BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 2 | OCTOBER 2014 | £1.50

Prime Ministers special issue
• Preview: Christmas stamps



William Pitt the Younger and Clement Attlee are among the eight great Prime Ministers on this month's new stamps

POST & GO BRITISH FLORA III • JOHN HOLMAN STAMP SCENE • WIN STUNNING STAMP PACK

Issues and withdrawals



Cover image: William Pitt the Younger, circa 1788, attributed to Thomas Gainsborough / The Iveagh Bequest / © English Heritage Photo Library / Bridgeman Images

Prime Ministers stamps are released on 14 October. Turn to page 48 for the background story and see the philatelic preview on page 4 of September *Bulletin* for more details.

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10 October	**Withdrawal** Dinosaurs: Stamps (2 sheets of 5 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.
14 October	**Issue** Prime Ministers: Stamps (2 se-tenant strips of 4 – 4 x 1st Class, 4 x 97p), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (8 in set).
16 October	**Issue** Donald Campbell Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class Union Flag Stamps).
21 October	**Issue** Lest We Forget: reintroduction of the definitive-sized 1st Class Poppy stamp, in self-adhesive sheets of 50. POL (Post Office Limited) only.
21 October	**Issue** Symbolic Flowers, Poppy: reintroduction of the Post & Go Symbolic Flowers 1st Class Poppy in Post & Go machines. POL only.
4 November	**Issue** 2013 Annual Collections: Yearpack, Yearbook, Year of Miniature Sheets, Year of Presentation Packs.
4 November	**Issue** Christmas 2014: Stamps (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class Large, 1 x 2nd Class Large, 1 x £1.28, 1 x £1.47, 1 x £2.15), Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Generic Sheet, 1st and 2nd Class Stamp Books, Smilers® Sheets, Stamp Cards (8 in set).
11 November	**Issue** 1914 Christmas Truce: Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class Poppy Stamps).
13 November	**Issue** British Flora III – Winter Greenery: Post & Go Stamps (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class Large, 1 x 2nd Class Large).
19 November	**Issue** Lunar New Year – Year of the Sheep: Generic Sheet, Coin Cover.

To order philatelic items, including those listed above, contact Royal Mail online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or at Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

Information about Royal Mail products is that which is available at time of going to press. Issue dates shown in advance are subject to change. Stamps and postmarks are not shown to scale. Stamp sizes are listed on preview pages. Royal Mail is not responsible for opinions and information provided by independent writers in the feature articles of this publication.

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Correspondence

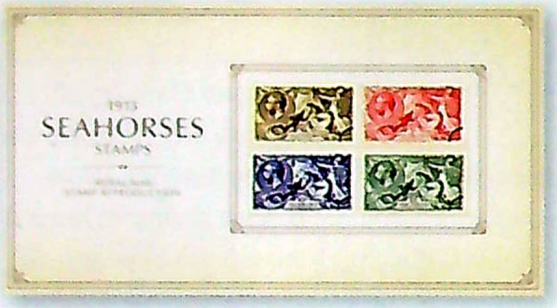
Seahorses niggle

I have waited some time to see whether anyone else would point out an error which continues to aggravate me. The pack marking the 150th anniversary of the 1913 Seahorses issue uses the 1934 re-engraved die and not the 1913 die as described in the article from issue 12, Vol 5. I have a complete collection of *Bulletins* and look forward to receiving it each month. The only missing item in my collection is Number 3 of the supplementary publications.

Alison J Vincent-Davies, by email

The die was made up from several sources, including the re-engraved version of 1934. The re-engraved version was much better from a printing point of view and we do not have the earlier dies for the 2/6d, 5s or 10s Seahorses. Neither do we have a spare of the Number 3 supplement, but will send you a scan to fill the gap in your collection.

Martyn Fry, Head of Production



Visible changes on regular orders

Further to George Fleming's letter (published in July *Bulletin*) regarding visible changes, I heartily endorse his view, and wonder whether Royal Mail should also include source codes where used (T, S , C, F and R) in the regular sending of new issues.

Peter Beukers, by email

The subject of different standing orders for visible changes is currently under consideration at Tallents House, and we will add your point about source codes to the discussion.

William Doherty, Marketing Manager

BPMA commemorative



In August *Bulletin* I read about the release of special Post & Go stamp by the British Postal Museum and Archive, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Inland Airmail. I have enquired about this stamp at Tallents House and find that it is not available from Royal Mail. Could you advise me where I could buy it?

Mrs E A Bowater, Worcestershire

At the BPMA we don't supply Post & Go stamps to order. However, we stock philatelic products related to each Post & Go issue in our online shop at www.posthalheritage.org.uk, where you will find a limited run of 300 Airmail First Day covers. Further Post & Go issues will be available over the coming months.

Harry Huskisson, BPMA Communications Manager



Keep stamps in public eye

I was delighted to read in the *Bulletin* that one of Andrew Hammond's key objectives is to get more special stamps used on mail. I went to the Post Office to buy Commonwealth Games stamps, and had to wait for the safe's time-lock to open before the lady serving me could get out the stamps. Then she said: 'No one buys these stamps these days. They are worthless.'

Of course no one buys them – no one knows they exist if they are locked in a safe. I despair!

I have collected stamps for over 50 years, and my father before me. Keep up the good work.

Juliet Braithwaite, Surrey

Write to... The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or email bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

All readers' letters chosen for publication in the next edition will receive the First World War Prestige Stamp Book.

Festive philately The Christmas Truce Commemorative Sheet, hot seasonal gifts for collectors and your last chance to buy the Madonna and Child stamp issue



All quiet on the Western Front The guns fell mute and peace broke out amid the carnage – the truces between British and German frontline troops at Christmas 1914 are remembered in a special Royal Mail sheet released on 11 November. The Christmas Truce Commemorative Sheet comprises ten First Class Poppy definitives, each with a label illustrating an aspect of this extraordinary story. See November's *Bulletin* for more details •

Celebrate another great year All your favourite annual products are back for a bumper festive season – the 2014 Yearbooks, Yearpack, Year of Presentation Packs and Year of Miniature Sheets. And all make excellent ▸



Above: the 2014 Royal Mail Yearbook, Year of Miniature Sheets and Year of Presentation Packs

Below: one of the stamps from the 2013 Madonna and Child issue – on sale until 5 November

Christmas gifts for philatelist friends and family. The exquisitely produced 64-page, fully illustrated Yearbook showcases 2014's 13 special stamp issues, including Classic Children's TV, British Auto Legends and Six Decades of Royal Portraits. The Yearbook also has a presentation section of all the stamps from 2014. Price: £106 (leatherbound version £156).

All 13 of this year's stamp sets feature in the Yearpack. They are presented in a neat, collectible folder bursting with information on each of the issues. Price: £86. The Year of Miniature Sheets collection features all five Sheets from 2014: Classic Locomotives of Wales, Buckingham Palace, Great British Film, Seaside Architecture and Christmas. All are presented in a special protective gift sleeve. Price: £23. Another collector's dream is the Year of Presentation Packs – every pack from this year maintained in perfect condition in a leather-effect gift box. Price: £87 •

Tribute to the king of speed The Donald Campbell Commemorative Sheet is out on 16 October. It's a stunning celebration of the 50th anniversary of Campbell breaking the world land and water speed records. See page 4 of September *Bulletin* for details. Price: £14.95 •

Happy ewe year The Lunar New Year Generic Sheet marks the Chinese Year of the Sheep being celebrated in 2015. The Sheet, out on 19 November, comprises 20 Fireworks Smilers® stamps alongside illustrations of five sheep and celebrations of Chinese communities. Price: £12.90 •



Last chance for Madonna This year's Christmas special issue launches on 4 November (see page 57) but you can still buy last year's beautiful Madonna and Child set, on sale until 5 November •

Winter garden The new British Flora Post & Go stamps hail the hardiness of our winter plants...

Tough, colourful survivors that flourish in the harsh grey of winter feature in the final British Flora Post & Go set. The Winter Greenery issue, released on 13 November, follows the Spring Blooms and Symbolic Flowers sets. It pays tribute to the hardy holly, mistletoe, common ivy and butcher's broom. The Winter Greenery stamps were designed by leading designer Kate Stephens and illustrated by much-respected botanical artist Julia Trickey. Two special handstamps, as well as the Non Pictorial Handstamp, have been created to accompany the issue.

