

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 41 Number 11

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Bulletin

Woodland Animals stamps •
Court Post • Europa issues



**Woodland Animals: a new set
of ten 1st class stamps goes
on sale on 16 September.**

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover European red fox cub, Hampshire. The fox is one of ten animals featured in Royal Mail's new Woodland Animals stamp issue, previewed this month. Photograph by Andy Rouse/NHPA.

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

Royal Mail Tallents House
21 South Gyle Crescent,
Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK.
Telephone order line (08.30-
17.00 Monday-Friday): 08457
641 641; from overseas +44
131 316 7483

14 July	Withdrawal British Journey: Scotland stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and self-adhesive stamp book.
27 July	Issue Smilers sheet: 20 x 1st class Union Flag stamp and labels.
28 July	Withdrawal Smilers sheet: 20 x 1st class Cartoons stamps and labels.
3 August	Issue Royal Society of Arts stamp cards.
10 August	Issue Royal Society of Arts stamps and presentation pack.
11 August	Withdrawal Pub Signs stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
30 August	Withdrawal 1st class definitives in coils of 500 (issued April 1997) and 1000 (July 2001) • 1st class definitive in sheets of 200 (November 1997) • 1st class definitive in business sheets of 100 (self-adhesive, May 2002) • presentation pack of self-adhesive stamps (March 1997) • vended books of 10 x 1st and 10 x 2nd class (January 2001) • and 6 x 1st book (self-adhesive, flame colour, printed Questa, July 2002).

Royal Mail late news The Fruit and Vegetable stamps of 2003 recently won a Gold award for 'outstanding work across all sectors' from the British Design and Art Directors Association. Previous winners in this section have been the Apple Mac and the Guinness surfer advert. The Fruit & Veg stamps were also awarded silver in the graphics section.

Royal Mail took a stand at the Chelsea Flower Show to launch the Royal Horticultural Society stamps. Stand manager Rachel Lonsdale reported massive interest in the issue with excellent sales of the stamps, miniature sheet, pack and stamp cards. Well-known TV gardener Charlie Dimmock took part in promoting the stamp issue.

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.10 single copies from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 UK & Europe; £16.75 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group plc, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any article should be addressed to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by White Productions Ltd • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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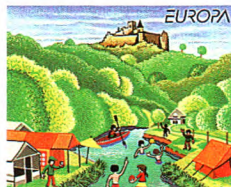


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This month The Editor previews this issue



Portuguese issue for the Euro 2004 football championships.

WHEN YOU READ THIS, the holiday season will have started and we take a break from special issues this month, returning in August with a set marking the 250th anniversary of the Royal Society of Arts. The issue, previewed in last month's *Bulletin*, is of interest to philatelists as it includes a stamp reproducing the Penny Black, and some of the designers of past stamp issues have been Royal Designers for Industry, a prestigious title awarded by the RSA. In this month's *Bulletin* we look at the forthcoming Woodland Animals set which goes on sale in September. The European Football Championships are being staged in Portugal with the final on 4 July. England is participating in the championships and a stamp issue will be made in the event of the soccer team emulating the English rugby team's success last November.

Readers will be pleased to hear that a display of Victorian stamps can now be seen at the Royal Mail Archive at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1 near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office. The Archive is now run by the Postal Heritage Trust, which has taken over the functions of the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum. We hope to feature some gems from the display in future issues. The Archive's website, www.royalmail.com/heritage has further information.

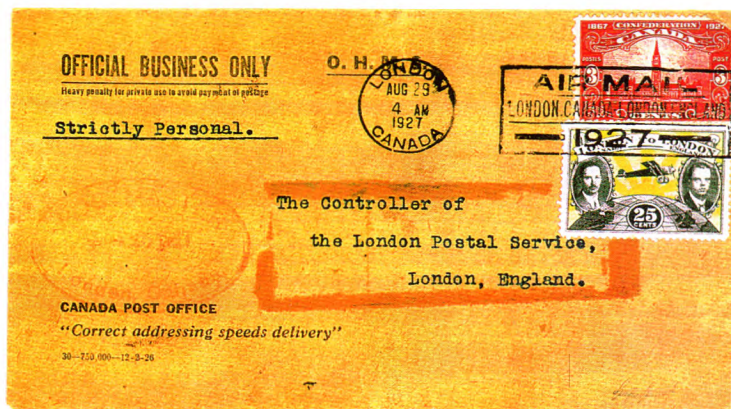
I hope you enjoy this month's *Bulletin* – we have our usual regular features, two competitions and a special prize draw. Whether you are reading this at home or on holiday, I hope you have an enjoyable Summer. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Stamp scene Upcoming events • Auction news • Map discovery • New publications

Events Thematica will be held at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (near Marble Arch) on 26-27 June. Opening hours are Saturday 10.30-17.30, Sunday 10.30-17.00, admission free. In addition to the many UK and overseas dealers, there will be displays and competitive exhibits, representatives from many of the UK's thematic societies, and the usual 'activity' area for young visitors. An attractive souvenir sheet (shown in May *Bulletin*, page 263) will be available. The sheets, limited to a production run of 5000, show design concepts from Jeffery Matthews for British stamp issues which were not used •

The 56th International Stamp Fair, 43rd Europa International Philatelic Exhibition and 20th Postcard Show will be held at the Palace of Tourism, Riccione, Italy, 27-29 August. (A Europa telephone card show will be held at the same time, and a National Numismatic Show on 4-5 September.) Last year the event attracted some 16,000 visitors. Riccione is a noted Adriatic resort with good hotels, restaurants, bars, and clubs •

For further details Contact
Comune Di Riccione, Palazzo
del Turismo, I-47838 Riccione,
Italy. Telephone +39 0541
692194.



The unique cover for the 1927 London Canada to London England flight sold in Harmer's 6 April auction.

Auctions Harmers' 6 April Airmail Stamps and Covers auction included the collection formed by Joseph Bergier. An Edward VII card with printed message 'Despatched from the Clouds, by Balloon Post, from the Beckenham Flower Show, Wed July 12, 1905' made £1882 (estimate £1000), and an official souvenir programme for the Schneider Trophy Contest of 1929 franked with ½d and 2½d PUC stamps cancelled Gosport and with various overseas postmarks (plus two other items) achieved £588 (£500). A large envelope franked with five George V 10s 'Seahorses' plus two 1s and 2s6d and 5s stamps sent to Brazil in 1937 and delayed by the breakdown of the DLH L287 went for £706 (£600). The auction included a number of Graf Zeppelin covers such one carried on the sixth South America flight franked with George V 1s cancelled London, red Air Mail and Anschluss flight cachets and South America extension flight cachet and Montevideo Exposition vignette on reverse which realised £353 (£250). Another carried on the fourth South America flight was sent from Leigh on Sea, Essex with LMS railway parcel stamp, has George V 2d, 3d and 5d stamps cancelled London, Graf Zeppelin vignette on reverse, Stuttgart transit and Rio de Janeiro arrival datestamps achieved £541 (£400). It is one of just three recorded Zeppelin/Railway stamp covers recorded for this flight. The top price in this sale was for an unused label and cover for the legendary London Canada to London England experimental flight by Captain T B Tully and Lt J V Medcalf in 1927. Only six examples of the label are known and the cover (above) is unique. Bidding for the two items ended at £70,575 (£60,000). Total for the sale was £2,766,076 including buyer's premium •

Spink's auction on 23 April included much fine GB material, both stamps and postal history. A Royal letter of 1610 (illuminated in gold on vellum), signed by James I went for £4500 (estimate £6000-8000), and a 2d Mulready letter sheet with ink addition to the design, London Paid tombstone cancel and 'Newington Butts/2D. PAID' realised £2700 (£4000-5000). A Penny Black on attractive pale pink envelope, tied by fine strike of Maltese Cross and on reverse a London cds for 10 May 1840 (first Sunday in May) made £5800 (£8000-£10,000), and a superb used block of four Blacks with inverted watermark realised £14,000 (£4000-5000). A complete sheet

Harmers For details of future auctions contact Harmers, No 11, 111 Power Road, London W4 5PY. Telephone 020 8747 6100. Website: www.harmers.com

Spink 69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET. Telephone 020 7563 4000. Website www.spink.com

of the 1929 PUC £1 made £13,000 (£8000-10,000), and an imperf block of the 3p magenta Machin went for £550 (£350-400). A block of four of the 1959-63 Bradbury Wilkinson 5s printed on the gummed side made £1000 (£1000-1200). Forthcoming Spink auctions in London are of Stamps and Covers of the World (8 July and 9 December), Australian States (22 September), Cape of Good Hope (23 September), Great Britain (20 October), and British Empire, featuring West Indies (21 October). An auction will be held in Hong Kong on 20 November •

