

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

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MAY 2002 • 85P

The Commonwealth Games
• Royal Collection on tour



Wishing England well at this summer's World Cup finals: a new miniature sheet and 1st class stamp from Royal Mail.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Royal Mail's World Cup stamp and miniature sheet will go on sale on 21 May. This issue was previewed in the *Bulletin* last month. Photograph by Geoff Dann.

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 Colchester, Coventry, Croydon Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool London (Trafalgar Square and Eastcheap), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth Portsmouth, Southampton Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud Truro, Windsor and York

2 May

Issue Airliners stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, and stamp book (4 × 1st class definitives and 2 × 1st class Airliners, all self-adhesive).

9 May

Issue Business sheets of 100 1st and 2nd class stamps printed by Enschedé. All self-adhesive.

14 May

Issue World Cup stamp cards (six cards showing 1st class stamp, four stamps from miniature sheet, and complete miniature sheet).

14 May

Withdrawal Buses stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards and postbag,

21 May

Issue World Cup stamp, miniature sheet, presentation pack, and stamp book (4 × 1st class definitives and 2 × 1st class World Cup, all self-adhesive).

31 May

Issue World Cup coin cover (available from Tallents House only).

1 June

Issue Golden Jubilee coin cover (issue postponed from 6 February; available from Tallents House only)
 ● *Queen Elizabeth II – A Jubilee Portrait in Stamps* book available from Tallents House with commemorative document or British Library/bookshops without document.

5 June

Issue Books of six and 12 1st class NV1 definitive in gold (previously flame/orange) printed by Questa and Walsall (books of six) and Walsall (12). Matrix (margin) surrounding stamps removed. New book cover design.

5 June

Issue Scotland 1st and 2nd class stamps printed by De La Rue (previously Walsall).

18 June

Withdrawal Fabulous Hats stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

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The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies, from Post Office Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe; £13.50 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives details of forthcoming special hand-stamps. Available on annual subscription, from Edinburgh address above: UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Design and text Consignia plc, unless attributed to a specific author. Requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • **Royal Mail** is a trading name of Consignia plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1Y 9HQ

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Stamp scene Rowland Hill Awards dinner

• Stampex • Royal Collection • Societies



Barry Robinson, Royal Mail's Stamp Programme Director, accepting from Angela Rippon the Rowland Hill Outstanding Achievement Award and Phillips Medal for Stamp Design on behalf of Czeslaw Slania. John Roberts (left), Chief Executive of Consignia, described Slania as 'the award-winning, record breaking master engraver'.

Rowland Hill Awards The awards for philatelic achievement during 2001 were presented at a dinner held at the Draper's Hall, London on 19 March. Compere for the evening was broadcaster Angela Rippon. The awards were presented by Gavin Macrae, Managing Director of Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles, Nigel Howarth of the Philatelic Traders' Society, and Francis Kiddle, Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust, the three sponsoring organisations. Czeslaw Slania, who unfortunately was ill and unable to attend, was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award for engraving some of the world's finest stamps for over 50 years •

Autumn Stampex For details contact the Philatelic Traders' Society, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. Telephone 020 7490 1005.

National Youth Stamp Group For information about activities contact Anne Dummer, 2a Bryant Road, Kettering NN15 6JE. Telephone 01536 519959.

Successful Stampex Spring Stampex (27 February - 3 March) attracted almost 7000 visitors – the highest number since Autumn 1996. The number of visitors on the first day broke records for the same period. On entering the hall the visitor was greeted with some superb exhibits mounted by fellows and members of the Royal Philatelic Society – these ranged over a wide range of topics and naturally included some fine displays of GB material including Line Engraved stamps of 1840-41, Royalty Mail, GB Telegraphs, Uses of the 1881 1d Lilac, 1890 Jubilee of Uniform Penny Postage, 1902-35 stamp booklets, and greetings telegrams. Given that it is Golden Jubilee year, and The Queen is Patron of the Royal Philatelic Society, it is a shame that there were no British stamps of her reign included in these displays. However that was rectified by Heritage Services Consignia with an enjoyable display of designs for definitive and pictorial issues, the highlight being the proposed new definitives of the early 1980s. The Stampex catalogue includes a well-written six-page account of this display, and Douglas Muir of Heritage Services wrote on the subject in the February *Bulletin* (page 187). Upstairs on the Gallery were interesting displays by members of the Forces Postal History Society and the Scandinavian Philatelic Society, with members on hand to talk to visitors. The Scandinavian displays included some of the fine stamps engraved by Czeslaw Slania, recently honoured at the Rowland Hill Awards (see above).

The National Youth Stamp Group Area welcomed more young collectors than in recent years; the numbers were so great that frantic photocopying of the challenge sheets used by the young collectors was needed. The challenges enabled them to earn points to spend in a free auction held on Saturday. This was conducted by James Grimwood-Taylor of Cavendish Philatelic Auctions. On the Saturday and Sunday there were two computers on the stand so that Pat Grimwood-Taylor could demonstrate the new

website 'Planetstamp' and let the youngsters have a go. It is aimed at young collectors so Pat was able to talk to the children to get their comments and see what they would like to be included in the website. Considerable interest was shown by adults as well as the children.

Most of the dealers were kept busy, and the organisers were delighted to welcome back Stanley Gibbons, the Crown Agents, Harry Allen (representing five overseas postal administrations), and the post offices of Guernsey, Jersey, Isle of Man, and Gibraltar.

We look forward to Autumn Stampex on 18-22 September when visitors will have a chance to see the entries for the National Competitions (senior and junior) and a display by members of the Cinderella Stamp Club •



Finding the answers in the Heritage Services, Consignia, display.