Stamp by stamp The British Flora III Winter Greenery Post & Go stamps come in a mixture of First Class, First Class Large, Second Class and Second Class Large values.

Common ivy This is a tough one, sure enough. An accomplished climber, common ivy will often be found totally enveloping trees, telegraph poles, walls and even the floors of woods and forests. An evergreen plant, ivy is able to give shelter to a variety of birds, insects and bats throughout the year. *Second Class*

Mistletoe This romantic festive favourite is often hidden away during the summer months. But when trees begin to lose their leaves as winter ▸



Post & Go British Flora III: Winter Greenery – Prices

Stamp Set and Carrier Card	£2.81
First Day Cover UK	£3.85
First Day Cover overseas	£3.21
First Day Envelope	30p

Post & Go British Flora III: Winter Greenery – Specifications

Date of issue	13 November
Number of stamps	Four
Stamp design	Kate Stephens
Stamp illustration	Julia Trickey
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive



FD1421-PL



FD1421-TH



FD1421-NP



bites, you can see mistletoe hanging in large bunches from their branches. The plant generates sticky fruits that visiting birds rub off onto the bark. This process allows the mistletoe to spread, root and feed off the tree. *Second Class Large*

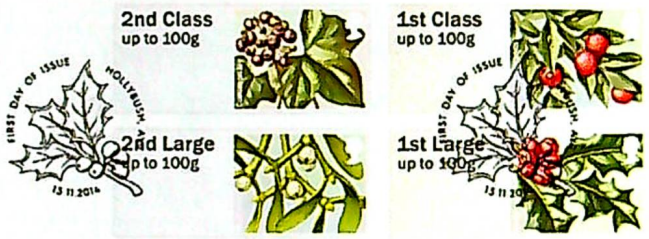
Butcher's broom A member of the asparagus family, butcher's broom has no leaves. To compensate, it has developed its stem into leaf-like panels that catch the sun. Butcher's broom gets its name from butchers using bundles of the plant's dry, stiff stems to scour and sweep their meat chopping blocks. *First Class*

Holly Our commonest native evergreen tree, holly thrives on the UK's cool, damp climate. It is of course collected in sprigs for Christmas, but holly also provides a rich supply of winter food for a range of birds, particularly mistle thrushes and robins. *First Class Large*

Orders for serviced first day covers must reach Royal Mail by 13 November. Send stamped self-addressed envelopes on the day of issue to Tallents House (address on page 34) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. A non-pictorial and pictorial postmark bear the location Hollybush, Ayr, with the pictorial mark also showing a picture of holly •

Above: the four Winter Greenery stamps and the Tallents House and alternative pictorial and non-pictorial postmarks

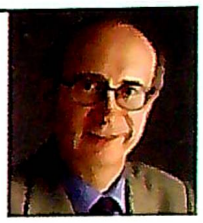
Right: the Winter Greenery Post & Go First Day Cover



Mr A Milton
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Post & Go Cover

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



UK diary dates

4 October Kent Philatelic Federation Autumn Rally, Grammar School for Boys, Dartford, Kent DA1 2HW.

4 October South West Scotland Philatelic Congress, Prestwick Community Centre, Caerlaverock Road, Prestwick KA9 1HR.

10 October Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1, 9am to 4pm. Information: 020 8946 4480, www.stampshows.net.

11 October National Philatelic Society: Faster Than a Bullet – the Concorde Story display by Brian Asquith, Welsh Centre, 157 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, 2.30pm (auction at 1pm).

11 October Sussex Philatelic Federation Convention, Norfolk Pavilion, South of England Centre, Ardingly RH17 6TL, 10am to 4.30pm. Includes British Thematic Association 2014 Competitions.

11 October GB Philatelic Society displays: British Empire Exhibition: 90th Anniversary (11am), 4½d Jubilee (2.15pm), Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. Information: 01753 887755.

17-18 October Scotex (annual Scottish stamp and postcard fair), Dewars Centre, Perth. About 30 dealers, organised by the Scottish Philatelic Traders Association. Information: 01368 860365.

17-19 October Stampa (Irish national stamp exhibition), Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

18 October Hampex (Hampshire Philatelic Federation Stamp & Postal History Fair), Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham PO17 5AL. Information: www.hpf.hampshire.org.uk.

18 October Solihull Philatelic Society Stamp Fair and Midland Philatelic Federation Autumn Convention, Arden School, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull B93 0PT, 10am to 4pm. Information: 01564 776879.

19 October Didcot Stamp & Postcard Fair, Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot OX11 7JN, 10am to 2pm. Free admission and parking. Information: 01929 463428.

25 October Cornex (Cornwall Philatelic Federation), Liskeard Community College, Liskeard PL14 3EA, 10am to 4pm.

25 October Middlesex Philatelic Federation Stamp Day, ASDA Community Life Centre, Watford.

25 October Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp & Postcard Fair, St Ives Corn Exchange, St Ives PE27 5AG, 10am to 3pm. Information: 01480 468037.

26 October Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors AGM and FDC Fair, Collingwood Centre, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF. Information: Ian Balcombe, 020 7586 4668.

7 November Stuart Rossiter Lecture: The Future of Postal History, by David Beech, Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LR, 5pm. Admission free by ticket – apply to Rex Dixon: 39 Braybank, Bray, Maidenhead SL6 2BH or email rexdixon@btinternet.com. ▸



Above: the Royal National Hotel is the venue for the regular Strand Stamp Fairs held in London

7-8 November Stafford Stamp Show, Staffordshire County Showground ST18 0BD. 50 dealers. Information: www.jrs-stamp-shows.co.uk.
14 November Strand Stamp Fair, see details previous page.
14-15 November Leeds Philatelic Society Annual Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Hall, Pudsey LS28 5TA. Saturday 10.30am to 5.30pm; Sunday 10am to 4pm. Information: 01943 465236.
29 November GB Philatelic Society displays QEII Wildings (11am), Naval Mail (2.15pm), Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. Information: 01753 887755 •

International exhibitions

Malaysia 2014, a joint World Youth Stamp Exhibition and Asian International Exhibition, will be held in Kuala Lumpur from 1 to 6 December. For details contact Richard West by email: richjwest@btinternet.com •

Stamp-related exhibitions and events

The main anniversary of 2014 is the centenary of the start of the First World War (and also the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War). The first in a series of Royal Mail stamps commemorating the Great War was issued on 28 July.

Post Office Ltd is organising special travelling displays in their branches to show how the General Post Office fitted into the story of the First World War. The exhibition, curated with the BPMA, is part of a five-year programme of events by the Post Office to mark the centenary of the First World War. The Post Office Rifles fought at Ypres, the Somme and Passchendaele and were awarded 145 decorations for gallantry. The exhibition can be seen at the following branches: St Aldgates, Oxford, until 3 October, 10/11 Chiltern Centre, High Wycombe, from 7 to 24 October, and Angel Walk, Tonbridge, from 28 October to 14 November.

The Enduring War: Grief, Grit and Humour exhibition is at the British Library in London until 12 October (see www.bl.uk/enduring-war for more information). Behind the Lines: Personal Stories of the First World War is on at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh until 11 November. For details of numerous local events and exhibitions see the Imperial War Museums website at www.iwm.org.uk.

British stamps featuring past monarchs are popular with many collectors. The First Georgians: Art & Monarchy 1714-60 exhibition is on at The Queen's Gallery in Buckingham Palace until 12 October. Exhibitions relating to Kings George I, II and III can be seen respectively at Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace and Kew Palace until 30 November. A display, The Real Tudors: Kings and Queens Rediscovered, is on at the National Portrait Gallery in London until 1 March 2015.