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions
153-57 London Rd, Derby DE1
2SY. Telephone 01332 250970
or website www.Cavendish-auctions.com

Cavendish's GB auction, also on St George's Day, included 100 lots of the late Michael Jackson's collection of London, Brighton & South Coast Railway letter stamps and related material; prices realised ranged from £50 to £800. A letter from Rowland Hill on London Brighton Railway notepaper made £750 (£300); Hill was Chairman of the Railway, 1843-46. Two rare essays for railway letter stamps comprising Victorian 3d postage stamps suitably overprinted made £800 (£300) and Mr Jackson's specialised collections of LBSCR stamps unused, used and a collection of stamps with oval railway cancels realised £480, £380, and £420 respectively (estimates £240, £150, £150). The prices for the railway stamps used on covers, many very rare, ranged from £80 to £380. The sale included important postal history collections of East Sussex (Michael English), Worthing & District (John Hobbs), East Yorkshire (Tommy Simpson), York & District (Arthur Dent), and Scots Local Cancellations (Michael Champness). A 1d red with the very rare 'Oll(aberr)y' manuscript cancellation from the Shetland Islands made £1100 (£750). No examples of this MS cancel are known on cover and only a handful on off-cover stamps. A rare straight-line BRAE handstamp on 1d red made £440 (£300) but a similar from OLLABERRY went for under the estimate at £110 (£150). A Mulready sheet with charity advert inside redirected from Hastings to Yorkshire made £220 (est £150) and a rare first type straight line Beverley mark of 1711 realised £280 (£150). A collection of Hull Sorting Tender mail (56 covers and cards plus a few pieces) realised £320 (£200), and an attractive scarce Mulready letter sheet with advertisement for Yorkshire Fire & Life Insurance, sent from York to Bradford achieved £220 (£120).

There were some good prices for Victorian and modern material. A Mulready envelope sent from London to Leatherhead then forwarded to Fife with a Penny Black added made £1200 (£800) and three stockbooks of 1841 Penny reds – all early plates with Maltese Cross cancels realised £1900 (£700). Part reconstructions of Penny Red Plates 13-36 went for £3200 (£1500). Four lots of first day covers of 1989-92, many signed by personalities such as Joanna Lumley, Arnold Machin, David Jason, Sir David Attenborough, John Major, and Michael Portillo, went for between £1400 and £3400 (ests £400-500). Each lot contained 500-650 covers in binders. A Welsh version Princess Diana presentation pack made £40 (£60). A General auction will be held on 24 July •

Bonham will be holding an auction of Stamps & Covers of the World on 20 July. Enquiries: Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 1HH. Telephone 020 7393 3900 or see website www.bonhams.com •

For more auction results, see
Late News, page 351.

Postal map discovery A previously unknown wall map of the Post Roads of England and Wales has been discovered by the archivist at Holkham Hall, Norfolk. Although undated, it probably relates to the appointment of Thomas Coke, later the 1st Earl of Leicester, as a joint Postmaster General in 1733. This attractive map, which measures $29\frac{1}{2} \times 40$ inches, is coloured and shows, *inter alia*, the London posts, byposts, and cross posts, probably as they existed in the mid-1730s. If this date is verified, it is almost certainly the earliest extant map of the complete English and Welsh postal system and pre-dates the British Library's splendid wall map of c1770 by more than 30 years. One significant pointer to the date of the map is the absence of a postal connection between Cirencester and Bristol. (From 1741, the Bristol Road from London used a route through Cirencester three times a week.) By permission of the Earl of Leicester, the Midland (GB) Postal History Society has been allowed to make 100 photographic colour prints of the map. These measure 24×32 inches and cost £23.50 postpaid (sent in cardboard tube) •

Orders Cheques payable to W J Calladine should be sent to: 5 Skillins, Kington St Michael, Chippenham SN14 6RL.

New publications A new edition of Volume 1 of the Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Catalogue* is now available. The results currently achieved at auction for Victorian stamps, postal history, proofs and essays has necessitated a major revision of prices. The catalogue has been completely reset in a clearer easy-to-view style, and many of the illustrations have been improved. Some new watermark varieties have been added in the surface-printed section and there are plate number additions in the Underprints listing. In the section covering the 1d perforated line-engraved, there is a new price guide for distinctive cancellations. The Telegraph issues are re-priced in line with the current market, and more prices are given for the commercial under- and over-prints. A number of additions have been made to the bibliography. This is the first edition to bear the name of the new Catalogue Editor, Hugh Jefferies. The name of his colleague, Robert Oliver, will be familiar to users of the catalogue; Robert completed work on this edition shortly before he retired from SG after 49 years last December. We gather that he will still be involved with the *Specialised* catalogues, although now free from the daily grind of office work. The new *Great Britain Specialised Catalogue* Volume 1 is available from the SG shop in the Strand and from Stanley Gibbons Publications, at the address opposite.

A new title from SG is *Collect British Coins*, compiled by James Mackay. He begins with a six-page Survey of British Coins, followed by useful sections on Collecting Coins, Care and Conservation, Grading and Condition, Coin Terms, Recommended Reading, and Public Collections – all worthy reading for both tyro and advanced collectors. The listings are arranged under Celtic Coins, Roman Britain and Anglo-Saxon Coinage, then by reign. Following these listings of the standard coinage are sections



Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Mail Order Freephone 0800 611622 Monday-Friday 08.30-17.00.

The *Great Britain Specialised Catalogue* volume 1 is priced £29.95. UK postage £3.

Collect British Coins is available from the SG Strand shop, Stanley Gibbons Publications (above) and from Royal Mail Tallents House.

dealing with Britannia Coinage (the gold bullion coins issued by the Royal Mint since 1987), Proof and Specimen sets, Scottish, Channel Islands and Isle of Man coins. For early coins, values are given for examples in fine, very fine and extra fine condition; for more recent coins in extra fine and uncirculated state. Like stamps, coin collecting can be an expensive hobby but some Roman coins are priced at just £5 – which seems remarkable value for a little piece of history. The ‘dumbing-down’ of the coin market is indicated by an increasing number of commemorative issues and gimmicks such as coins with precious stones inset, holograms, and a wide variety of privy marks of a quasi-commemorative nature. Like stamps, coins have to be in general circulation to have any real credibility. However for all collectors of British coins, this new catalogue will be a useful guide, nicely produced and good value for money. Well illustrated, 144 pages, card covers. Price £9.95 •

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

Literature The latest American Topical Association handbook will appeal to all who enjoy paintings, as well as birds. *John James Audubon on Stamps* comprises an eight-page listing of stamps picturing Audubon’s avian art, from some 65 postal administrations. Amongst the more prolific issuers are Antigua & Barbuda, Bhutan, Dominica, Grenada and Grenadines, Haiti, Maldives, Nevis and USA. Scott or Minkus catalogue numbers are quoted. A systematic listing of all 251 of Audubon’s bird plates with full descriptions is followed by a listing of Audubon’s plates that appear on stamps. Regrettably there are few illustrations, which is a pity given the beauty of much of Audubon’s work. The book costs \$16 (\$14 for ATA members) plus postage (\$2 USA, \$3 Canada, \$4 elsewhere) from the American Topical Association at the address opposite •

GBPS Debbie Harman, Grey-
lands, Melton, Woodbridge
IP12 1QE.

The May/June issue of The GB Philatelic Society’s *Journal* includes features on the early use of the black Maltese Cross, Penny Black Plate 3, Victorian reams, and Edward VII varieties – all good specialist articles. The accompanying *GBPS Newsletter* is easier reading, with reports on the Society’s displays of British telegraph stamps and forms (17 January), George VI High Values (28 February) and the joint meeting with the British Aerophilatelic Federation (13 March), and features on Elihu Burritt, campaigner for Ocean Penny Post; The Queen and her stamps; private rouletting; Edward VII shades; Queen Victoria halfpenny orange; and reminiscences on A L Bert auctions – Ray Loveland, the proprietor, has recently celebrated his 85th birthday. As always, both publications are a credit to their Editors and to the Great Britain Philatelic Society. For information on the GBPS, contact Debbie Harman at the address opposite. The Society celebrates its golden jubilee next year •

People in the news (Nicholas) Damian Hockney, Editor of *Stamps* magazine in the early 1980s, was elected as one of two UKIP representatives on the London Assembly last month. Ram Gidoomal, a member of Royal Mail’s Stamp Advisory Committee, stood as the Christian Peoples Alliance candidate for Mayor of London; he polled 41,696 votes •

Royal Mail news Special issues • Smilers • Ingots • Business sheets • Stamp books

Special issues There are no special stamp issues this month; the 2004 programme continues on 10 August with a set commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Royal Society of Arts – this issue was previewed last month. In this *Bulletin* we give details of the Woodland Animals set (16 September) and shown here are two of the Crimean War stamps (12 October). They feature six men who fought in the War, from a photographic archive at the National Army Museum. The Christmas stamps and miniature sheet (2 November) reproduce specially commissioned paintings of Father Christmas by children's book illustrator Raymond Briggs.