Royal Collection on tour Major items from the collection of HM The Queen will be on show in a special exhibition at three Royal residences. The exhibition can be seen at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, 27 April - 5 May; at Sandringham House Museum, Norfolk, 11-19 May; and at Hampton Court Palace, Surrey, 25 May - 4 June. Among the gems on show are the cover bearing 10 Penny Blacks, posted on the first day of validity, 6 May 1840; the largest known block of Twopence Blue; the 1910 Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum on cover; and Treasury Competition essays. The exhibition will also feature the Post Office Mauritius 2d mint and the 'Ball Cover', two of the most famous and valuable items in the Royal Philatelic Collection. Other major attractions include the British Guiana 1850 'Cotton Reels', Bermuda 1848 'Perots', and pages from a decorative album of Canadian stamps presented to George V when Duke of York to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The travelling exhibition has been made possible by the enthusiasm and co-operation of the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, British Forces Post Office, Stanley Gibbons, and AON Insurance. The Crown Agents display will feature a selection of UK Overseas Territories and Commonwealth stamps. A special brochure will be available at the exhibition, price expected to be £4.95 •

Holyroodhouse Open 09.30-18.00. Adults £6.50, over-60s £5, under-17s £3.30, under-5s free. Entry to the philatelic exhibition in the State Apartments is free. Enquiries 0131 556 7371.

Sandringham Open 11.00-17.00. Adults £6, over-60s £5, children £3.50. (Reduced admission for over-60s and children to gardens and museum only). Free entry to the philatelic exhibition in the museum. Enquiries 01553 772675.

Hampton Court Open 09.30-18.00. Adults £10.80, over-60s £8.30, children £7.20. Free entry to philatelic exhibition in the Cartoon Gallery. Enquiries 020 8781 9500.

New publications James Bendon Ltd has published a new Philatelic Literature list of titles dealing with Aerophilately, Bibliography, Forgeries, General Works, Maritime, Military, Philatelic History, Postal Stationery, and Revenue Stamps. For a copy of the 84-page listing write to the address opposite •

James Bendon Ltd PO Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus.

A 2000/2001 supplement to the Stanley Gibbons GB Specialised Catalogue Vol 5 (Decimal Commemorative Stamps) is now available, price £17.95, also the 2002 edition of the GB Concise Catalogue and the 6th edition of Part 7 (Germany) of the standard SG catalogue. The Concise costs £17.95, Part 7 £24.95. A 6th edition of Part 2 (Austria & Hungary) is scheduled for publication in July •

Stanley Gibbons Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Telephone 01425 472363.

Thematica or further details or entry forms (to be returned by 10 May) send a stamped addressed envelope to: Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG.

Thematica will take place at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (near Marble Arch) on 29-30 June. Many of the displays will come from young collectors throughout the UK who have entered a special competition focusing on 'The Life and Times of Queen Elizabeth II'. However all thematic collectors can enter one of the competitions. For those who have never won a thematic competition at national or international level, there is the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy. All that is required are 16 pages on any theme; this competition is judged by the visiting public. For those with perhaps a little more thematic competition experience, there is the British Thematic Association Trophy. Judged to the same rules as Stampex, medals are awarded. Entry fee is £27 (£15 for members of the British Thematic Association). Finally there is the Inter-Federation Thematic Competition, each federation entering the winner of the federation's own thematic competition in the past year. The public judge this competition and the winning federation receives the Friends of Thematica Healey and Wise Salver. Admission to Thematica is free and there will, as usual, be thematic dealers from many parts of the world, plus representatives from many of the UK's thematic societies ●

Friends of Postal Heritage

For details contact Membership Secretary: Avice Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX.

Friends of Postal Heritage At its recent AGM the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum agreed to adopt a new name – the Association of Friends of Postal Heritage. This reflects the change in the name to Heritage Services of the department within Consignia PLC responsible for what used to be Post Office Archives and the former National Postal Museum. 2001 was a difficult year for the Association with few events arranged and only one issue of its journal published. The Association's newly elected Council is confident that during 2002 Friends will be able to enjoy a full programme of visits and meetings and that *Cross Post* will be published regularly ●

Rail/Mail weekend enquiries

Nene Valley Railway, Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR. Telephone 01780 784444.

Rail/Mail weekend Following the success of the weekend in 2000, the Nene Valley Railway will be running a similar event on 15-16 June. The Didcot Railway Centre will be bringing the superbly restored GWR Travelling Post Office No 814 for the event which will feature: exchanges of mail to and from a moving train using lineside apparatus and the GW TPO; LMS TPO which is under restoration; SR TPO with a demonstration of mail sorting by experienced TPO workers who will answer questions; a chance for visitors to have a go at sorting the mail; displays of PO vehicles, railway letter service stamps and covers; and a special passenger timetable with normal train fares. The usual facilities at Wansford Station will also be open for visitors ●

First postcard makes £27,000 The world's oldest postcard, sent in 1840, was sold at auction on 8 March for £27,000. It bears a coloured caricature of Post Office scribes seated around an enormous inkwell. Posted in 1840 with a Penny Black stamp, it was addressed to a playwright and novelist in Fulham. It was bought by a private collector from Latvia. (From report in *The Times*) ●

Victor Hugo and Pillar Box stamps To mark the bicentenary of the birth of the novelist, poet and playwright Victor Hugo, Guernsey Post Office issued six stamps, showing scenes from *Les Misérables*, on 6 February. The stamps were 'launched' at London's Palace Theatre on 26 February, the day before Stampex opened. Actors dressed in *Les Misérables* costumes held enlargements of the stamp designs at every conceivable angle to satisfy the needs of press photographers. The stamps were on sale at the Theatre where the play is currently performing. On 30 April Guernsey issued a miniature sheet containing a £1.75 stamp showing the Union Street box which was installed in February 1853 and is now the oldest box in use in the British Isles. It is inscribed 'LETTER BOX 1'. It featured on earlier Guernsey stamps of 1979 and 1990.