Stamps were issued in 2011 to mark the 150th anniversary of Morris and Company. An exhibition, William Morris & His Legacy 1860-1960, is on at the National Portrait Gallery from 16 October to 11 January (there is an admission charge for this exhibition) •

Berkhamsted postmark

The *British Postmark Bulletin* of 13 June 2014 announced a special handstamp reproducing the Berkhamsted duplex postmark of Victorian times. I wondered if this was in connection with a postal anniversary and contacted the sponsor, Adrian Barham. He tells me he had been thinking about sponsoring a running postmark for a while (Berkhamsted is a historic town, and deserves its own postmark!), and liked the old duplex postmarks. He says: 'There is no particular event or organisation that this relates to, although this October is a significant birthday for me, so I thought now would be a good opportunity to set that up, to run for the second half of the year.' The handstamp started on 1 July and will continue in use until 31 December. Covers should be sent to: London Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB, requesting handstamp No. 13113 •



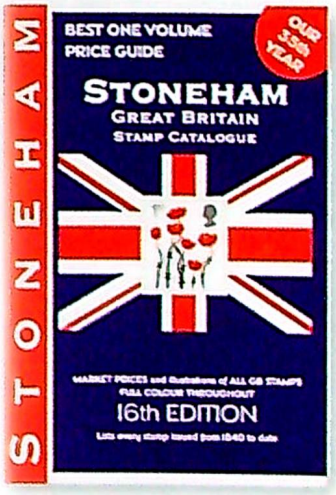
Obituary

Ross Burden, the celebrity chef who died in July aged 45, was also a keen stamp collector, having learned about the hobby at a Philatelic Youth Camp in New Zealand. He displayed a collection of penguin stamps at an exhibition in 1985 and in 1988 exhibited at the international youth stamp exhibition in Luxembourg. He won the Link House Thematic Trophy at Autumn Stampex 2000. In addition to his collection of Antarctica he also collected Tasmania pictorials and a second theme of palm trees. He hosted the Rowland Hill awards in London in March 2003. For more on Ross Burden's philatelic interests see Richard West's article in the May 2001 *Bulletin* •



New catalogues

The 16th edition of the *Stoneham Great Britain Stamp Catalogue* is now available, edited by Melvyn Philpott of the Machin Collectors Club and published by Sarum Publications. It is a comprehensive, well-illustrated guide to all British stamps from 1840 to the end of 2013. The listings are arranged by reign, with useful introductory notes to the Victoria, Edward VII, George V and Elizabeth II sections, especially good for the complicated Wilding and Machin definitives. The issues for the first five reigns are listed in just 59 pages; the basic issues of the current reign take up no fewer than 264 pages! The basic definitive and commemorative stamp listings are followed by Framas, Presentation Packs, Year Books & Packs, Smilers Sheets, Regionals (Country stamps), Postage Dues, Stitched Book Panes, Machin Book Panes, Stitched Books, Prestige Books and Panes, and Christmas, Greetings, Counter, Machine (vending) and Window Books, Self-Adhesive Issues, Controls, and finally Fiscal, Telegraph, Circular Delivery and Specimen Overprints. This breakdown into specific areas is helpful, especially as many collectors now have limited interests in particular fields of Elizabeth issues. (However, I suggest that next time Post & Go stamps might be given their own section rather than be included in Self-Adhesive Issues.)

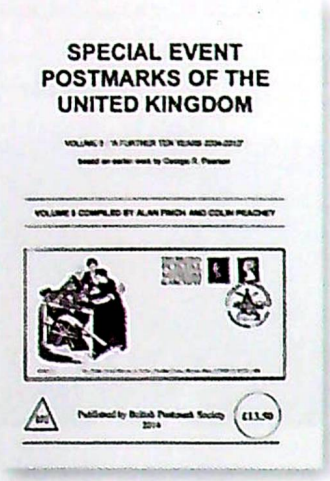


The joy of this catalogue is that every basic stamp is illustrated in colour, as are the booklet panes and many stamp book covers. This makes it easy to track down items. Prices are given for unmounted and mounted mint for issues to the end of George VI's reign, unmounted mint for Elizabeth II issues, as well as used for all reigns. The prices are a market guide rather than the prices of a specific dealer. ▸

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Prices are also given for cylinder blocks and FDCs of commemorative issues. Imperf and missing colour errors, major colour shifts and phosphor band errors are included. One commemorative stamp variety listed puzzles me – chalky paper on the 3d 1960 General Letter Office issue. I have never seen this offered in any dealers' lists and it is not found in the *Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise* catalogue.

The new 610-page, paperback Stoneham edition will be welcomed by existing users and is recommended to those who have not used it before. It is remarkably good value at under £20. Available from: Dauwalders of Salisbury, 42 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7RB (or 01722 412100): £19.99 plus £3.50 postage.



Above: the 'Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom Volume 5' lists some 4,500 special handstamps used 2004-2013

The British Postmark Society has produced Volume 5 of its important series *Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom*, bringing the total number of such handstamps listed to 18,614 from 1851 until the end of 2013. Volume 5 lists some 4,500 special postmarks used from 2004 to 2013.

The book, compiled by Alan Finch and Colin Peachey, begins with a well-written introduction explaining the different types of postmarks and how they are applied. It also includes pithy comments on place names found on handstamps. In the past, special postmarks were used at temporary post offices at events and place names followed operational requirements. Nowadays, with very few exceptions, there is no temporary post office (or even posting box), with relaxed attention to postal niceties.

The main listing, year by year, includes a reference number (2004 begins at 14759) with date, wording of the handstamp and identification of its application by Pad Canceller, Special Rubber or High Speed Machine, or rarely by Single Circle Steel handstamp or SID (self-inking datestamp). Useful notes are provided for the event or anniversary which the handstamp commemorates if this is not clear from the inscription, the correct postal address if this is not shown, and primary use of handstamps – for example on Royal Mail coin covers or in connection with a Royal Mail commemorative sheet. Obviously there are too many handstamps to illustrate them all but a worthy selection is included, and some notes indicate the design where necessary to distinguish one handstamp from another.

The Main Listing is followed by sections for the Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Some 123 and 224 handstamps are listed for Guernsey and the Isle of Man, but it is noted that no special event sponsored postmarks were recorded as used by Jersey Post Office since 2002. The listings conclude with an update on philatelic handstamps such as those for the BPMA, Giant's Causeway and London E20 showing the Olympic Stadium.

There were many handstamps used in connection with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Most important, perhaps, were those used at the temporary post offices in the Athletes' Village and Press Centre. Details are also given of four dated oval cachets used on both mail and philatelic items.

The book is essential reading for collectors of modern special handstamps, and thematic collectors will find many handstamps they can add to their collections. Sadly, two of the 'old favourite' special handstamps are no longer used, commemorating the Philatelic Congress and Wimbledon Tennis, but

there are still regulars for Stampex and the FA Cup Final. *Special Event Postmarks Volume 5* is available from the British Postmark Society, 19 Moorland Road, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1NH. Price: £13.50, plus £2.50 postage (overseas £8.50 airmail). Also available are *Volume 1* (1851-1952): £6, postage £1.50 UK, overseas £3.50 or £5.50 airmail; *Volume 2* (1963-83): £6, postage £2, £4 or £6; *Volume 3* (1984-93): £9.50, postage £2, £4 or £6; and *Volume 4* (1994-2003): £9.50, postage £2.50, £5 or £8.50. Supplements covering new handstamps are published quarterly in the *British Postmark Society Journal* •

British Postal Museum & Archive

On 20 August the British Postal Museum & Archive marked the 80th anniversary of Inland Airmail with the launch of a unique Post & Go stamp and a new exhibition, which can be seen in the BPMA foyer until 20 October. A new collection of Airmail products is available at the BPMA and from its online shop.

The BPMA, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on Saturday 11 October, 8 November and 13 December (10am to 5pm, but closed the following Mondays).

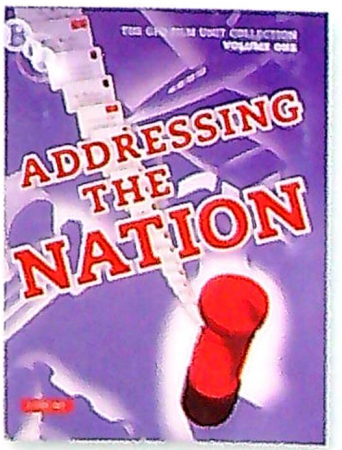


Above: Brading Roman Villa on the Isle of Wight has the BPMA exhibition Last Post until 13 December, when it moves to Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron

Below: a classic GPO Film Unit poster from the BPMA collection

On show at Freeling House is a display of photographs of Mail Rail. Visit the BPMA website, www.postalheritage.org.uk, for details of other exhibitions: Post Office in the Community (at Blists Hill Victorian Town in Shropshire), Great Train Robbery (Grampian Transport Museum, Aberdeenshire until 27 October) and Last Post: Remembering the First World War (Brading Roman Villa, Isle of Wight until 13 December and Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron until 27 March 2015). Incidentally, a set of six Last Post postcards is on sale at the BPMA shop, priced £3.75. The BPMA also offers online exhibitions, including Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes.