A miniature sheet is to be issued when the new Scottish Parliament building is opened. The sheet will include 2nd class, 1st class and 40p Scottish country stamps and a view of the new building. At time of writing, the likely date of issue is October.

The programme for 2005 will be: Farm Animals (January); Magic Circle and British Journey: South West England (February); The Brontës (March); World Heritage Sites (April); Trooping the Colour (June); Motorcycles and British Journey: North of England (July); Gastronomy (August); Independent Television (September); Battle of Trafalgar (October); and Christmas (November). Exact dates of issue and numbers of stamps per set will be announced nearer the time. Miniature sheets will be issued with the Magic Circle, Trooping the Colour, Motorcycles, Battle of Trafalgar, and Christmas issues. Prestige stamp books for The Brontës and the Battle of Trafalgar will be issued in March and October, and a miniature sheet containing definitive stamps in March. A Smilers sheet will be issued for the Farm Animals set •

Smilers A new Smilers generic sheet containing 20 1st class Union Flag ('Union Jack') stamps, from the 2001 Flags & Ensigns miniature sheet, will be available from 27 July, just before the Olympic Games start in Athens, price £6.15. The colour labels feature typically British images. The sheet is being printed in litho by Walsall, yielding a new variety – the original stamp was printed in gravure by Questa. Also available will be sheets of 20 with your personalised image printed on the labels, price £14.95 for one sheet of 20 stamps, £13.95 each for 2-4 sheets, and £11.95 each for 5-9 sheets; enquire for prices for larger quantities. To order personalised sheets, see website www.royalmail.com/smlers or phone 0845 074 2000.

The Cartoon Smilers sheet (see *Bulletin* July 2003, page 329) will be withdrawn from sale on 28 July 2004. Still available are the Winter Robins (30 September 2003), 1st and 2nd class Ice Sculptures (4 November 2003), Hong Kong (30 January 2004), Occasions (3 February 2004), and Royal Horticultural Society (25 May) sheets. All £6.15 each except 2nd class Ice Sculptures which is £4.20. Personalised sheets are available at same prices as for Union Flag sheet – see above •



Two of the Crimean War issue stamps, shown at proof stage.

New stamp ingots series The first in a new series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V is now available. The first reproduces the Edward VII 1d stamp issued in 1902 and the first stamp in a British stamp book in March 1904. The series will continue in September with the Edward VII £1 stamp, and in November with George V 1d Mackennal profile definitive. Ingots for the George V 10s Seahorse high value, 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition, and 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress commemoratives will be available next year. Price £26.95 each from Tallents House. See the back cover advert of this issue for further details of the new stamp ingots.

The Victorian stamp ingot series is still available, price £26.95 each; see the back cover of last September's *Bulletin* for details •

Withdrawals Any remaining stock of the British Journey: Scotland stamps, pack, cards, and self-adhesive stamp book will be withdrawn from sale at Tallents House on 14 July. The Pub Signs stamps, packs, and cards will come off sale on 11 August •

Business sheets Shown below are the new business sheets of 100 1st and 2nd class stamps (£28 and £21) printed by Walsall. The covers bear the Royal Mail logo but without the former 'The Real Network' strapline. The sheets have been available since 15 June, and can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House and from Post Office philatelic outlets •





Stamp books New printings are now available of the 12 × 2nd class and the two Universal letter rate stamp books (Europe and Worldwide). The stamps are unchanged but on the front cover the Royal Mail logo is now shown without the 'The Real Network' strapline below the logo. Also available is a new printing of the 6 × 1st class book (£1.68), also without the Real Network strapline, but with the inscription 'Supporting/London 2012' at bottom left on the front cover. On the inside front cover is the wording 'Royal Mail is proud to support London's bid to host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in 2012.' All these new books were printed by Walsall Security Printers •

Stamp and coin publications Tallents House stocks two useful Stanley Gibbons publications – *Collect British Stamps* and the new *Collect British Coins*. They are available at £9.95 each (order codes PB378 and PB379). The Coins book is reviewed in this month's Stamp Scene •

Tweezers draw The winners of silver stamp tweezers in our draw in the April *Bulletin* were: F Rowbottom, T Byrne, N Pollock and C Barber •

Book cylinders

12 × 2nd W2 phosphor W2

4 × Worldwide W2 red • W2 ultramarine • W1 phosphor.

British Journey: Wales

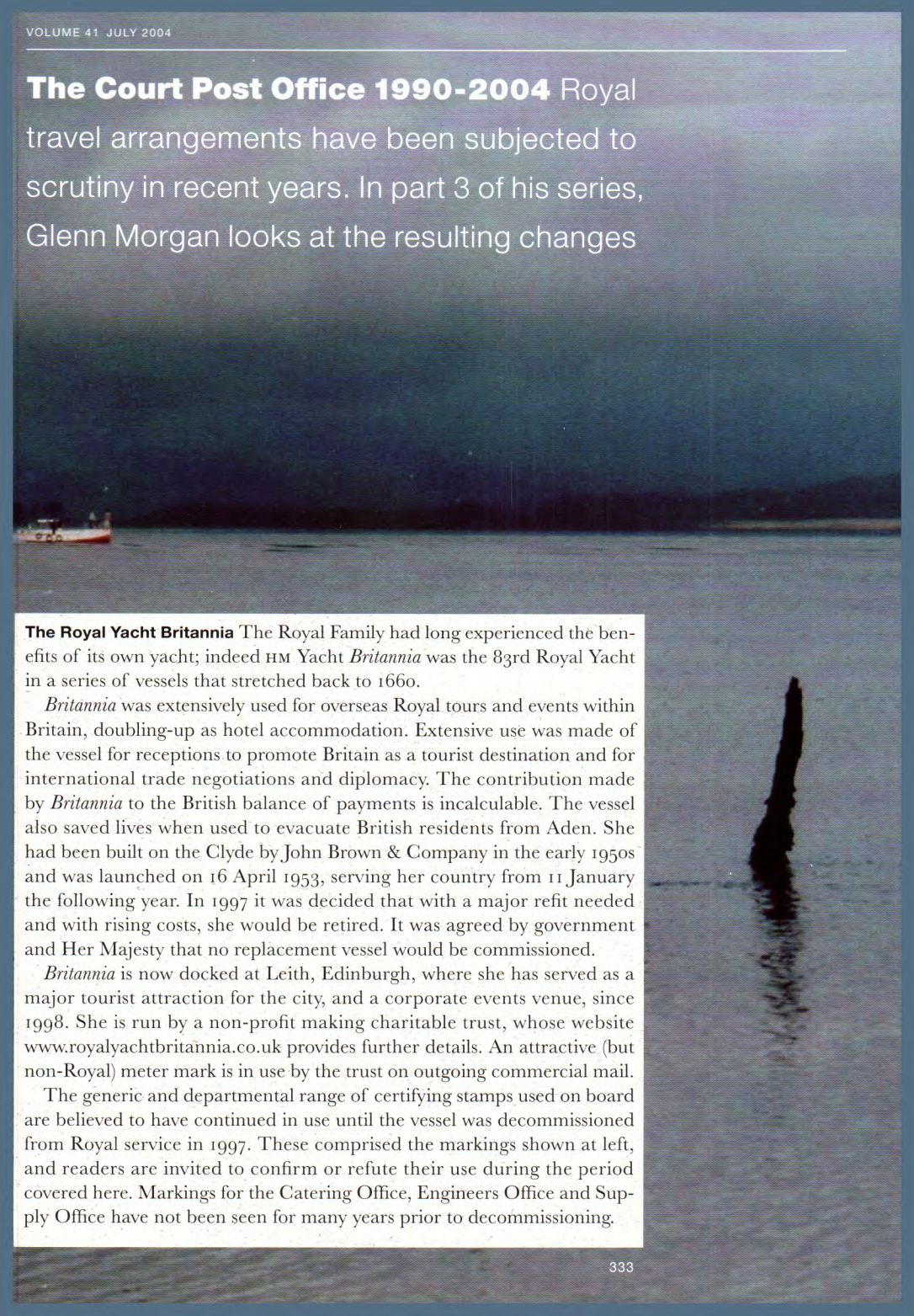
D1 phosphor • D1 silver • D1 black • D1 cyan (blue) • D1 yellow • D1 magenta • D1 gold



Above: *Britannia* travelling up the River Clyde towards Glasgow in October 1997.