Enquiries: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Guelles Road, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1AB. Telephone 01481 716486 •



Stamp Active on Merseyside The organisers of the Liverpool Stamp Fair 2002 invited philatelic societies across Merseyside to take advantage of free space in a large adjoining room to the main hall. The Ship Society, Crosby Philatelic Society and Stamp Active took part, Stamp Active providing an exhibit on the basics of stamp collecting – this proved beneficial not only to children but collectors of all ages. It was a meeting point where people could sit and chat and use the exhibit to point out their queries without embarrassment. The young collectors, aged four to 15, were very selective and some very knowledgeable about the hobby; they were mainly interested in thematic collecting. The organiser, Andree Davies, thanks the members of the Birkenhead and Heswell Philatelic Societies for their donations of items for the stall and to the dealers and many others who came on the day bearing much needed gifts •

Philatelic Congress The 84th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at the Langstone Cliff Hotel, Dawlish, Devon on 12-15 September. The theme of this year's Congress is 'Forgeries' and there will be an interesting and thought-provoking programme including Madame Joseph cancellations, artefacts from the Royal Philatelic Society and a new study of the Stock Exchange Forgeries. There will be standing displays each day, together with talks and displays. There will be an alternate programme for ladies and anyone else who wishes to have a change from stamps. On the Friday there will be a trip via Paignton and the steam railway to Dartmouth and a guided tour of the Britannia Royal Naval College followed by a cream tea •

For details of the programme and hotel and other costs, contact Congress Organiser/Vice Chairman J Barry Horne, CGI Services Ltd, 29 Bowhay Lane, Exeter EX4 1PE. Telephone 01392 273012.

British Thematic Association

For details of the BTA contact
Ian Paton, 15 Humberstone
Road, Cambridge CB4 1JD.

GBPS For details contact

Andrew Lajer, Old Post Office,
Davis Way, Hurst, Reading
RG10 0TR.

Society publications The March issue of *Themenscene*, journal of the British Thematic Association, includes features on water-skiing, Colombian history and the Internet, and Stamps in Schools Project as well as the regular columns on new issues, BTA news, special handstamps, book reviews and news of various thematic groups. There are appreciations of Franceska Rapkin, a leading figure in the BTA and thematic collecting in general •

The March/April issue of the Great Britain Philatelic Society's *The GB Journal* includes notes and articles on the invalidation of Victorian postage stamps, surface-printed stamps postmarked Ascot Grandstand, 1871; George V 1½d PENCE error; use of the Fisher-Brown plating gauge with a computer; British Government Telegraph stamps, 1876-81; and display card for the 'Wonderland Postage-Stamp Case'. The accompanying GBPS *Newsletter* contains numerous features, notes and snippets of information on such diverse subjects as Henry Fawcett (the blind Postmaster General); phosphors; historic covers; 1924 George V 1½d Block Cypher; stitched booklets – covers and interleaves; and ½d 'Bantam' as well as news of the Society's displays and activities, and of a Machin website. Perhaps the most important article is that by Leslie Wilkinson who reminds members that after 'a number of articles on the trials and tribulations of competitive philately...we sometimes forget that this is a hobby, and hobbies are meant to be fun and enjoyable.' •

Royal Mail news Gold definitive • Smilers • Ingot and coin covers • New printings

Gold for 1st class stamp The colour of the 1st class NV1 definitive is to be changed from flame (orange) to gold. This will affect the stamps in sheets, books and rolls. Readers will recall that the stamp was issued in gold in 1997 to mark The Queen's golden wedding so the new printings will not qualify as a new stamp with first day facilities. Sheets of 200 (gummed) will be printed by De La Rue and business sheets of 100 (self-adhesive) by Enschedé who will also produce rolls. Books of six (printed by Questa and Walsall) and 12 (Walsall) will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets from 5 June and at post offices and retail outlets as supplies of the flame coloured stamps are used up. The stamps in the books are self-adhesive and the matrix (margin) around the stamps will be removed. There will also be a new cover design. Dates for sheets and rolls to be announced •

Bulletin Publications Last year's publication, *Alternative Ways of Collecting* by Richard West, is still available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £2.95. Any remaining stock will be withdrawn from sale on 28 June.

This year's publication on the Wilding stamps was issued free with last month's *Bulletin*. Further copies are available from Tallents House, price £2.95 •



New Occasions in Smilers sheets Sheets of 20 of each of the new Occasions stamps can be ordered with a personalised image on the adjoining labels. Sheets cost £12.95 each and can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or by phoning 0845 074 2000 (UK) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas). Please state clearly which stamp(s) required: Best Wishes (flowers), New Baby (rabbit), Hello (sky-writing), Moving Home (Bear gardener moving house topiary), or Love & Romance ('LOVE').

There is also a generic sheet with four of each stamp (above) with pre-printed labels showing an airplane (Hello), keys (Moving Home), a pen nib (Best Wishes), a heart-shaped chocolate ('LOVE') and baby ribbon (New Baby). This sheet is £5.95.

Also available are sheets of 20 of the 'Thanks' and 'Cheers' (Celebrations) stamps from the first Occasions series, with personalised image on the labels. These cost £12.95 each. Similar sheets for the other three stamps in this series have been available since May 2001. All the new Smilers sheets mentioned above have been available since 23 April, all printed by Questa •





World Cup Smilers sheets

Also available with a personalised image on the label, from Royal Mail Tallents House only: phone 0845 074 2000 (UK) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas). Price £12.95 per sheet.