Also on the website are details of Archive tours (8 October and 10 December), Museum Store tours (1 October and 5 November), Pillar to Post walks (26 October and 22 November) and talks on A War of Letters (16 October), Hounded from Pillar to Post: The Life of Conscientious Objectors in the Postal Service (6 November) and Glad Tidings: A History of the Christmas Card (2 December). Phone 020 7239 2570 to book or request a copy of the BPMA Events Guide.



The Friends of the BPMA have organised a talk about the Post & Go revolution, which has attracted many collectors. The talk – by Bob Fothergill of Intelligent AR, who has been very much involved with the development of Post &Go at Royal Mail – will be held at 2pm for 2.30pm on 11 November at the Phoenix Centre, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DG (next to the BPMA at Freeling House). This is an open meeting and all are welcome, contact Brian Livingstone on 020 7498 8521 for tickets. For more on the Friends of the BPMA, visit www.postalheritage.org.uk/friends or email friends@postalheritage.org.uk. Annual membership is £21, with a reduced rate for over-65s •

© Patrick Eden / Alamy

Society journals

The Concorde Study Circle (CSC) is the society for anyone interested in collecting Concorde material – stamps, postmarks, postcards and so on. The June 2014 issue of its newsletter includes illustrations of recent Concorde stamps and miniature sheets from no fewer than 18 countries, as well as reviews of new catalogues listing Concorde telephone cards, postcards and handstamps. There is even a feature on beer mats that show the famous airliner. For details of the CSC, contact Brian Asquith at Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches SM5 4PQ, or email brianasquith@talktalk.net •

Forthcoming auction

Grosvenor's auction on 18 November includes a gold medal-winning collection of Channel Islands Postal History. Enquiries: 020 7379 8789, or email info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk •

Modern British Philatelic Circle

The Modern British Philatelic Circle (MBPC) came into being on 1 January 2006 from the merger of two long-established and respected societies: the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle (GB DSB SC) – specialising in stamp books – and the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle, which focused on sheet issues. The new Circle's scope was extended to cover all stamps and related material issued during the present reign. It is administered by a committee elected each year by the membership.

The GB DSB SC has produced *The Bookmark Journal* since 1971 and the MBPC continues to publish six editions each year. All new issue reports are supported by illustrations and diagrams where appropriate. The conclusions gained from research are included as soon as the results are available, enabling members to search for any elusive material that may exist.

Technical articles for the collector who wishes to specialise in greater depth are regularly included. The *Journal* also deals with peripheral items relating to the stamp issues – for example, packaging and point of sale material. Members are encouraged to air their views, share their findings and submit articles. Exchanges of material are possible through a 'Wants and Offers' column, and via auctions held every two months. The Circle also publishes *The Bookmark Catalogue of British Decimal Postage Stamp Books*, the 8th edition of which is currently in preparation.

The Circle's website, www.mbp-circle.co.uk, has over 3,000 pages containing 9,000 illustrations covering all issues from the Wildings through to the very latest Machins and Post & Go, and Royal Mail's special stamp programme. Douglas Myall, the author of *The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook*, is the MBSC's Honorary President. Douglas was a founder member of both the previous groups, and is of course well known to *Bulletin* readers.

For subscriptions and further information email Membership Secretary Tony Wilkins at tony@mbp-circle.co.uk •

Society anniversaries

We are fortunate in the UK in having numerous local philatelic societies and stamp clubs, some of which have been in existence for many years. Several celebrated significant anniversaries recently (see the *Bulletin* October 2013, page 46). In 2015 the Leeds and Oxford societies will mark their 125th anniversaries, and the Consett Philatelic Society its 90th. The Blyth and

Harrogate societies will be 75 years old, and the Leamington & Warwick society celebrates its diamond jubilee. The Durham City, Falkirk & District, and Portadown & District societies mark their half-century, and the Colwyn Bay society its silver jubilee.

The Great Britain Philatelic Society, the specialist society for GB stamps, mostly pre-Elizabeth II, celebrates its 60th anniversary with a display at Spring Stampex in February. The Malta Study Circle will also be 60 years old, and the Transvaal Study Circle marks its 50th anniversary. I should be pleased to hear, via the Editor, from societies holding anniversary events so that details can be published here at the relevant time •

New from the islands

The Isle of Man Post Office issued four Dark Sky Discovery stamps, shown right, featuring Manx night skies on 1 September. Six Christmas stamps will be released on 23 October. For details of Isle of Man issues visit www.iomstamps.com or write to Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB.



On 9 October, Jersey's Oyster Fishing issue goes on sale. It features six stamps, a miniature sheet and prestige book. The six-stamp New Jersey set follows on 30 October. Four stamps and a souvenir sheetlet commemorate Pirates & Privateering on 12 November, and eight stamps and a souvenir miniature sheet, Bosdet's Stained Glass Windows, are released on 27 November. Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, or visit www.jerseystamps.com.



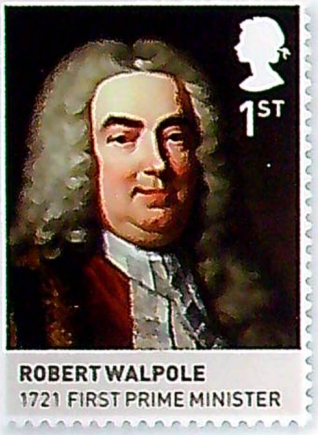
Guernsey's next issue, on 6 November, comprises seven stamps for Christmas and seven Christmas stamps for Alderney go on sale the same day. Both sets (shown here) feature prize-winning children's illustrations, following a special competition. Six stamps and a miniature sheet marking the centenary of the beginning of the First World War are issued on 11 November. Enquiries: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS, or email philatelic@guernseypost.com •





Prime role in history

Simon Ball is inspired by this month's new pictorial stamps to investigate the fascinating story of the Prime Minister's role and previous appearances of British PMs in Royal Mail issues



Top: the new Prime Ministers set released on 14 October

Above: Robert Walpole from the 2011 House of Hanover set

CONSIDERING THEIR pivotal role in leading the UK through boom, bust, peace and war, few of the country's political leaders have made their way into Royal Mail's stamp programme. Sports personalities, scientists, explorers, artists, cats, dogs and horses abound, but only a handful of the 53 incumbents of 10 Downing Street have ever appeared on a UK stamp.

This month, however, a host of legendary premiers have been elected into the Prime Ministers set. To mark the issue's release, we reveal the extraordinary history of the office of Prime Minister and celebrate the premiers who have featured on our stamps.

In the beginning It is a commonly held belief that Sir Robert Walpole became Britain's first Prime Minister because the first Hanoverian monarch, King George I (1741-1727), could only speak German – his lack of English precluding him from having a voice in English politics.

While it would be very convenient for history students if this were true, real history is seldom so clear-cut. The role of the Prime Minister slowly came into being and evolved over hundreds of years through a melange of rebellion, expediency, accident, indifference and madness.

Kings had kept esteemed groups of noblemen and churchmen as advisors since the Witenagamot (Old English for 'meeting of wise men') council was





Above: Thomas Cromwell and the four stamps from the 1992 Civil War issue that marked the conflict's 350th anniversary

established by King Aethelbert around 600AD. Nobles and the King did not always see eye to eye and – following the Baronial Wars and instability of the reigns of John (1199-1216) and Henry III (1216-1272) – this ragtag collection of advisors was formalised with the creation of the Model Parliament in 1295 under Edward I (1272-1307).

For the first time, a Parliament included directly elected (though only by a very few landowners and townsmen) representatives in the Commons, who alongside the nobles and bishops began to chip away at the monarchy's power.

Reformation, Restoration Thomas Cromwell orchestrated a further power grab when he used the Reformation Acts to compel Henry VIII (1509-1547) to rule through the Privy Council (not that it did him much good – King Henry had his head lopped off in 1540).

This worked moderately well at curbing the excesses of royal behaviour with the Tudors, but it did not sit well with the Stuarts who succeeded them. Thanks to his firm belief in the Divine Right of kings, Charles I (1625-1649) was soon at loggerheads with Parliament, leading to the English Civil Wars and Oliver Cromwell's dictatorship, before the Restoration in 1660.