Below: stamp from the Isle of Man Hong Kong miniature sheet, and certifying stamps used on *Britannia*.





The Court Post Office 1990-2004

Royal travel arrangements have been subjected to scrutiny in recent years. In part 3 of his series, Glenn Morgan looks at the resulting changes

The Royal Yacht Britannia The Royal Family had long experienced the benefits of its own yacht; indeed HM Yacht *Britannia* was the 83rd Royal Yacht in a series of vessels that stretched back to 1660.

Britannia was extensively used for overseas Royal tours and events within Britain, doubling-up as hotel accommodation. Extensive use was made of the vessel for receptions to promote Britain as a tourist destination and for international trade negotiations and diplomacy. The contribution made by *Britannia* to the British balance of payments is incalculable. The vessel also saved lives when used to evacuate British residents from Aden. She had been built on the Clyde by John Brown & Company in the early 1950s and was launched on 16 April 1953, serving her country from 11 January the following year. In 1997 it was decided that with a major refit needed and with rising costs, she would be retired. It was agreed by government and Her Majesty that no replacement vessel would be commissioned.

Britannia is now docked at Leith, Edinburgh, where she has served as a major tourist attraction for the city, and a corporate events venue, since 1998. She is run by a non-profit making charitable trust, whose website www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk provides further details. An attractive (but non-Royal) meter mark is in use by the trust on outgoing commercial mail.

The generic and departmental range of certifying stamps used on board are believed to have continued in use until the vessel was decommissioned from Royal service in 1997. These comprised the markings shown at left, and readers are invited to confirm or refute their use during the period covered here. Markings for the Catering Office, Engineers Office and Supply Office have not been seen for many years prior to decommissioning.



**By Appointment to
Her Majesty The Queen
Royal Train Operator
English Welsh & Scottish Railway Ltd
London**

The Royal train To mark the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty and Prince Philip in 1977, four new saloons were commissioned, continuing a means of travel inaugurated on 13 June 1842 when Queen Victoria first travelled from Slough to Paddington. The carriages were not new, being prototypes for the then new Inter-City MkIII passenger carriages, and were simply fitted-out for Royal use. They are owned by Network Rail and are pulled by the locomotive *Queen's Messenger*. This locomotive, owned by English Welsh and Scottish Railways, replaces the *Prince Henry* and *Prince William*, which had pulled the Royal train since 1995.

The Royal Train is used for around 20 journeys a year at a cost of almost £600,000. They cause minimal interruption to the scheduled passenger services; in fact much of the travelling is undertaken at night-time to ensure an early start the next day.

There are (and never have been) any special markings used on the Royal Train in Britain, although saloons are stocked with generic Royal stationery. All mail receives the normal Royal monogram certifying stamp of the period and a postmark of the nearest post office to where the train stopped. It may be possible to identify this mail if it bears a date and location that Her Majesty was known to have been visiting, although rarely can it be proved to have been written on the Royal Train.

Royal air travel Royal flying can be traced back to 1917 when The Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) became the first member of the Royal Family to fly, during the First World War. It was not until the 1930s that Royal flying became commonplace and on 26 July 1936, The King's Flight was formed at Hendon. Ten years later it was reformed in greater strength, flying out of RAF Benson, under the control of RAF Strike Command. It was renamed The Queen's Flight upon Her Majesty's accession. In 1995, The Queen's Flight was amalgamated with No 32 Squadron, which was renamed No 32 (The Royal) Squadron. At the same time the squadron moved from RAF Benson to its current location at RAF Northolt.

A generic undated cachet was used at RAF Benson during the period covered here (shown at right), as was one worded THE QUEEN'S FLIGHT / date / FLIGHT PLANNING within an oblong rule. Duties of Flight Planning include collecting and displaying weather information and dealing with navigation warnings for all of the country. Whether anything is used today at RAF Northolt has not been ascertained.

Road travel The Royal Mews is responsible for the Queen's State and private motor cars and the historic collection of carriages and coaches used for State occasions. A certifying cachet had been in use by the Royal Mews, although this is no longer in service following the postage cost accounting methods now in place. It was worded * / MASTER OF THE HORSE / * / THE ROYAL MEWS, S.W. with a large crown at the centre of an elliptical rule ●



Above: The Prince of Wales arriving on a helicopter of The Queen's Flight for the 350th anniversary of the Post Office at Bagshot Park in July 1985.

Opposite: Polishing the name plate on the EWS locomotive *Queen's Messenger*. When it is not required by the Royal Family, the locomotive is used for normal passenger service.



It is hoped that this survey will assist collectors to identify items they may be unaware of and therefore are probably missing from their collections. However, it must be stated that Royal Mail and Royal Household members employed at Royal residences are extremely busy and therefore cannot respond to requests for copies of any postal cachets or markings recorded here. As a refusal to comply with such a request may offend, please consult a dealer in British postal history or ephemera if you wish to obtain such material ● In the final instalment, Mr Morgan looks at mourning and celebration mail, and profiles recent Court Postmasters.

Woodland Animals Royal Mail's new set of



The stamps are designed by Kate Stephens, who designed the stamp issues for the 50th anniversaries of The Queen's accession and coronation.

TEN COLOURFUL 1ST CLASS STAMPS featuring much-loved animals from British woodlands will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 16 September. The se-tenant block is being printed in gravure by Enschedé. Post Office branches will be supplied with sheets of 30; sheets of 60, with gutter margin, will be supplied to Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

Technical details

Printer Enschedé
Process Gravure
Stamp size 35 x 37mm
Sheets 30 and 60
Perforation 14.5
Phosphor Two bands
Gum PVA
Gutter strips Horizontal

Cylinders and colours

E1 phosphor ● E1 gold ● E1 black ● E1 cyan (blue) ● E1 magenta ● E1 yellow

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 16 September, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Woodland, Bishop Auckland must reach Tallents House (see address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.71 UK or £3.16 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail South Shields DO, Keppell Street, South Shields NE33 1AA (Woodland postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO425' (Tallents House), or 'FDO426' (Woodland). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Woodland postmark. Details of other handstamps for 16 September will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

stamps featuring much-loved British animals



Top row From left to right: Pine marten (photographed by John Cancalosi), Roe deer (Andy Rouse), Badger (Laurie Campbell), Yellow-necked mouse (Stephen Dalton), Wild cat (Mark Hamblin)



Bottom row Red Squirrel (Niall Bervie), Stoat (Gordon Langsbury), Natterer's bat (Kim Taylor), Mole (Guy Edwardes), and Fox (Laurie Campbell).



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (above left) containing the 10 stamps (price £3.30) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from Tallents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets.

The pack, designed by Karen Wilks, includes text by the TV nature programme presenter Bill Oddie and Dr Kenny Taylor.

STAMP BOOK Please note that the self-adhesive stamp book for this issue, announced here in June, has now been cancelled. We regret any disappointment caused.



Above hedgehog, red squirrel and badger, three of the five 1977 British Wildlife stamps designed by Patrick Oxenham; and the common dormouse in the 1998 Endangered Species issue.

Woodland animals Woodland animals have featured on a number of GB stamps beginning with two charming designs by Michael Goaman – 1961 PO Savings Bank (above), and 1963 National Nature Week 4½d (badger, fawn and field mouse). The 1977 British Wildlife and 1986 Nature Conservation issues both included woodland species. The 1992 Wintertime set included a fallow deer and fox, and the common dormouse featured in the 1998 Endangered Species set. A red deer was shown on the second of the Nature of Scotland aerogrammes, issued July 1997. The Nature Conservation and Wintertime issues were voted the favourite sets of 1986 and 1992 and the dormouse the most popular stamp of 1998. It will be interesting to see how this new Woodland animals set does in the 2004 Stamp Poll.