World Cup Smilers sheets Sheets containing 20 of the fourth flag stamp from the World Cup miniature sheet and labels featuring England football fans and scenes from England matches will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets from 21 May, price £5.95. The sheet margins show team colours and results of England's qualifying matches. (Illustration above is a mock-up; issued sheet will differ slightly) ●

Postal rate increases Overseas postal rates will increase from 4 July. New definitive, country stamps, and stamp books will be needed and details will be published in next month's *Bulletin* ●

Availability of World Cup stamps The vast majority of Post Office branches will have stocks of both the World Cup stamp and miniature sheet which goes on sale on 21 May. All English offices will receive the standard distribution of stamps. Non-English offices that receive a standard distribution of special stamps will automatically receive approximately half the normal amount. PostShop Plus offices will order whatever quantity they feel they require. All other offices that don't receive automatic distribution of special stamps will be asked to order if they have a known customer demand. All offices that normally receive miniature sheets will receive a supply of the World Cup sheet, though fewer than normal will be sent out to outlets outside England. Other offices will be able to order supplies if they have a local demand ●



Shown at right is the printer's sheet of the World Cup miniature sheet. They were printed in units of 12 before being guillotined into individual sheets. No cylinder numbers were printed in the sheet margins.

New definitive printings Available from 9 May will be business sheets of 100 1st and 2nd class stamps printed by Enschedé. Previous printings were by Questa (1st) and Walsall (2nd). All these new printings are self-adhesive. The new sheets feature jet printing on the reverse of the sheet stating batch number and date of production. The sheets cost £27 (1st class), £19 (2nd).

Printings of the Scottish 2nd and 1st class stamps by De La Rue will go on philatelic sale from 5 June and on general sale as stocks of the current Walsall printings are exhausted. There will be no first day of issue facilities. These new printings result from changes to printing contracts – see March *Bulletin*, page 200 •



Ingot cover available from Royal Mail Talents House, price £49.95.

Ingot cover Shown above is the Queen's Golden Jubilee ingot cover which went on sale on 20 March. The ingot, gold plated on sterling silver, reproduces the 2½d Wilding stamp of 1952. The pane of Wilding style 1st and 2nd class stamps, from the prestige book issued on 6 February, are cancelled by a special Westminster postmark applied in gold ink •

Forthcoming special issues The Airliners and World Cup stamps, miniature sheets and self-adhesive stamp books will be issued on 2 and 21 May respectively. Details were given in last month's *Bulletin*. There will be no issue of special stamps in June; the programme continues on 16 July with the Commonwealth Games set previewed elsewhere in this issue. Thereafter the issues are: London Bridges (10 September), Astronomy (24 September), Pillar Boxes (8 October) and Christmas (5 November) •



Annual subscription £15 UK, £22.50 overseas. Application forms from: Collectors Club, Freepost NEA 1431, Sunderland SR9 9XN.

Collectors Club The March edition of *Stamp!*, the magazine of the Royal Mail Collectors Club, shows the Occasions and Circus stamps and includes a special feature on the Coastlines issue. We learn that no one in Britain lives more than 75 miles from the sea, and that every year the British people make over 300 million trips to the seaside. There are seven Sea-Life Centres and three Seal Sanctuaries around the UK. A competition offered 30 Sea-Life Explorer memberships, entitling winners to a year's free entry to any Sea-Life Centre. There is a free stamp offer for Wombles stamps from Alderney and the usual cartoon adventures of Sammy the Stamp Bug, and jokes and drawings sent in by readers. Eleven year-old Madeline Ashworth sends in her drawing of *Stamp!* Editor Simon Eddy wearing a tee-shirt worded 'Dude'. So proud is Simon with this drawing that he has an enlargement on display in the Stamps & Collectibles office. Madeline has captured his cheeky expression! The Club is for young collectors up to age 12. *Stamp!* magazine is published six times a year •



World Cup coin cover Shown here is the World Cup coin cover available from Royal Mail Tallents House from 31 May, price £12.95. The cover includes the English £1 coin. Please note the postmark on this is now Wembley, not Bisham as announced in the April *Bulletin* •

Postage labels Details were published here in February, March and April of new postage labels being trialled at offices in the Edinburgh, Southampton and Watford areas. These labels are intended for use on UK mail over 60g in weight, overseas over 20g and on Recorded Delivery and Special Delivery packages •

Bulletin back issues Mr E Nicholls has available copies of the *Bulletin*, 1989-2001. Offers for these should be sent to Mr Nicholls at 7 Scott Close, Farnham Common, Slough SL2 3HT •

Obituary Colin Banks, a noted graphic designer, died on 9 March aged 70. He designed a special alphabet, known as Post Office Double Line, used for all main names and headlines of the Post Office's activities. His obituary in *The Times* (21 March) stated that 'this was probably the first example of a big public institution being persuaded to use lettering itself as a symbol, and a quarter of a million vehicles were given new badges, with yellow lettering on a red ground.' The 'Royal Mail' lettering is used on the Royal Mail cruciform logo on stamp book covers, first day cover filler cards, and the adverts on the back cover of this *Bulletin*. Mr Banks also designed the digital lettering for the British Telecom logo •



The 'Royal Mail' double-line lettering, designed by Colin Banks, on a stamp book.

Royal residences An exhibition drawn from



As *Bulletin* readers will be aware, an exhibition of stamps from the collection of HM The Queen is to go on display at three Royal residences – the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh (27 April - 5 May), Sandringham, Norfolk (11-19 May), and Hampton Court Palace, Surrey (25 May - 4 June). We hope that readers will visit the exhibition, and also enjoy the other treasures on show at these Royal residences, all of which have featured on stamps.