Outlaws and Cattle Drivers After the Restoration, two-party politics in England emerged with the prospect of the Roman Catholic James II (1685-1688) succeeding his nominally Protestant brother Charles II (1660-1685).

The Parliamentary supporters of James became the Tories (deriving from a Middle Irish term suggesting a papist outlaw), the predecessors of the modern Conservative Party.

The supporters of the anti-Catholic Exclusion Bill and predecessors of the Liberals became known as the Whigs ▸



Below: King Charles I and King James II from the House of Stuart set released in 2010





Above: William III from the 2010 House of Stuart issue and George I featured in the 2011 House of Hanover set

Below: a statue of King William III – William of Orange

(another insult – derived from 'whiggamore' or horse thief – and a name for those who claimed the power to prevent a royal heir taking the throne).

The Junto and the Cabinet The replacement of James by William III and Mary II following 1688's Glorious Revolution saw the royal couple confirmed as joint constitutional monarchs, with their powers to govern limited by acts known as the Revolutionary Settlement.

The period also established the principle of cabinet government. Initially favouring mixed ministries of Whigs and Tories, William eventually opted for Whig-only administrations in 1697 since the coalitions wasted time in inter-party bickering. This new Whig ministry, known as the Junto (derived from a Spanish term for assembly) is widely regarded as the first true Cabinet as it reflected the majority in the elected House of Commons.

Both William and his successor Anne (1702-1714) took an active role in cabinet government, appointing and dismissing members and enacting policy. When Anne died without a suitable Protestant Stuart successor, the German George, Elector of Hanover was selected as her most appropriate Protestant successor.



On the advice of his German ministers, George left the position of Lord High Treasurer vacant because they felt that this powerful office could be a threat to the monarchy. The Treasury Commission, consisting of the First, Second and three junior Lords of the Treasury, took its place.

George, however, had little interest in the day-to-day running of Cabinet meetings: the German's unfamiliarity with the English language led to him becoming bored with the proceedings and withdrawing in 1717.

Walpole takes the helm Sir Robert Walpole had already served one term as First Lord of the Treasury from 1715 to 1717, but it was in his second appointment to the role in 1721 that he took full control.

In the wake of the 1720 South Sea Bubble crisis, a trading collapse that had ruined many British investors, Walpole oversaw the return to national prosperity. His good fortune to preside over a long period of economic stability and peace in the country helped to establish the role.

King George III (1760-1820) did try briefly to direct the Cabinet from outside (he





only attended two meetings in his 60-year reign). But his descent into mental illness, followed by the indolent reign of George IV (1820-1830), devolved more power into the hands of the First Lord as de facto 'prime minister'. And so cabinet government without royal intervention was established as a convention that persists to this day.

The first documented use of the term Prime Minister was by Benjamin Disraeli in 1878 when he signed the Treaty of Berlin as 'First Lord of the Treasury and Prime Minister of her Britannic Majesty'.

Before and after this milestone definition, the office of Prime Minister has been a constant in centuries of change in Britain, through conflict and peace, national tragedy and triumph, poverty and prosperity.

From Walpole to Cameron, this pivotal political role remains a key player in the narrative of our country's history •



Above: Pugin's interior of the Palace of Westminster from the 2012 Britons of Distinction issue, a portrait of Robert Walpole and Downing Street from the 2011 UK A-Z series

Prime Ministers on stamps







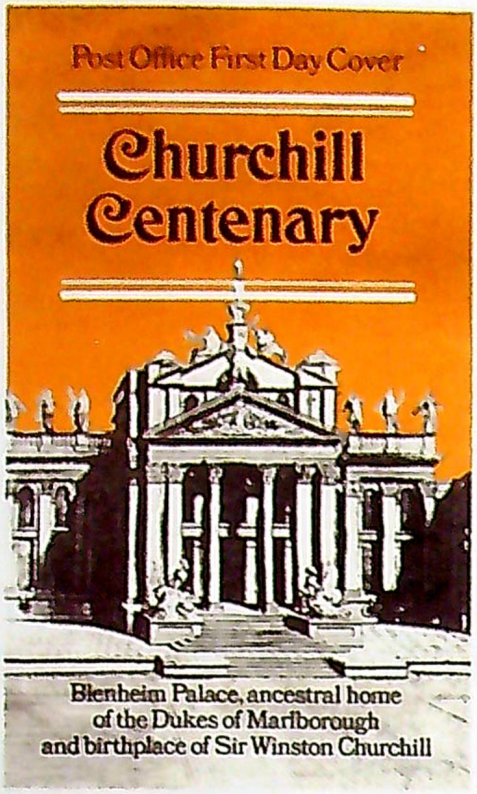








Asquith, Lloyd George, Churchill and Attlee on 1994 £1 stamp books; Disraeli on a 1987 Queen Victoria's Accession stamp; Gladstone from 2009's Eminent Britons; Lloyd George from 2013's Great Britons





This Month in History

John Holman pays tribute to a legendary war hero with the story of the 1974 Churchill memorial issue

Above: this First Day Cover shows Blenheim Palace, Sir Winston Churchill's birthplace

FORTY YEARS AGO, on 9 October 1974, the Post Office issued four stamps to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Sir Winston Churchill. The stamps were issued somewhat early, as Churchill's birth date was actually 30 November. The stamps showed portraits of Churchill throughout his long and eventful life; in each stamp he is wearing a distinctive hat. The 4½p stamp shows him in the uniform of the Royal Yacht Squadron, though it was wrongly announced at the time that this was the uniform of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

The 5½p value depicts Churchill in familiar guise, with trademark cigar, as Prime Minister in 1940, and the 8p stamp shows him wearing a top hat as Secretary for War and Air in 1919. On the top value, 10p, he is dressed in the uniform of the South African Light Horse in 1899 when he was a 25-year-old war correspondent in South Africa.

The stamps have The Queen's silhouette in silver at top right, and the value at bottom right alongside the caption 'Churchill Centenary'. They were designed by Collis Clements and Edward Hughes and printed in photogravure by Harrisons in two colours plus silver. The colours of three stamps are predominantly those of the definitives at the time – 4½p blue, 8p red and 10p brown. The stamps were printed on paper with PVA gum containing added dextrin. The 8p also exists with normal





Above: the two special handstamps for the Churchill Centenary Exhibition at Somerset House in London

PVA gum, and is listed in the Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue where it is noted that the 5½p is reported on thinner paper and the 8p with thick PVAD gum. No missing colour or imperf errors are recorded in the SG catalogues, but missing phosphor is recorded on the 5½p and significant constant varieties on three of the four values.

Churchill First Day Covers were serviced with first day postmarks for the Bureau, Blenheim and the House of Commons; the Post Office First Day Cover shows Blenheim Palace where Churchill was born (he is buried nearby at Bladon). Three sponsored handstamps were used on the day of issue, as well as a special handstamp for the Churchill Centenary Exhibition at Somerset House, in use since 10 May. A one-day special was used on 14 October, the final day of the exhibition.

The presentation pack can be found with an insert card in German text, and the Post Office also produced a 'souvenir presentation pack' which featured an illustrated biography of Winston Churchill. The stamps themselves were presented in a plastic bubble strip slightly raised up from the body of the pack. This souvenir pack sold for 50p.

A stamp card (PHQ card) was produced only of the 5½p value; the card is known with the silver printing (Queen's head) missing. The 5½p value, the presentation pack and the souvenir pack sold out in September 1975 and the other three values were withdrawn on 8 October 1975 after a year on sale. Numbers sold ranged from 7.7 million of the 10p to 54 million of the 4½p first-class stamp. In addition, 146,050 presentation packs were sold, and 40,630 of the souvenir packs.