The pine marten is closely related to the stoat, weasel and badger, but resembles a cat in being roughly the same size, great at climbing trees, and most active at night. Excellent eyesight and a good sense of smell help a marten to navigate. Once nearly extinct in Britain, the pine marten is now increasing in numbers as tree cover grows once again. Its diet includes berries, beetles, eggs, birds, rodents and rabbits. Pine martens are mostly found in woodlands in northern Scotland and Ireland.

Many roe deer begin life as twins (even triplets) but each fawn stays by itself while its mother grazes, relying on the camouflage of its spotted coat to hide it from danger. Adult roe deer can sometimes be quite noisy; both bucks (male) and does (female) bark when they spot a predator. They feed mostly on grasses, herbs, fresh and succulent tree shoots and leaves, and live in woodland throughout Britain and Ireland.

The black-and-white-striped headgear makes a badger instantly recognisable. Digging is often a sign of badgers but the animals only emerge from their underground 'setts' at dusk. Badgers live in families of up to a dozen animals, using scent marking to proclaim ownership of a territory. They feed on berries, tubers, earthworms, insects, rodents, and frogs.

The yellow-necked mouse was the last of Britain's native rodents to be scientifically described, and much about its behaviour remains unknown. Named for its coloured collar, it is slightly larger than its close relative, the wood mouse, and found in mature, broad-leaved woodlands where it is an agile climber. Its diet comprises tree seeds, fruit, fungi, insects, and worms. Its habitat is restricted to southern England and the Welsh borders.



The Wild cat is Britain's only native cat, now found only in northern Scotland. Domestic cats – originally from north Africa and south-west Asia – were first brought to Britain more than 2000 years ago. Wild and pet cats have interbred, producing fertile offspring, but a few hundred free-living wild cats still survive, although one of the world's most endangered cats. Wild cats eat rodents, birds, mountain hare, frogs, and fish.

With its light body, bushy tail and long, curved claws, the red squirrel is adept at leaping between trees. Although still found in large numbers across the northern world, in Britain red squirrels are now outnumbered by the introduced grey squirrels, and found principally in conifer woodlands in Scotland and parts of Ireland. Reds feed on conifer seeds, acorns, hazelnuts, berries, fungi, and bark.

The stoat is noted for its coat – reddish-brown and cream blend in the summer, and pure white in winter. The winter coat, known as 'ermine', was once prized as trimming for expensive robes. As days darken in autumn, stoats in northern Britain turn white, helping to hide them in snow; however in the south, this seasonal colour shift is much less dramatic. Stoats feed on small mammals, especially rabbits.

Like all bats, the Natterer's bat relies on sound for a detailed image of its surroundings. It sends out a rapid stream of calls and listens for echoes – a natural radar that enables it to fly and hunt at night. They leave their daytime summer roosts in buildings and treeholes late in the evening to snatch small flies, beetles, harvestmen, spiders and caterpillars near trees or over water. They are found in woodland and farmland across the British Isles.

Everything about a mole is fine-tuned for life underground; the huge, sideways-facing forefeet can move its own weight in soil every minute. Moles, which feed mostly on earthworms, beetles, slugs, and snails, are found on mainland Britain and on some islands, but not in Ireland. Mole hills are a menace to gardeners and it was one such hill which legend has it brought down King William III from his horse. When the King succumbed to his injuries, his opponents toasted the 'little man in the velvet coat'.

The red fox is the world's most widespread carnivore, thriving in a wide range of places and eating earthworms, beetles, berries, and food scavenged from bins and compost heaps. It is found in broad-leaved and conifer woods, farmland, and city gardens throughout Britain and Ireland ●

Above a squirrel on 1961 PO Savings Bank 3d; badger on 1963 National Nature Week 4½d; and a pine marten and wild cat from the 1986 Nature Conservation set designed by Ken Lilly.

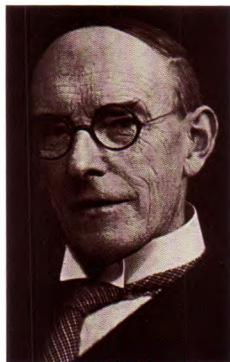
Eminent early collectors Benjamin Goodfellow collected from an early age, and went on to receive philately's highest honours. Ron Negus describes his interests and influence.

BEING INVITED TO SIGN the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists is now recognized as one of the foremost honours that any collector can receive. Originally, this premier award was going to be known as the Order of Philatelic Merit. The individual who was responsible for changing its title was Benjamin Goodfellow, who was at that time on the Executive Committee of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, which is the body that determines recipients of the award each year. In 1923, he became a signatory to the Roll himself.

Benjamin Goodfellow was born on 12 January 1864 in Hyde in Cheshire, and was just two years old when his father died. Following this sad event, his mother took him and his younger brother to live in Ashton-under-Lyne at the boarding and day school kept by her widowed father, William Sutherland, JP.

He attended the school until the age of 14, and then studied at a college in Manchester. From there, he earned a place at London University and began his studies in law. After passing his first examination for the LL.B degree he returned to Manchester to take his articles. After qualifying, he took up practice on his own account and spent the next 50 years as a solicitor in that city.

His office was in the same building as another very eminent dealer and collector, Percy L Pemberton, although neither knew each other initially. Their joint interest in stamps brought them together, however, and they became firm friends. Another close friendship was forged later with another well-known philatelist, W Dorning Beckton, who was also a Manchester solicitor. (An article outlining Beckton's biography appeared in the 'Eminent Early Collectors' series in the October 1997 *Bulletin*.)



Balloon mail Goodfellow's interest in stamp collecting started at an early age, when an uncle showed him a letter which had been flown out of France by the balloon post, during the siege of Paris in the Franco-German war of 1870-72. Soon after this, both he and his brother decided that stamp collecting was interesting and they began receiving approval sheets from Stanley Gibbons, who were at that time operating out of offices in Gower Street, London. Whilst their

schoolboy pocket money was precious, they tried to buy one or two specimens from the sheets each time they arrived.

Whilst his brother lost interest, a birthday present of a two-volume Gibbons *Imperial Album* gave Benjamin the incentive to continue his collection. He kept this album for the whole of his life. He commented once that it bore an entry stating that in 1882 he had amassed 1062 different stamps, at which point he stopped counting.

Soon after this, Goodfellow had to suspend his philatelic activities, as the firm to which he was articulated were the solicitors involved with getting the controversial Manchester Ship Canal Bills through Parliament. This meant long sessions in London and often working day and night. At this time, he also became fascinated with mountain climbing and spent many hours at this pursuit, firstly in the Lake District and later in Norway. Despite these alternative demands for cash, he resisted the temptation to sell any of his stamps – a decision he never regretted.

Swaps stopped In 1894 he married, and his wife bore him two sons. When they grew old enough, Goodfellow found that they enjoyed stamp collecting and this rekindled his own interest in the hobby. When he later discovered that 'good' dup-

licates from his own collection were being swapped by them at school for the latest gaudy South American pictorials, he quickly took charge of all stamp matters within his household.

His own interests began to turn toward British North American material, of which he built up a comprehensive collection. In particular, he made specialist studies of Prince Edward Island issues, which led to amendments of that Colony's listings being made in Stanley Gibbons catalogue. He also read a paper on the subject before the Royal Philatelic Society in 1913. After exhibiting his North American items at the New York International Exhibition of 1926, he sold the Prince Edward Island material to Alfred Lightenstein, and the balance to Warren Colson, both eminent American collectors of the time.

In the following years, Goodfellow's interests covered most of the world. He was at one time described as 'belonging to the old school of collectors who knew a good deal about almost everything and a very great deal about his own special interests.' In the latter category, he was particularly noted for his collections of Scandinavia and New Zealand.

An association with Scandinavian stamps was strengthened by his knowledge of Norwegian, a language he had learnt through many visits to the country to pursue his mountaineering hobby. His paper to the Royal Philatelic Society in 1924 on the 'Types of the 4 Skilling Norway 1863-66 issue' earned him the prestigious Tapling medal.

His New Zealand specialized material was housed in no fewer than 20 albums and led to numerous articles on the subject. He edited the New Zealand section of the *Regent Stamp Catalogue* published by Robson Lowe in 1923. Among the treasures in his large collection was an entire sheet of 240 of the scarce New Zealand 2d vermilion of 1871.