The Palace of Holyroodhouse, The Queen's official residence in Scotland, remains almost as built in the reign of Charles II (1660-85). However, the Palace has an older building history, in about 1500 that James IV embarked upon a plan to enlarge the hospice alongside the Abbey of Holyrood, itself founded in 1218. Employing the French mason Walter Merlioun and a member

of the Mylne family, the King began with the existing north-west tower, then a free-standing four-storied rectangular structure, with distinctive rounds at all its corners. Following the King's death at Flodden, work on the Palace was taken up by his son James V, whose plan was to erect a tower at the south end to correspond with that of the north. However his reign gave the Palace only an architectural facade which faced the west and in the middle of which was the main entrance: the design was never completed, and the facade suffered from fire in 1544 and was eventually demolished in 1676. Charles II completed the building; operations began in 1671, continuing into 1679, under the supervision of the Earl of Lauderdale; the builder was Robert Mylne, and the architect Sir William Bruce, who introduced into Scotland for the first time a design that employed the three orders of architecture – Doric, Ionic and Corinthian – and that was to become the first major example of Scots Palladianism. The Palace is noted particularly as the scene of the assassination of David Rizzio, the Italian secretary of the ill-fated Mary Queen of Scots, and where, in 1745, Prince Charles Edward Stewart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) held court before setting off towards England leading the Jacobite Uprising. The new building for the Scottish Parliament is currently under construction near the Palace.

In November 1902 postage stamps overprinted R H OFFICIAL were supplied for use on correspondence by certain Royal Household officials, including the Inspector of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. By 1911 a Court PO had been opened at Holyroodhouse – in operation only when the Court was in residence. Holyroodhouse featured on British and Gibraltar stamps in 1978 (SG 1055; 400); on the St Margaret Scottish aerogramme of June 1993, and on a special handstamp used in 1981 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

This feature is based on an article in the *Bulletin* of March 1978; for further information on Hampton Court see Gerald Davis's article 'Capital Appreciation' in May 1980. Details of Court Post Offices can be found in Jean Farrugia's article in the December 1974 *Bulletin*.

the collection of HM The Queen goes on tour



Sandringham House lies about 13km north of King's Lynn. In 1862 Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, bought the estate and in 1867-70 built a house, still used by the Royal Family, usually after Christmas. It is set in 60 acres of glorious informal gardens with two beautiful lakes. It is a private rather than official Royal residence, filled with mementoes, treasures and memories of the Royal Family, including portraits, jade and crystal figures, silver and silver gilt, bronze and marble sculptures, guns and oriental armour. The Royal Family attend the nearby Church of St Mary Magdalene which on such occasions is often featured on the television news. King George V died at Sandringham in 1936 and George VI (1895-1952) was born and died there.

In 1877 a sub post office was opened at Sandringham House; a Court Post Office operates when the monarch is in residence. Sandringham House features on a Gibraltar stamp of 1978 (SG 402) and on various British special handstamps. A handstamp used on 6 February 2002 marked the 50th anniversary of the death of George VI at Sandringham.

Above left, the Great Fountain Garden at Hampton Court.



The site of the palace of Hampton Court was acquired from the Order of St John of Jerusalem by Cardinal Wolsey in 1514. The building he erected for himself beside the Thames measured about 300 by 500 feet, and consisted roughly of the present West Front, the Base Court, the Master Carpenter's Court, and the Chapel. Between 1529 and 1540 Henry VIII, who had acquired the palace shortly before Wolsey's death, made many alterations and additions. The Great Hall was rebuilt and widened; remodelling work was done to the Clock Court and Chapel and additions included a new quadrangle on the site of the existing Fountain Court. Little was done to the palace until the time of William and Mary, when Sir Christopher Wren started work there in 1689. It was originally intended to rebuild the whole palace except for the Great Hall, but work was only executed on a new Fountain Court and the Clock Court colonnade. Following the death of Queen Mary in 1694, work continued until William III's death in 1702; later work involved the remodelling of the Tudor buildings between the Clock and Fountain Courts in 1732. The Gatehouse in the middle of the west front was rebuilt in 1771-73 and again in 1882. Hampton Court is one of the most important remaining examples of early Tudor architecture, closely associated with Henry VIII and his six wives ●



The Friendly Games Royal Mail's new issue



Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé Stamps

Process Gravure

Stamp size 60 x 21 mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor 2nd class one band,
others two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

FIVE STAMPS featuring athletic events in the Commonwealth Games (to be held in Manchester, 25 July - 4 August) will be available from post offices, Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh, and Post Office philatelic outlets from 16 July. The stamps are: 2nd class (19p) swimming; 1st class (27p) running; E (European rate, 37p) cycling; 47p long-jumping; and 68p wheel-chair athletics.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 16 July, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the five stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Manchester must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.74 UK (including VAT) or £2.34 overseas (no VAT).

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 (Manchester postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO215' (Tallents House), or 'FDO216' (Manchester). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Manchester postmark.

For details of other handstamps for 16 July see the *British Postmark Bulletin* - available on subscription from Tallents House (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the five stamps (price £2.35) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack, designed by The Chase, includes an article by Alan Hubbard and photography by Martin Barraud. A coin cover, incorporating a £2 coin for each of the four home countries taking part in the Games, will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £19.95.

celebrating the 17th Commonwealth Games



The Commonwealth Games stamps are the work of Madeleine Bennett, using photographs from Getty Images. These are her first stamp designs for Royal Mail. Madeleine established her own practice 11 years ago, and since then she has designed brand, corporate and web identities, packaging, literature and books. She recently won the London International Advertising Gold Award for packaging.