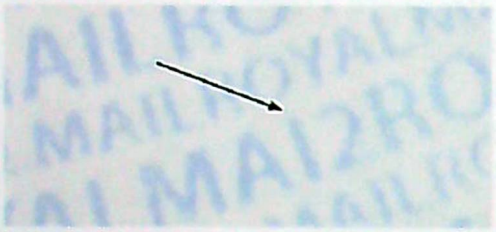
Some preliminary designs for the stamps by Collis Clements and Edward Hughes, with quotes from Churchill speeches, were shown in the *Bulletin* of September 1974. An article by Clements and Hughes, on how they had designed the stamps, appeared the following month •

Below: the Isle of Man Post also celebrated the Birth Centenary of Winston Churchill, with this se-tenant block of four stamps issued on 22 November 1974



The Post & Go story In the second part of his three-part special Douglas Myall FRPSL focuses on the rise of the NCR Post & Go machines and Machin label collectors' packs

IN THE FIRST part of this Post & Go history I looked at the introduction of Post & Go machines in 2008, with the introduction of Wincor Nixdorf models from Germany, followed by the short-lived transportable Hytechs, the current Royal Mail Series 2 machines and finally this year by the new NCR self-service kiosks. Here I will examine the relationship between yearcodes, text strings and dual-value labels (and more besides), and the NCRs.



1

Yearcodes These consist of the last two figures of a year and were introduced in 2010 as part of the iridescent overprint on Machin stamps. They are intended to indicate the year in which the warrant – authorising the stamp to be printed – was issued, and to provide a quality assurance check.

The first to appear on a Post & Go label was MA12 on the Christmas 2012 issue bearing the 2009 Robin design of the first Birds of Britain set. The same cylinder was used to overprint MA12 on both of the second-class labels vended from a Royal Mail Series 2 machine at Spring Stampex in 2013. The relevant part of the second-class stamp is shown here (1).

The rolls of Wincor labels would not fit into the NCR machines as the latter required rolls with a larger core. To avoid waste, enough Wincor blank labels were rereeled onto larger cores to meet requirements. This was done without regard to their yearcodes. Consequently, early NCR labels with the brown Machin head either have no yearcode or have MA13. Most of the blue labels for the second-class products also have MA13 but some have MA12. It was pot luck which one you got from a particular office.

Labels with MA14 began to appear in early July. These all come from rolls with the larger cores and were produced specially for the NCR machines.



2

Text strings The NCR software prints the location code of the vending post office. These are the same as those on the Wincor labels but include some new ones. The code on the one illustrated (2) is 008033, which is Harpenden.

NCR labels also have a feature that the Wincor ones did not: they include the same VAT codes that are used on Post Office Horizon labels, albeit with upper-case instead of lower-case letters for the Post Office services. (VAT codes for Parcelforce services are numerical only.) However, NCR labels sold in Collectors Sets do not have a VAT code.

With the tariff changes of 31 March 2014, some services disappeared and others were renamed. Some NCR machines were installed before the change and vended labels with the now obsolete indicia. These had a short life and came from just a few offices. For example, the service indicator for the airmail tracked and signed-for services, formerly known as Airsure and coded AAX,



3



4

were split into three and became known as International Signed-for (IS), International tracked (IT) or International Tracked and Signed-for (ITS). A couple of NCR labels for the obsolete AAX services are illustrated here (3 and 4). Both of them exist with VAT codes R5 and R6.

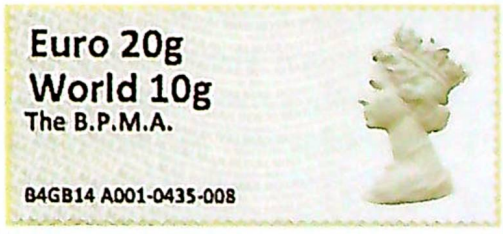
Dual value The number of different NCR indicia to date, including those for Parcelforce, is 50 and most of the Post Office services have more than one VAT code. One of them is unique in being valid for two different services, and is known as a dual-value label. This came about because a late decision was taken to retain the Worldwide up to 10g service but not before it had been removed from the software. Since the Worldwide 10g rate and the Europe 20g rate at the time were the same (97p), notices were displayed in the NCR offices advising the public to use an E20 label instead of a W10 one.

At the same time it was announced that a new label combining the two services would become available on 29 April this year. However, this was delayed and was not actually issued until 5 June. A dual-value label was available from 29 April but was vended from the Royal Mail Series 2 machine at the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) in London. Both labels are illustrated here (5 and 6). Neither has a VAT code.

The BPMA label with the April date shown was available for only two days as later examples had a different month code. The dual-value label was not vended from Wincor machines.



5



6



7

Typeface change The text on the two dual-value stamps has been considered by some as lacking finish, if not crude or unsophisticated. In response to the feedback it has received, Royal Mail has devised a new typeface, which is intended eventually for all its Post & Go machines (7).



8

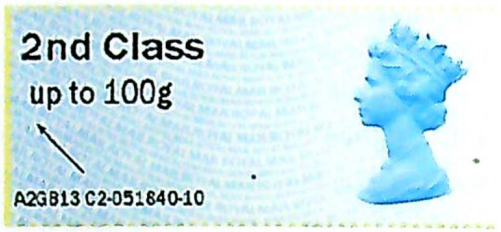
The first use of the new typeface was on labels dispensed from a static machine installed at the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth from 28 July this year. The machine is located in the Museum shop. The identifier on the new labels is 'The NMRN' (8). The first static machine was, however, the one at the BPMA. ▸



Right: the first Post & Go collectors' pack was issued on 31 March 2009 and contains each of the five values



9

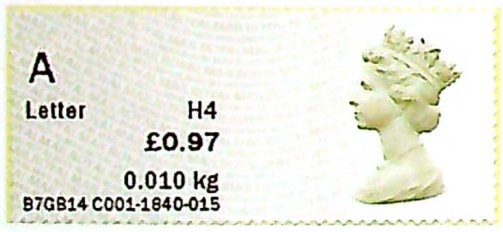


10

Collectors' packs As well as the packs of pictorial labels (mentioned in the first of this three-part series – see the September issue of the *Bulletin*), three packs have been issued with Machin labels. The first was issued on 31 March 2009 and contained one each of the five values in the first Collectors Set. The 'transaction numbers' in the print strings were 1 to 5. The service indicators on these labels were not printed by thermography like normally vended labels; instead they were printed in gravure.

The second pack with Machin labels was issued on 20 February 2013 when the first blue labels for second-class stamps were issued, one for letters and one for large letters. Labels from a special printing with MA12 yearcode were used for the packs and on official first day covers. These can be distinguished from those vended by the Wincor-Nixdorf machines because they used different typefaces and the text in the second line is inset by 1.5mm (9 and 10).

The third pack with Machin labels was issued on 7 July this year. It costs £3.78 from Tallents House, and this is the face value of the stamp content. The information on the insert card includes an explanation of the elements making up the print string. This is in the Royal Mail Series 2 format, B7GB14, which tells us that it was printed from reel B in Great Britain in July 2014. Although described as being 'as issued through NCR kiosks', they do not have the tapered typeface of labels from those machines. These five labels are unique in having a Royal Mail Series 2-type date string and a VAT code (11) •



11

Look out for the final part of this series in a future issue of the 'Bulletin' by British definitives expert Douglas Myall FRPSL. His catalogue, 'The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook', is a leading Machin reference book and is available on CD from www.deegam.com.















Comfort and joy The Christmas 2014 stamp set evokes the happiness of a traditional family celebration – for the young and not so young…

This year's festive issue celebrates all the exciting activities of a traditional British family Christmas, including carol singing, collecting the tree and posting cards to loved ones. Christmas 2014, launching on 4 November, offers five stamp designs, with the First Class and Second Class images duplicated on two Large values to create a seven-stamp set. Also in the issue are a Presentation Pack, Miniature Sheet, Generic Sheet, personalised Smilers® Sheets, Retail Stamp Books and Stamp Cards. In addition there are special Christmas postmarks. The set, following Royal Mail's practice of issuing stamps in alternate years with either secular or religious imagery, was designed by the True North agency and illustrated by the artist Andrew Bannecker. Andrew also created the pictures for the First Day Cover and the Presentation Pack.

Above: the seven stamps of this festive issue reflect the fun of a family Christmas

Stamp by stamp The Christmas 2014 issue comes in a range of values: Second Class, Second Class Large, First Class, First Class Large, £1.28, £1.47 and £2.15.