Organized philately It was natural that when he took up collecting again in the early 1900s, Goodfellow soon became involved in organized philately. He joined the Manchester Philatelic Society, who were the hosts to the first Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in 1909, and was soon asked to

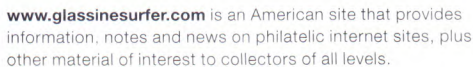
become a member of the committee of both organizations. Later, he became the President of the Manchester Society, following on from his friend W Dorning Beckton.

Two years later, Dorning Beckton proposed Goodfellow for membership to the Royal Philatelic Society, London and his association with the premier Society began. In 1923, he joined the Council of the Royal and in 1934 was appointed as Vice-President. In 1945, just before his death, he was made an Honorary Life Fellow, which is the highest honour that the Council have in their power to award.

His role at the Royal was notable also for the legal work he did voluntarily in connection with obtaining a permanent home for that Society in Devonshire Place, London – in premises in which it still meets today. In 1919, at a celebration dinner to mark the 50th anniversary of the Society's founding, a fund for a new home was launched. Goodfellow was amongst the first subscribe and donated the significant sum of £50 (£1375 at today's prices) toward the appeal. He said later that apart from helping the Society, he also regarded it as a thanks offering for the safe return of his eldest son from his service as a pilot in the First World War.

Goodfellow acted as a judge at many exhibitions, including the New York International of 1926, mentioned earlier. At this event, he had already submitted some entries before being asked to join the judging panel. He requested his material be removed from competition and placed in the 'hors concours' category, as he felt it wrong for a judge to also have competitive exhibits in the show.

Towards the end of his life, Benjamin Goodfellow was prevented by illness from participating actively in philately, but he remained a keen correspondent. On 11 July 1946, at the age of 82, he died at his home in Manchester. He was survived by his wife and his two sons. His passing was mourned by the many collectors who had enjoyed his charming easy manner, as well as his great personal kindness and hospitality at so many philatelic events •

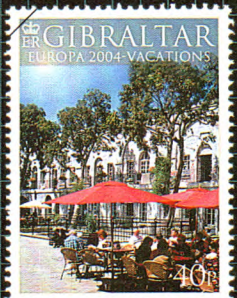


One area that I have never covered in my column is 'stamp auctions'. This has been a deliberate decision. I find there are so many sites and the similarity of how they are designed makes it difficult to select any one company for review. One advantage of using the internet to purchase through this route is that it is easy to examine the items being offered at auctions overseas. To find appropriate sites only requires you to enter the name of the auctioneer into your search engine. All major auction houses have web sites now ●

A new feature on this site is a 'Who Was Who in British Philately' section designed and maintained by Brian Schofield FRPSL for the British Philatelic Trust. This alphabetic listing of the biographies of eminent British philatelists who have now died is also available as a hardback book from the BPT. It was realised that any such printed work must inevitably go out of date quickly, and the introduction of this electronic version

Europa stamp issues

SHOWN HERE are some of this year's Europa stamps, on the theme of Holidays. Royal Mail's contribution comprises the 1st class and 40p stamps in the British Journey: Wales set (15 June) which carry the EUROPA logo in the top right corner •



Mainly Machins D G A Myall examines recent book issues

Self-adhesive stamp books, 6 × 1st One of the most successful series of decimal stamp books is the one which contains six 1st class stamps, comprising a block of four Machins flanked by two special issue stamps chosen from a contemporary issue. They are very popular with the public, who might never see the special issue in the ordinary course, and with Royal Mail, who see them as an excellent opportunity to introduce the specials to a wider clientele. They are also popular with collectors as the books are often the only source of the specials in self-adhesive form or may be from a different printer to the firm which printed the conventionally-gummed sheet issue.

The first book in the series was printed by The House of Questa and issued on 17 April 2001. The Machin stamps were the flame colour and the specials were from the Submarine issue. Perhaps because it was the first issue, or because the print run was a small one for this new venture, this book is now scarce and mint copies sell for around £6. Other books have been printed by Walsall and De La Rue. The last to contain flame-coloured Machins was the Football World Cup book, printed by Walsall and issued on 21 May 2002. Several changes were introduced with the next issue on 10 September 2002. This was printed by Questa and contained the Tower Bridge stamp from the London Bridges issue. The definitives were in the now permanent gold colour. The covers have the single notch at the top right which tells the blind or partially sighted that the contents are 1st class stamps. Another change introduced with this issue was the removal of the 'matrix' paper surrounding the stamps. Because of this, the cylinder numbers are now printed on a white strip at the right of the stamps instead of on the matrix between the definitives.

There are now 12 books in the series, with others due later in the year. The latest has four gold Machins and two of the 1st class stamp from the Ocean Liners set, featuring RMS *Queen Mary 2*.

The Machin definitives are printed from a single colour cylinder but the other stamps require several more and there is a special phosphor cyl-

inder to print the narrow bars on the definitives and wide ones on the other stamps. Each printer adds his initial to the cylinder numbers engraved by him. Only one cylinder combination exists per issue as, presumably, the print runs are not long enough to require more. Thus Questa's are all Q1, Walsall's are all W1 and De La Rue's are all D1. However, as far as the Machin stamps are concerned, there is reason to believe that not all De La Rue's D1's are the same. I have mentioned this in earlier *Bulletin* articles where I commented on the different shapes of the letters D and the varying positions of the definitive NV1 cylinder. Now there is further evidence, provided by the Ocean Liners book.

In 1997 Royal Mail introduced a new, more sharply defined, image of The Queen's head and required its use by all printers under contract to them. This was supplied by Harrison (as it then was) to other firms in digital form and has been used in the production of all cylinders by computerised methods. You can see the details of this improved image if you look at any recent definitive under a magnifying glass. A linen tester is useful for this although a ×10 glass is preferable if you are serious about studying your stamps. The change is most evident in the hair and corsage. The new image has been used on all definitives in the mixed series books so far. De La Rue's cylinders are made out house; the cylinders for Northern Ireland and Ocean Liners books were made by different cylinder engravers. This has resulted in a slight difference between images.

Universal 'Chevron' books On 27 March 2003, Royal Mail introduced a new series of books of self-adhesives for airmail. These contained four airmail labels on the inside left panel and four stamps on the inside right panel. The stamps differed from any that had been issued before. Each had the well-known red, white and blue airmail chevrons at the right. The service that they were intended for was indicated not by a value or symbol, but in words. The Machin image was on a white ground, reminiscent of the Millennium



Above: the latest in the series of books containing mixed Machin and special issue self-adhesives.

For Airmail postcards to all destinations worldwide
minimum size 90mm x 140mm
maximum size 120mm x 235mm

Cardiau post Post Awyr
ledled y byd
maint lleiaf 90mm x 140mm
maint mwyaf 120mm x 235mm

0845 7740 740
www.royalmail.com
0845 600 0606

4xWorldwide Postcard

World Society Postcard Limited, UK
5 014721 118482

Left: the worldwide book was introduced on 27 March 2003 along with the European rate version.



Above: coil-printed singles of the European and Worldwide stamps. Earlier singles were punched from booklet covers, and so had text on the back.

issue of 2000. The chevrons were repeated on a white strip right of the stamps. Cylinder numbers were placed on the white parts of this strip. There were two books, one for European letters and one for Worldwide service. Both prepay the 20g-40g weight, although the wording reads 'up to' 40g. Cylinder combinations seen to date are as follows, with the colour numbers left of the solidus and the phosphor number to the right of it. Europe: w1 w1/w1; w2 w2/w1. Worldwide: w1 w1/w1. On 1 April 2004, a third book in this series was issued. The stamps prepay the worldwide airmail rate for postcards. They were printed from cylinders w1 w1 w1/w1. The third colour cylinder prints the grey image of the stamp.

Although these books are the only source of the stamps generally available, singles were printed in coil form for use in official presentation packs,

on official first day covers and for sale from Talents House. For the first two books, these were punched out of booklet covers, so packs contain singles with different text on the back depending on which of the four positions they occupied originally. For the new stamp, the coils were a special printing on a plain white substrate. Mint examples therefore exist in only two forms (with and without printing on the back) instead of four.

One variety of considerable importance exists. A few official first day covers with the Windsor handstamp are known with only one phosphor bar on the postcard stamp instead of two. It is quite possible that others exist, and it is worth having a look at your covers. If you know of any in presentation packs I would be pleased to hear about them. Hopefully an explanation of this strange variety will be available in due course ●

Filling a void Richard West looks at the role of the regional

Right: buying from dealers, a key feature of virtually all Conventions, and a souvenir postcard to mark the NEPA centenary in 2003.