Cylinders and colours

2nd 1A greenish yellow • 1B magenta • 1C turquoise • 1D black • 1E silver • 1F blue

Others 1A greenish yellow • 1B magenta • 1C blue • 1D black • 1E silver

Phosphor 1G 2nd, 1F others



THE FRIENDLY GAMES

Royal Mail First Day Cover Celebrating the 17th Commonwealth Games

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



There are exciting times for sport's disabled competitors... for the first time, the Commonwealth Games will integrate their events with the able-bodied programme. James Crisp, a 19-year-old swimmer from Nottingham, will be competing in the 100 metres freestyle. A swimmer diagnosed with polio as a three-year-old, he has reached maturity in one leg.

PARALYMPIC

"I don't know what I would be doing with my life if I wasn't for swimming. It has enabled me to travel the world... in the 2000 Paralympics he won three gold, two silver and two bronze medals and broke the world record. And he knows he will have to be in top form to come away with gold against the Aussies, who are as dominant in disabled swimming as they are in able-bodied events."

The presentation pack (left) includes an article by Alan Hubbard and photography by Martin Barraud.



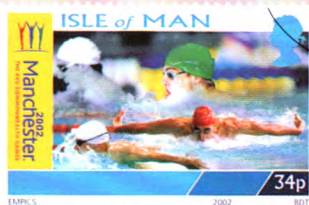
The Commonwealth Games The 17th Games – the fourth held in the UK – will be opened in Manchester by HM The Queen on 25 July. Some 5250 competitors and officials from 72 nations will take part in 17 sports over a 10 day period. For the first time able-bodied and disabled athletes will take part. Manchester is a city steeped in sport, world renowned for football, but also possessing probably the best all-round sports facilities in the UK.

The first British Empire Games were held in Hamilton, Canada in August 1930 when 450 competitors and team officials from just 11 countries took part. Subsequent Games have been staged in London (1934), Sydney, Australia (1938), Auckland, New Zealand (1950), Vancouver, Canada (1954), Cardiff (1958), Perth, Australia (1962), Kingston, Jamaica (1966), Edinburgh (1970), Christchurch, New Zealand (1974), Edmonton, Canada (1978), Brisbane, Australia (1982), Edinburgh (1986), Auckland, New Zealand (1990), Victoria, Canada (1994), and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (1998). The fifth, sixth and seventh Games (1954, 1958 and 1960) were titled British Empire & Commonwealth Games, then British Commonwealth Games in 1966, and 1970, and 1974, and since 1978 simply as Commonwealth Games.

The British PO issued three stamps, featuring the Welsh dragon, for the 6th Games held in Cardiff in 1958. A range of slogan postmarks and special handstamps were used, including some at the Games village in Barry and for the water activities at Llanberis in north Wales. Amongst the competitors was a postal worker, Stuart Slack, who went on to head the Isle of Man Post Office. The Queen handed over a silver baton containing a message to be carried by runners to Cardiff to be read at the opening ceremony. The Queen's Message is now an integral part of the ceremonial part of the Games. At the end of the Cardiff Games The Queen announced that she was creating Prince Charles as Prince of Wales although it was not until 1969 that he was invested as such at Caernarfon Castle.

Runners, swimmers and cyclists featured on the three stamps, designed by Andrew Restall, for the 1970 Games in Edinburgh. Again there was a special Games postmark. Sixteen years later the Games were back in Edinburgh and marked by four stamps featuring athletics, rowing, weightlifting, and rifle shooting. A nice touch was the inclusion of the Scottish Saltire in the cap of the rifle shooter. (The fifth stamp in the set marked the World Hockey Cup for Men in London.) Again there were special postmarks and a Post Office commemorative cover as well as the usual first day cover.

The inspiration for the Games is thought to be the Rev Astley Cooper who suggested in *Greater Britain* magazine and *The Times* a 'Pan-Britannic-Pan-Anglican Contest and Festival' to be held every four years 'as a means of increasing the goodwill and good understanding of the British Empire.' The number of countries represented, competitors and officials has grown substantially over the years. From the 11 countries and 450 participants in 1930 the numbers had increased to 67 and 3471 in 1994. Australia heads the table of medals having 1474 (564 gold, 460 silver and 472 bronze) to its credit. England is second (1419), Canada third (1115) and New Zealand fourth (452). We await with interest the medal tally for the Manchester Games ●



Changing faces Philip Parker previews a new book tracing



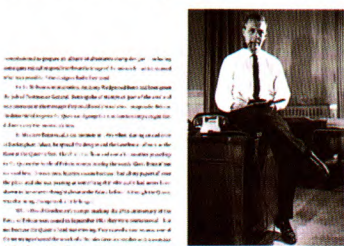
PORTRAITS OF THE QUEEN, and stamps featuring Her Majesty, provide a snapshot of attitudes to the Crown in terms of what is perceived as appropriate iconography for the times, and the public image of the Monarch.

We are familiar with informal press photographs of a relaxed, smiling Queen, but it was not always so. Even in the swinging sixties, official paintings of Her Majesty portrayed her in a romanticised, aloof style. Pietro Annigoni's 1969 portrait of the Queen (opposite page, top right) cloaked in a ceremonial robe against a cloudless sky suggested the loneliness of monarchy. But the public appetite for royal images has certainly remained constant over the years. When this painting was unveiled at the National Portrait Gallery an astonishing 200,000 people queued to see it in the first month. Today, this portrait dominates a wall on a landing of the Portrait Gallery, while the recent, impressive 12 foot high painting of four generations of the royal family by John Wonnacott is hung nearby – its size matched by its great informality. Between them is a print of the 1978 photograph of Her Majesty with her first grandson. A crop of this Lord Snowdon image formed the European rate stamp in the recent Golden Jubilee issue. All of these images, and 200 more, are to be found in a new book co-published by Royal Mail and The British Library, to be published for the Golden Jubilee weekend, 1 June.