Collecting the Christmas Tree A father and his son (son and daughter in the Large version) trudge contentedly home in the snow, having picked up their tree in the run-up to Christmas. *Second Class*

Posting Christmas Cards A robin, cheekily perched on top of a post box, watches as a girl and little boy (accompanied by another child in the Large version) pop in their Christmas cards. *First Class*

Building a Snowman Already sporting a carrot nose and hat and scarf in traditional Christmas colours ▸

Christmas 2014 Stamps – Specifications

Date of issue	4 November
Number of stamps	Seven
Stamp design	True North
Stamp illustration	Andrew Bannecker
Stamp format – standard	Portrait
Stamp format – large	Landscape
Stamp size – standard	24mm x 28mm
Stamp size – large	34mm x 28mm
Printer	De La Rue Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	50
Perforations	14.5 x 15
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

Right: the Christmas 2014 Miniature Sheet with barcode and the Presentation Pack underneath – both illustrated by Andrew Bannecker

Please note that Royal Mail now receives a stock of Miniature Sheets from its secure printers bearing a tear-off barcode strip at the side for staff at Post Offices to scan to make the transaction easier and quicker. These will be supplied to our customers who can then choose whether or not to remove the strip. Royal Mail will continue to receive a supply of Miniature Sheets without the barcode strip for assembling the First Day Covers and for inclusion in the Presentation Packs and annual products only.



red and green, a snowman is completed when a boy adds a twig arm. *£1.28*

Carol Singing In the shimmering glow of a classic street lamp, a family sing a round of festive songs as the snow tumbles gently down. *£1.47*

Ice Skating In the final stamp, a mother and daughter skate together hand in hand on a frozen pond with a suitably festive backdrop of pine trees. *£2.15*

Christmas 2014 issue – Prices	
Presentation Pack	£8.25
Stamps	£7.71
Miniature Sheet	£7.71
First Day Cover Stamps/overseas	£9.73/£8.11
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet/overseas	£9.73/£8.11
Stamp Cards, set of 8	£3.60
Generic Sheet	£15.20
1st Class Stamp Book	£7.44
2nd Class Stamp Book	£6.36

Christmas 2014 Miniature Sheet – Specifications	
Number of stamps	Seven
Design	True North
Stamp format – standard	Portrait
Stamp format – large	Landscape
Stamp size – standard	24mm x 28mm
Stamp size – large	34mm x 28mm
Sheet size (without barcode)	146mm x 74mm
Sheet size (with barcode)	156mm x 74mm
Printer	De La Rue Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	15 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Also in the issue is a Presentation Pack with a bright, upbeat illustration by Andrew Bannecker that brings to life a festive rural scene: at the Snowy Village Christmas 2014 Fair, seasonal activities include the lighting of the Christmas tree, carol singing, skating, a Christmas jumper competition and tug o' war involving a giant Christmas cracker, a cake sale and a letter-writing workshop. Other entertainment includes a carousel and a large Ferris wheel and, of course, the traditional visit to see Santa Claus in his grotto.

The Generic Sheet features all the Christmas 2014 stamps except the £2.15 value, accompanied by more Bannecker illustrations and intriguing facts about British Christmas traditions. The Smilers® Sheet stamps can be personalised with a photograph to send on Christmas card envelopes to friends and family. The sheet borders were designed by True North and illustrated by Andrew Bannecker: tableaux include sledging, skating, snowman making and a snowball fight. The Smilers® are available in Second Class, First Class, £1.28 and £1.47. ▸







FD1420-PL



FD1420-TH



FD1420-NP

Above: the alternative pictorial, Tallents House and alternative non-pictorial postmarks

Left: the Christmas First Day Cover and underneath it the Generic Sheet



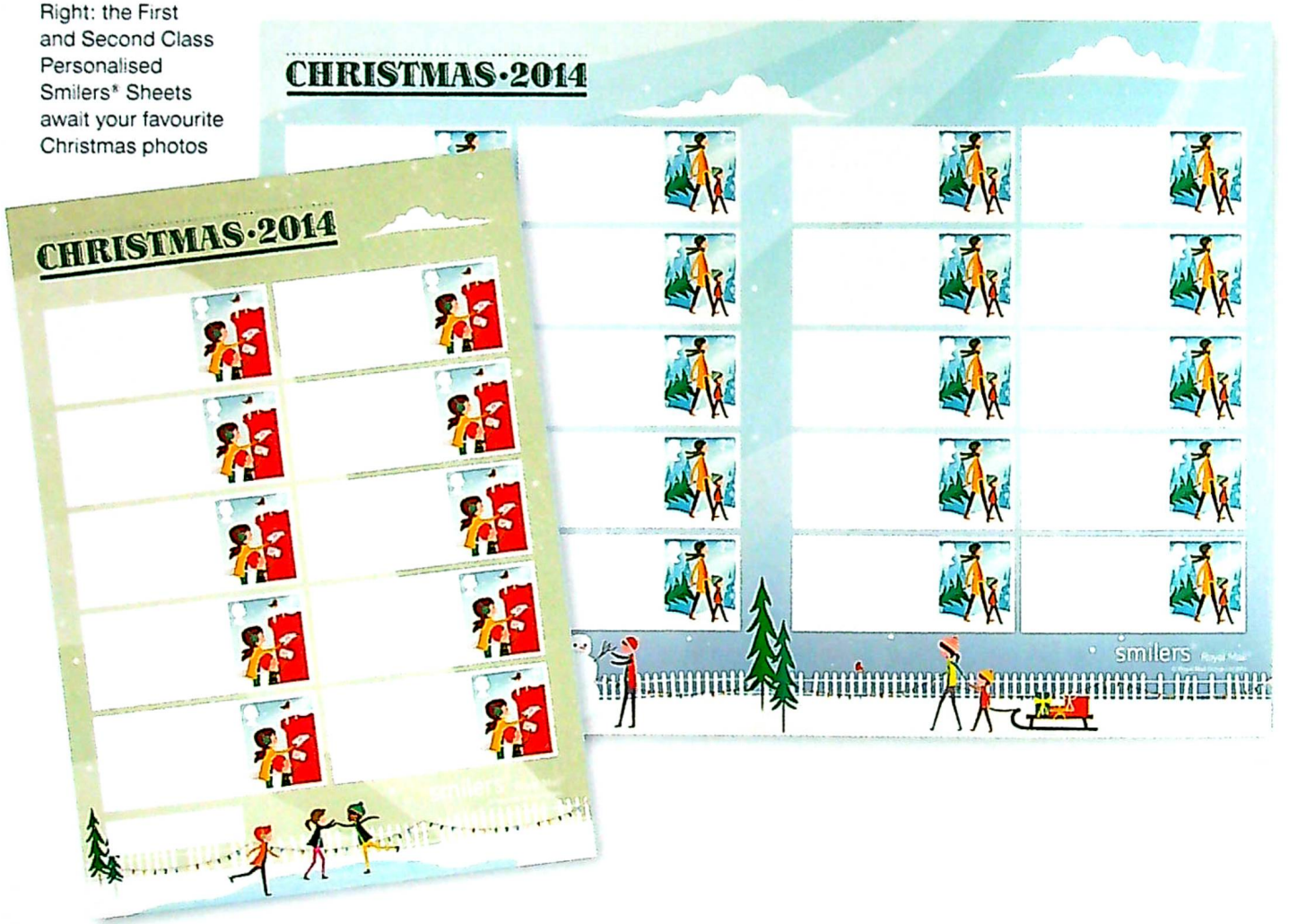
Above: the Christmas First Class and Second Class Retail Stamp Books

Christmas 2014 Stamp Books – Specifications

Issue date	4 November
Book format	12 x 1st Class, 12 x 2nd Class Special Stamps
Stamp format/size	Portrait/24mm x 28mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure

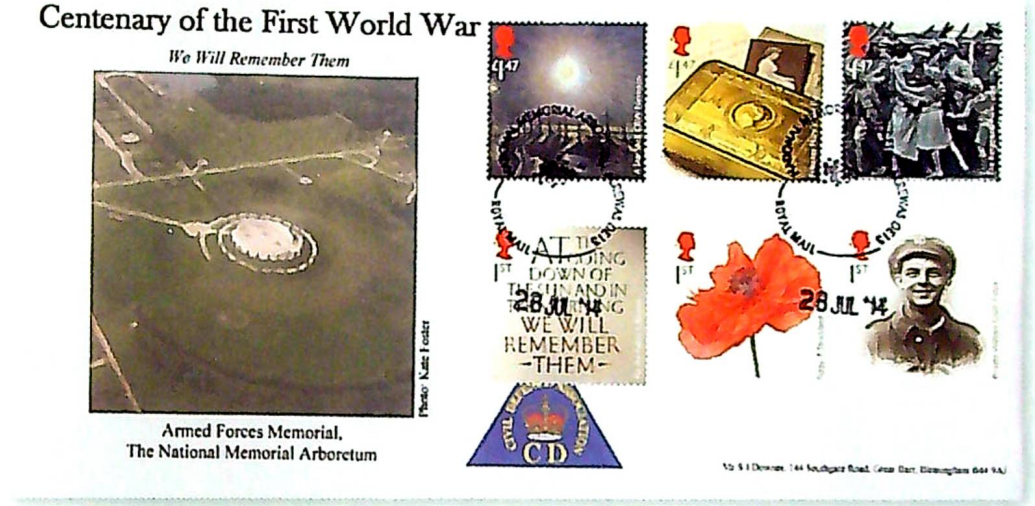
Orders for serviced first day covers should reach Royal Mail by 4 November. Send stamped self-addressed envelopes on the day of issue to Tallents House at 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark, which features the image of a Christmas tree. The non-pictorial and pictorial postmarks have the location Bethlehem, Llandeilo, with the pictorial mark showing a robin image. Those handing in stamped Royal Mail First Day Cover envelopes at main Post Offices on the day of issue receive the pictorial Bethlehem, Llandeilo mark •

Right: the First and Second Class Personalised Smilers® Sheets await your favourite Christmas photos



Military might, political power

William Doherty selects two new historical covers



Orders and enquiries

S J Downes
144 Southgate Road
Great Barr
Birmingham B44 9AJ
Phone: 0121 360 8305

We will remember them: the official Civil Defence Association first day cover for Royal Mail's Great War 1914 special stamp issue features an aerial photograph, by Kate Foster, of the National Memorial Arboretum beside the badge of the Civil Defence Association (CDA). The CDA supports former members of civil defence services and works to ensure that their sacrifices and activities are remembered. Civil defence services rose to prominence during the Second World War in response to the German air assault on Britain. Available in a limited edition of three dozen only, this rare cover costs just £16.50 inc p&p •



Orders and enquiries

Buckingham Covers
Warren House
Shearway Road
Folkestone
Kent CT19 4BF
www.buckinghamcovers.com
Phone: 01303 278137

Number 10 Downing Street – the world's most famous front door and home to Britain's leaders since 1735. This elegant first day cover, featuring the new Prime Ministers issue, celebrates the legendary address with the official 10 Downing Street Crest. The cover has a Westminster, London postmark with the Downing street postcode. There is also a special version signed by actor Derek Fowlds, of *Yes Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister*. It is out on 14 October (BC513, unsigned price £15.95 inc p&p; signed price £24.95 inc p&p) •

Question time Solve our PM puzzle and be voted a winner!



1 2 3 4



5 6 7 8



a)



b)

c)





d)



Elect to do our Question Time quiz for your chance to win a stunning Presentation Pack. Simply pair the four philatelic items marked a) to d) whose subjects chronologically match the premiership of PMs on four of the Prime Ministers stamps numbered 1 to 8.

For example, if you think item b matches the time in office of Harold Wilson in Stamp 2, write 2b. Remember, the four items match just four of the eight stamps.

Name That Stamp From the stamp detail under the magnifying glass, identify the person on it, the value of the stamp, and the year it was issued.

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'Quesion Time and/or 'October Name That Stamp' to: Bulletin Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.
Closing date 20 November 2014.

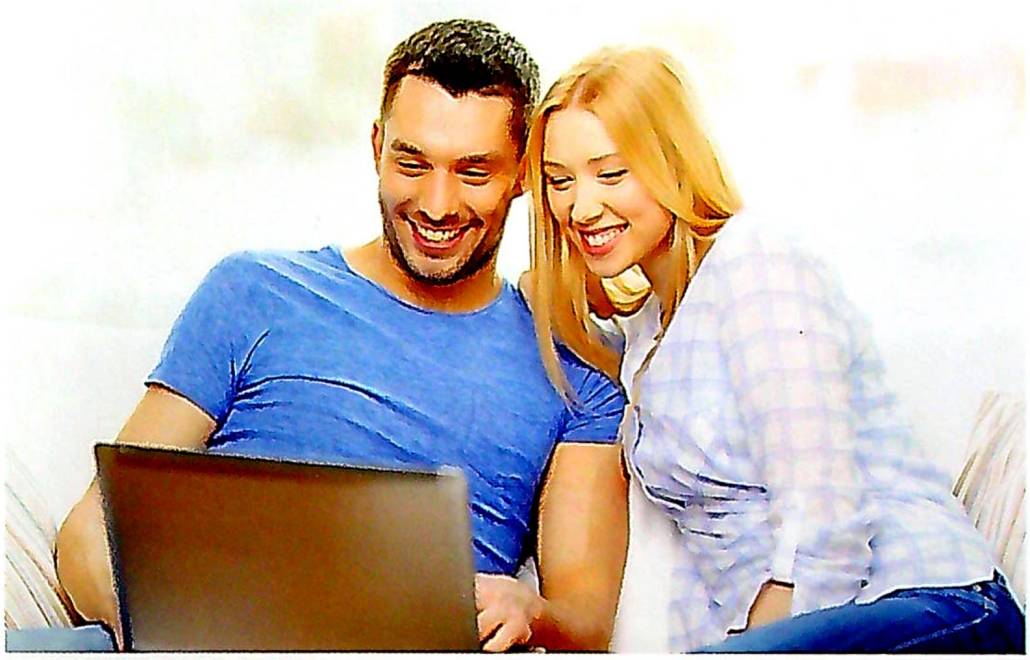
Prizes: The senders of the first five correct entries drawn at random for each puzzle win a Prime Ministers or Remarkable Lives Presentation Pack.

July solutions and winners *Pedal power solution* 1a, 2c, 3b, 4a. *Winner* D Williams, Cheshire. *Name That Stamp solution* IXth British Commonwealth Games Edinburgh 1970. *Winner* P H Wood, Hants •

Prize draw 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.

Stamp images: © Royal Mail Group Ltd

Unmissable FDC masterclass Covers guru Tony Buckingham reveals how you can be an expert too



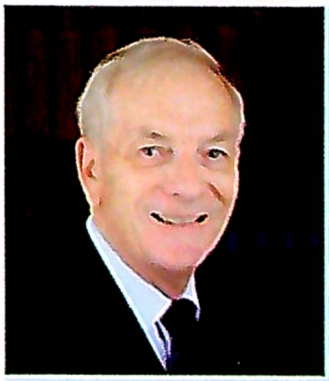
BECOME A COVER SPECIALIST by learning from some of the best in the business. An online tutorial, created by Buckingham Covers and starting on 31 October, gives you a broad understanding of covers: 12 lessons explore judging a good cover, kings and queens, the 1970s, officials, errors and much more. The course harnesses the expertise of Buckingham Covers Chairman Tony Buckingham and his Head Buyer Brian Austin (right).



Course material is completely free on the Buckingham Covers website, so anyone can benefit from the knowledge Tony and Brian have amassed. The pair emphasise that having inside information is vital in the covers business. 'Knowledge is king,' explains Tony. 'If you want the best, you have to arm yourself with as much information as possible.'

Brian, the Buckingham Covers Masterclass course tutor, adds: 'Every year I come across something new and I'm regularly faced with questions about the authenticity of covers I'm potentially buying. The learning never ends, but that just makes covers even more interesting.'

A paid version of the course offers participants marked assignments and a certificate at the end for a nominal fee. See below for enrolment •



About Tony Buckingham

A stamp collector since the age of six, Tony has over 30 years' experience in the covers business, and is a much-respected authority on first day and commemorative covers. He was the first winner of the coveted Rowland Hill Award for services to philately. Tony edited *Collect FDC* for almost 20 years and has also served on the Philatelic Trade Society Council. Buckingham Covers is based in Folkestone, Kent.

Course details

The Buckingham Covers Masterclass, the UK's only specialist covers course, starts on 31 October and consists of 12 lessons that are posted on the Buckingham Covers website every two weeks. To enrol on the course, call 01303 278137 or visit www.buckinghamcovers.com/masterclass.



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