54th Annual NEPA Convention
12th April 2003

100 years of Organised Philately
in the North East



MOST COLLECTORS REALISE that close to where they live there is a local philatelic society, meeting once, twice, or possibly even more frequently each month. Some are probably also aware that there is a national body that acts as an umbrella organisation for not only the local but also the specialist (those that focus on a particular collecting interest) stamp groups, and which is also the liaison between those in the hobby in the United Kingdom and overseas.

What may not be appreciated is that there is also an intermediate layer, known as the area or regional Federations. In many respects these form the link between the local societies and the national body.

To an extent the idea of such Federations is relatively new, although the first was established just over 100 years ago. The North East of England Philatelic Association (NEPA) celebrated its centenary in 2003. The majority of such Federations, which often operate on a county basis, were established during the 1940s and 1950s, some more recently.

Fostering meetings Their aim is to bring together the societies within their area, invariably providing the opportunity for members of neighbouring societies to meet. While many local societies do enjoy 'visits' from other societies in their area, with normally a small team of say three or four members providing an evening's entertainment,

it is surprising how members of societies situated quite close rarely meet.

So it is that most Federations hold, once or twice a year, a Convention, at which all the member societies come together. Often one society will act as host, finding a venue which is suitable for the occasion. Such events are often funded by having a range of dealers present (like a stamp fair), so there must be sufficient space to accommodate the dealers' tables and allow ample room for the visiting public to wander around. Usually there is a display of material, provided by the host or other member societies.

Most Federations stage annual competitions, and the entries are also put on display. In the UK it is possible for collectors to enter one of the national competitions having never previously entered a competition. However, in many other countries there is a qualifying system, and collectors have to qualify first at their local society, then at regional level, before being permitted to exhibit nationally. It is a requisite that entries have to qualify at national level before they are allowed to be exhibited internationally.

A few Federations in addition provide a special talk and display during the Convention. Plus, of course, the visitors will need somewhere to sit down and relax, to enjoy conversation and some refreshments. Suitable car parking facilities are also essential; how well a venue is served by public transport is also a consideration.

Federations, and how they can help collectors and societies

These Conventions provide an excellent opportunity for collectors to meet, and not just those in the area. Many will travel quite long distances to attend such Conventions. Hopefully as many of the member societies as possible will offer to act as host over the years, so that a wide variety of locations can be enjoyed. In addition, many try to help their members by arranging postal auctions and exchange packet circuits, providing the means for both selling and buying material.

Spreading information By far the best service that most provide is a newsletter or magazine. These provide details of what is happening with all the member societies, often giving a full list of all future meetings. This can prove invaluable for those prepared to travel to see a particular display, or to hear a certain speaker. These magazines will also often include a few general articles of wide appeal.

Some Federations are successfully staging seminars and workshops on a variety of subjects from thematic collecting, understanding social philately, to the best way of presenting an exhibit and judging. In addition to more 'public' events each Federation will hold periodic committee meetings, at which representatives from each of the member societies can air their views, and put forward ideas for the future.

As with all aspects of the hobby, the Federations need funding. This is normally achieved by asking each member society for a small fee. Any profit made from Conventions, and the commission from auctions can help provide the necessary funding, which is often then used to produce the newsletter.

Progressing the hobby As with the national organisation, not all see the need for such regional bodies. However, if everyone in the hobby tries to act alone, as an island, we will not progress. It is not only the opportunities to meet with other collectors, and share our enthusiasm, which are important. It is also being aware of the needs of our hobby and of seeing the way forward.

The Conventions are public events, and, if successfully publicised and in a good location, can draw in a curious but uncommitted audience. A local society trying to promote the hobby, whether it be to the young or not so young, will have an uphill struggle on its own, but by working as a team, as part of a Federation, much more can be achieved.

The same also applies if you prefer to enjoy your hobby on your own. You can gather so much more information, knowledge and enjoyment by meeting with others, sharing not only your particular interest, but learning of what others find fascinating. These are all part of the advantages of being a member of a local society, benefits and enjoyment which can only be extended further by also using to the full the benefits offered by your own regional Federation.

There are at present 20 associations and federations, as listed below, with their year of founding and number of affiliated societies. Further details can be found in the Association of British Philatelic Societies Directory & Handbook •

Cornwall Philatelic Federation	1971	9
East Midlands & East Anglian Philatelic Federation	1950	31
Association of Essex Philatelic Societies	1944	26
Hampshire Philatelic Federation	1970	25
Isle of Man Philatelic Federation	1975	7
Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies	1947	24
Middlesex Philatelic Federation	1950	18
Midland Philatelic Federation	1963	41
North East of England Philatelic Association	1903	18
North Western Philatelic Federation	1948	41
Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies	1924	43
Somerset & Dorset Philatelic Federation	1971	15
Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies	1969	17
Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies	1958	18
Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies	1947	27
Thames Valley & District Philatelic Federation	1974	6
Three Counties Federation of Philatelic Societies (Gloucestershire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire)		8
Wessex Philatelic Federation	1946	18
Wiltshire & District Philatelic Federation	1960	7
Yorkshire Philatelic Association	1947	23

TEXT: IAN HICKS; PHOTO: WIKIS 2004

Posting boxes 221



THE FIRST of this month's photos (above) shows a redundant Victorian wall box in the Yorkshire village of Wetwang. The photo was submitted by Mr C J Moore, who tells us the box contains flowers as part of the decorations for the 'Scarecrow Competitions' which are held in some Yorkshire villages during the summer months. Around the corner from the disused box is a Elizabeth II box still in use, the collection plate showing the collection time of 5pm.

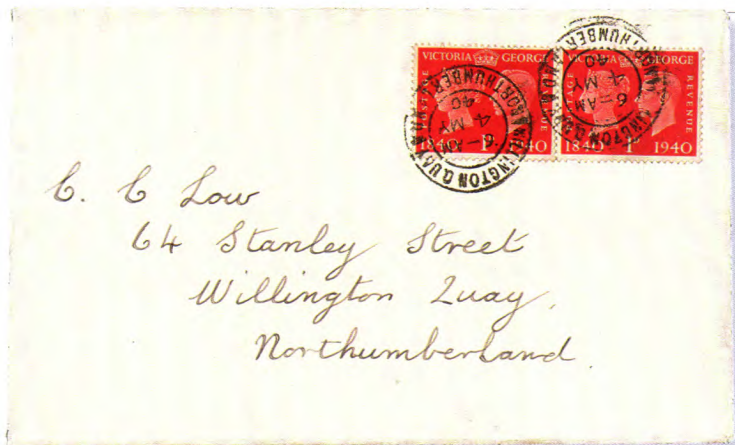
The second photo (opposite, at left), sent in by Mr J Kennett is of a modern box at a Texaco petrol station in Eltham, London SE9. Information on this has been supplied by Martin Robinson, the author of the popular book *Old Letter Boxes*. He writes: 'The box in question is called a 'garage box' by the Letter Box Study Group and was first reported in 2002. They are usually found at garages or occasionally outside supermarkets. There are Scottish and English versions, ie with the Scottish crown alone, or with the **ELIR** cipher. They are made of metal, bear the royal cipher, have a rounded top, are red with a black base and the large panel on the body of the box advertises Post Office services. They are made by Romec (Royal Mail Engineering and Construction). Earlier versions of the garage box first appeared in 1998 and there were several differing types, either wall-mounted or standing on a metal base. They were made of glass-reinforced plastic (GRP) and

were private, without a cipher and with a flatter red top, the body of the box being black with a large panel for private advertising. They are or were operated by Postal Facilities of Lytham St Annes, but were approved by the Post Office. A large number of these boxes seem to have come and gone quite quickly. Since the late 1980s there have been other private boxes bearing advertising, often called Minipost or Midipost, and usually sited at supermarkets'. Mr Robinson supplied our third photo (below right), showing one of the earlier types of private garage boxes •



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

Cover corner A 1940 Penny Black centenary 1d pre-issue



I BOUGHT THIS FROM a dealer's cheap box for a few pence. A quick glance indicates that it is nothing special, apart from a nicely cancelled pair of the 1940 1d issue. A closer examination reveals that the cancellation is that of a small sub-post office, Willington Quay, in the east part of Wallsend, so this makes it a bit more unusual. However, when we examine the date we find it is 4 May 1940, two days before this stamp was officially issued – this is unusual. There is apparently no

record of pre-release covers of this issue in the Benham First Day Cover catalogue or in other sources. Furthermore the time of cancellation is 6am! The rule should be: check your covers carefully for datestamps, cachets, etc – you might discover you have something out of the ordinary! *Robert Phillifent* •

Another cover for the 1940 Stamp Centenary set, but with correct 6 May postmark, was featured here in May 2000. ED

Special draw Definitive presentation pack folder to be won



FOR THIS MONTH'S special draw, we have two of the attractive folders containing packs of the definitive and country stamps. For a chance to win one, simply write your name and address on the

back of a postcard and send to Definitives Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 30 July •

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



April identify The detail was from the 47p RHS anniversary stamp. The winner was J O'Hare of Galway, Ireland.

