).

8 November — **Issue** 2016 Annual Collections: Yearbook, Leatherbound Yearbook, Yearpack, Year of Miniature Sheets, Year of Presentation Packs.





8 November — **Issue** Christmas 2016: Stamps (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 75p, 1 x 96p, 1 x £1.05, 1 x £1.33, 1 x £1.52, 1 x £2.25), Miniature Sheet (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class Large, 1 x 2nd Class Large, 1 x £1.05, 1 x £1.33, 1 x £1.52, 1 x £2.25), Generic Sheet (8 x 1st Class, 8 x 2nd Class, 1 x £1.05, 1 x £1.33, 1 x £1.52, 1 x £2.25), Generic Sheet (10 x 1st Class, 10 x 2nd Class), Stamp Book (12 x 1st Class), Stamp Book (12 x 2nd Class), Smilers®, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (9 in set).

14 November — **Issue** Hibernating Animals: Stamps (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 1st Class Large, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 2nd Class Large).

15 November — **Issue** Lunar New Year – Year of the Rooster: Generic Sheet (20 x 1st Class).

16 November — **Withdrawal** Post & Go Winter Fur and Feathers: Stamps (4 designs).

16 November — **Withdrawal** Landscape Gardens: Stamp Souvenir.

31 December — **Withdrawal** 2015 Annual Collections.



7 January — **Withdrawal** Shackleton and the *Endurance* Expedition: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1, 2 x £1.33, 2 x £1.52, se-tenant pairs), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (8 in set).



17 January — **Issue** Ancient Britain: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.05, 2 x £1.33, 2 x £1.52, se-tenant pairs), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Cards (8 in set).

17 January — **Issue** Smilers® Album Continuation Pages, Standard Album Continuation Pages.

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Royal Mail

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