Written by Fay Sweet, *Queen Elizabeth II – A Jubilee Portrait in Stamps* explores this evolution of royal images through stamps issued since 1952 by the UK as well as selected examples from the Commonwealth. The book sets out to showcase every design of UK stamps issued for royal commemoration, as well as those where royalty has had a hand, such as Prince Charles' watercolours. It contrasts these images with other forms of portraiture, and also features stamps that show the progression of the 'Specials' since the 1960s. It is both a biography of the Queen set against the changing nature of British society, as well as a biography of British stamps, with the 'usual suspects' – including Wilding, Machin, Gentleman and Jeffery Matthews – to the fore.

The 1950s witnessed a shift in the image of the monarchy. At the beginning of the decade, society photographer Cecil Beaton remarked that the royal family had been photographed so often in formal attitudes 'that it is almost impossible to break down the results of their training to stand in line.' Yet after the Queen's coronation the monarchy made a determined effort to move away from remote pageantry towards a more contemporary and open appearance. This was reflected in Beaton's photography, as well as that of Lord Snowdon, who married the Queen's sister, Princess Margaret, in 1960. Their images showed for the first time the relaxed family life of the Queen. The new book explores these

the changing image of the Queen on half a century's stamps



Special edition for Royal Mail customers

The book is being made available to Royal Mail customers with a limited edition, numbered Commemorative Document. This bears a pane of four Golden Jubilee stamps of the Queen from the *A Gracious Accession* prestige book, cancelled with a special 'Jubilee Weekend' handstamp in gold ink. Only 5000 copies will be produced, and each is numbered. See the advert on the back cover of this *Bulletin* for ordering information. Price £16.95.

changes, as well as outlining the genesis of the first definitive and commemorative stamps of the Queen's reign.

As the UK does not print its name on the stamps, it relies on the Queen's head as a discrete icon of national identity – but as the sixties progressed, the social and indeed political climate changed, the stamps responded. The birth of the Special Stamp programme is described in the book, especially the role of Tony Benn and the David Gentleman 'album' to set the design style of the Specials, and the reduction of the relative size of the Queen's portrait to allow for greater design freedom, culminating in the use of the cameo of the Queen's head. During this period, 'commoners' appeared on stamps for the first time, and depictions of UK and Commonwealth subject matters underwent radical change, and were not without controversy – such as Gentleman's Battle of Britain stamp of 1965 featuring a German swastika, which led to questions in Parliament.

The book's publication also coincides with another anniversary celebration – the 35th birthday of the Machin definitive on 5 June. The origin of this second version of Elizabeth II definitive stamps is described in the book, as well as stressing the impact of this design – in its 35 years more than 170 billion of them have been printed, making it arguably the most reproduced image of all time.

The 1970s and 1980s marked rich decades for royal issues – the monarch's head taking the form of a commemorative image on Special Stamps supplementing its iconic use as a national symbol. By now, television and press coverage of the royal family had broken new ground. TV documentaries such as the 1969 *Royal Family* reached a massive audience but opened the door to press intrusion. The Silver Wedding stamps of 1972 and Princess Anne's wedding issue of 1973 show the royal family as more relaxed and smiling and further royal wedding issues in the 1980s developed this informality. While the 1990s was probably the most trying decade of the Queen's reign it produced memorable royal designs – including John Gorham's tribute to the Queen Mother at 90, Why Not Associates' stunning se-tenant design for the 40th anniversary of the accession, and Snowdon's 1997 Golden Wedding designs, where, despite the ceremonial dress, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh appear approachable, familiar and relaxed. The book completes its journey across 50 years of royal portraiture and stamp design with Kate Stephens' recent Golden Jubilee quintet, which literally presents in miniature the book's unique perspective on 50 years in the life of the Monarch, and the country.

Queen Elizabeth II is written by author and journalist Fay Sweet, who wrote the Special Stamps 'Yearbooks' from 1996-98 and the *A Gracious Accession* prestige book ●

HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

SHOWN HERE are some of the many stamps – British and Commonwealth – depicting The Queen Mother. With the Duke of York she opened London's Mount Pleasant Post Office in 1934 (below left), and she visited to see an exhibition of stamps marking The Queen's Silver Wedding. Photographs of these events were published in the *Bulletin* in January 1973 and July 1990. The Queen Mother also visited the London Chief Post Office in 1966 (below centre, courtesy Lord Glenamara) ●



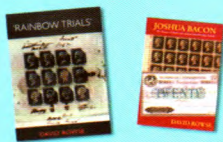
Philately on-line A site for collectors of GB, by Ron Negus

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GBPS The Great Britain Philatelic Society

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[Recent meetings](#) [Library List](#)

Welcome to the world's leading society
devoted to the philately and postal history of Great Britain



THE SIGNIFICANT articles from the current copy of the *GB Journal* are normally mentioned in the pages of the *Bulletin*. It is worth remembering, however, that the Great Britain Philatelic Society, who are the publishers of the *GB Journal* also have their own website at www.gbbs.org.uk.

Founded in 1955, the GBPS has grown from small beginnings to a current membership of over 700 collectors throughout the world. Its primary aim is to promote the study of the philately of Great Britain, and it covers all aspects of the subject. As well as British stamps, its members include those who collect British postal history, postal stationery, booklets, college stamps, revenues, and telegraphs, plus those who have an interest in philatelic conservation.