April knowledge Answers: 1) Siobhan Keaney; 2) olive-green; 3) 1914. The winner was K Elder of Edinburgh.

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

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

- 1 Who designed the 1995 Cats stamps?
- 2 In which year was Lord Portal featured on a stamp?
- 3 In which year was the first British miniature sheet issued?

Send your answer (addressed to either the *July Identify* competition or *July Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a scaled envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 13 August will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition.

The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

Until 11 January 2005 The Queen's Own: Stamps that Changed the World exhibition (stamps from the Royal Philatelic Collection) at Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Old Post Office, near Union Station, Washington DC. Admission free.

26-27 June Thematica at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2, Sat 10.30-17.30, Sun 10.30-17.00. Dealers, exhibits, childrens section. Admission free. **Enquiries** Thematic Exhibitions, 0208343 2434, e-mail mlgale@btconnect.com

30-31 July York Stamp and Coin Fair, at York Racecourse.

13-28 August Olympiflex 04, specialised world Olympics/Sports international exhibition Athens.

28 August - 1 September Singapore 2004 international at Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre, Marine Centre, Singapore (including World Stamp Championships) **Enquiries** UK Commissioner, B Sole, 3 Stockfield Rd, Claygate, Esher KY10 0QG. Telephone 01372 467652.

1-4 September The Picture Postcard Show 2004 (formerly BIPEX) at New Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat & Elverton Streets, London SW1. **Enquiries** M Day 0151 339 5422 or D Popplestone 02380 446143. Website www.postcard.co.uk

11 September City of Preston PS Stamp & Card Fair at Barton Village Hall. 10.00-16.00. 15-20 dealers - stamps, cards, postal history. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX ●

Late news

Smilers sheets now listed The new 2004 edition of Stanley Gibbons's *Great Britain Concise Catalogue* now lists the generic Smilers sheets issued since 2000. Titled 'Post Office Label Sheets', they are given LS numbers. Top prices are for the 2000 Christmas sheets; the similar 2001 sheets with Consignia in the margin are listed but not priced. The *Concise* will be reviewed next month •

Auctions Corbitts All World auction (22 April) realised £340,000. A pair of original letters from the 1910 Scott Antarctic Expedition, written by the expedition surgeon, made £3200 (est £1500), and a 1d Mulready envelope from Jersey with a SOUTHAMPTON/SHIP LETTER postmark £1600 (£1400) and a 2d Mulready letter sheet with two 1d red brown added went for £4800 (£4000). An unissued 1998 Joyce Grenville 30p stamp (instead of 37p) reached £720 (£650), and a seven-album collection of FDC and special event covers went for £1250 (£600). For details of future auctions contact Corbitts on 0191 232 7268 or see website www.corbitts.com •

Spink's 5 May auction of Gerald Sattin's collection of Soldiers' Rates of the British Empire to 1898 realised £121,510 despite many unsold items. Top price of £13,000 (est £12,000-15,000) was for an 1854 cover from Melbourne, Australia to Galway, Ireland via Peru where it connected with the British Packet for England. An entire 1796 letter from a private in the Loyal Inverness Fencibles at Kilkenny to Inverness with manuscript 'Irish 8/Eng 1/Paid 9' and Kilkenny and Dublin handstamps sold for £2300 (£1200-1500). The Louis Grunin collection of GB caricatures and illustrated envelopes (6 May) raised £305,270 with realisations from £70 to £15,000. A Fores 'Dancng Envelope' no 3 realised £4800 (£3000-4000), and a Robert Hume 'Musical Envelope' no 1 showing Robert Burns made £3000 (£1500-1800). Top price of £15,000 (£2000-2500) was for a 1840 'Victoria & Albert' envelope bearing a 1840 1d plate IV tied by red Maltese Cross. For details of future sales contact Spink on 020 7563 4000 or see website www.spink.com •

Harmers' All World auction on 6 May included rare Middle East items. Five Qatar covers (1955-60) including an airmail cover sent to Bombay with 6a on 6d with violet 'REGISTERED/DOHA' cancel made £9998 (£150). Other areas also did well, such as Rhodesia and Cape of Good Hope: an 1861 'Woodblock' 1d blue error of colour went for £7058 (£4000) and complete sheets of Hong Kong 1948 Silver Wedding stamps made £11,174 (£7500). GB was popular, with Penny Blacks selling well; a plated reconstruction of 240 including three pairs, many with four margins, sold for £15,291 (£15,000). The sale total was £556,919. For details of future auctions contact Harmers on 020 8747 6100 or see www.harmers.com •

Bonham's 19 May Stamps and Covers of the World auction included a collection of GB 1840-1963 which went for £2100 (est £800-1000), and a mainly mint accumulation of 1902-26 including good range of shades and controls which made £2600 (£200-250). A collection of 153 1d red plates 71-224 realised £1250 (£200-250), and cylinder blocks of Edward VIII 1/2d and 1d with scarce control A36 made £360 (£250-300). A first day cover of the 1968 2s6d Castle on unwatermarked paper made £60 (£80-100). For details of future sales contact Bonhams on 020 7393 3900 or see website www.bonhams.com •

Royal book A major new philatelic publication is now available – *The Queen's Stamps: The Authorised History of the Royal Philatelic Collection* by Nicholas Courtney, the author of *Sporting Royals*, *Royal Children*, *Princess Anne*, and *Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother*. Mr Courtney's book provides a guided tour of the Royal Collection, describing how it has grown through the reigns of six monarchs. This well-illustrated book, published by Methuen Publishing Ltd, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EJ, is available in bookshops, price £25 hardback (ISBN 0 413 77228 4). A review will be published next month. Stamps from the Collection are on show at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington DC until January – see April *Bulletin* p255 •

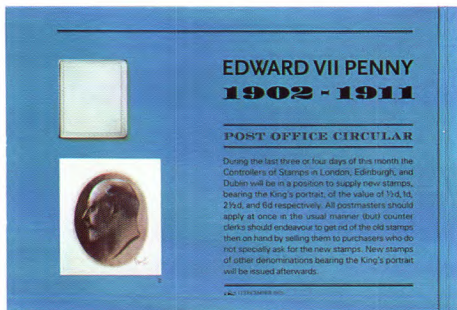
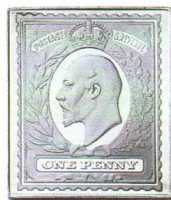
Edward VII and George V Ingot Collection



Edward VII Penny
THE EDWARD VII & GEORGE V STAMP INGOT COLLECTION



Royal Mail



ISSUE OF BOOKS POSTAGE STAMPS

BOOKS containing information on 15 stamps are now on sale at 50p each - price in 1902.

The books are of a convenient size for carrying in the pocket, and information on the prices, and information on the stamps, and information on the stamps.

When on 22 January of reassessment stamps to the new King. So less than the artist - but a portrait, and the most part, the design of the

THE FIRST BRITISH STAMP TO BE SOLD IN BOOKLETS



Royal Mail's new collection of six Stamp Ingot Packs is based on key stamps issued during the reigns of Edward VII and George V. The featured stamps and dates of issue are: Edward VII Penny (15 June 2004), Edward VII Pound (16 September 2004), George V Mackennal Profile Penny (30 November 2004), George V Seahorse Ten Shillings (22 February 2005), George V British Empire Exhibition Penny (17 May 2005), and George V PUC Pound (9 August 2005).

Each Ingot is encapsulated in a blister within a fold-out booklet enclosed in a slipcase. The slipcase cover of the booklet will feature an 'actual size' close-up of a rare sheet of the stamp, while the inner booklet will include fascinating information and imagery.

Each Ingot will cost £26.95 but customers subscribing to all six will be charged £13.50 for the Edward VII Penny and will also receive a free Collection storage box when they are sent the George V Mackennal Profile Penny Ingot Pack.

Royal Mail

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



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Ingot shown above right is actual size