The *GB Journal* is a prime means of disseminating new research and its articles are considered to be required reading for any collector who wishes to study the country. The website provides a cumulative index to the *Journal* for Volumes 21 to 37, which covers 1983 to 1999 inclusive. This valuable access aid is divided into three sections: for stamps, subjects and authors. In the stamps section, issues such as '1d Lilac', 'Wildings', etc are indexed separately and the corresponding articles are listed chronologically on the appropriate screen. Under subjects, headings like 'Cinderellas', 'Engraving' etc can be located.

A page of information not commonly found on Society sites is called the 'GBJ Style Guide'. This lists the preferred spellings, formats for dates, abbreviations, etc that should be employed

www.gbbs.org.uk Non-members of the GB Philatelic Society are welcome to attend a meeting, to see if they would be interested in joining. Details can be obtained from this site, or by post from Andrew Lajer, Membership Secretary, The Old Post Office, Hurst, Berkshire RG10 0TR.

when submitting articles in the *GB Journal*, to ensure consistency of writing style. The Society also publishes a Newsletter. On the website, a recent issue of this latter publication is stored and can be printed out as an example of what would be received if you were a member. The Society maintains a library and details of its holdings are given. It also publishes specialist handbooks and these are documented with their discounted prices for members.

Another useful feature of the site is a brief review of recent meetings. This is illustrated with some of the material from the display and contains a written summary of the main points of the talk. This provides a very good indication of the type of show that can be expected at the regular meetings. The current programme is listed on another page, giving times and venues for the eight meetings per year, which are held mainly in London, but occasionally at provincial centres.

A final facility offered is a set of links to other sites likely to appeal to the keen collector. As well as listing some of the more general philatelic sites, this section also includes direct links to those that have specific relevance to the areas of interest to collectors of GB material.

Under the 'Contact the GBPS' heading, users are provided with a pre-addressed e-mail blank with which they can write to the Secretary for further information. A membership application form is also available on the site which readers who wish to join the Society can use •

Jubilee Jamboree Beginning a new series in which Richard

IT WOULD NOT COME as any surprise that with the increased adoption of special stamp issues by The Post Office in the 1960s came an awareness of the potential of first day covers. However, back in 1957, even before the culture shock had struck, first day covers were seen as important. The occasion was the World Scout Jubilee Jamboree, held in August that year just outside Sutton Coldfield. There had not been a commemorative set since that for the Coronation in 1953. However, the Jamboree was thought worthy of a set of three, in the symbolic style which was so prevalent at the time.

Probably much to the surprise of the GPO (as it was then), over 60,000 requests for first day covers of the new stamps were received. Something had to be done. Mind you, at that time there was no thought of providing a special envelope. That was left to private producers: in the case of the Jubilee Jamboree stamps, the most commonly seen cover (opposite page) is that produced by Francis J Field, the noted airmail specialist who conveniently operated from Sutton Coldfield.

Nevertheless, the problem arose of actually stamping and cancelling all the anticipated covers. Revolutionary for its time, the Post Office decided to commission two machines from Vacuum Ltd, which would automatically affix the stamps onto covers.

For this purpose, the stamps had to be supplied in the form of coils or rolls. Thus while post offices were provided with the stamps in the conventional sheets (of 120, comprising 20 rows of 6 stamps), separate rolls were also produced of 4800 stamps for each of the three values (2½d, 4d and 1s3d). The rolls were inserted in the machine, and one stamp of each value came forward to be affixed to each cover, a portion of which had been automatically moistened. The cover would then move on for a machine cancellation, the slogan reading 'World Scout Jubilee Jamboree 1-12 Aug 1957' with the date slug for Sutton Coldfield on '1 Aug 1957'.

The machines, while a good idea, were not entirely successful. The guillotine which separated

each stamp from the rest of the roll at times cut into the stamps themselves. Equally the moistening process was not always adequate, leaving the stamps not firmly affixed and thus damaged by the cancelling machine.

Covers on which stamps have been affixed by machine are usually easily identified: the stamps are in a row, with the 1s 3d value on the left, and the 2½d on the right. The slogan used for such covers had the dateslug fixed at 1 August.

Other covers, privately prepared, can be found (opposite page). These often have the stamps differently arranged, and were cancelled with the slogan in general use throughout the Jamboree, with a moveable datestamp.

Testing labels were well known to ensure the proper working of stamp machines. Described as 'poached eggs' they bear the text 'For Testing Purposes Only'. Understandably such labels were of definitive size, but to test the first day cover affixing machine, the labels were specially printed in grey as pairs imperforate between (that is, the size of the commemorative stamp).

The rolls of 4800 stamps were not only used for first day covers, they could be purchased – as complete rolls. However, few were so sold (20 of the 1s3d), so strips of Jamboree stamps with coil leaders attached for the 4800 rolls are indeed very scarce. However, to encourage sales of the stamps in roll form, they were re-wound into smaller quantities, 480 of the 2½d (opposite) and 4d, and 240 of the 1s3d: these smaller rolls were put on sale from 2 September at the Chief Post Office in London. Even so, sales were not startling, with just 33 of the 1s3d roll sold, so coil leaders are again scarce.

The camp site had its own post office, which was designated 'Sutton Coldfield J': as a consequence, registration labels and Parcel Post labels can be found so inscribed.

It may not have been a total success for the Post Office, but this was certainly a brave attempt back in 1957 to provide a worthwhile first day cover service ●

West traces some of the first day covers of the present reign



Far left: a coil leader from a re-wound, smaller roll of the 2½d value. Left, above: a Francis J Field first day cover of the 1957 Jubilee Jamboree stamps, the stamps having been affixed by machine. Left, below: a privately prepared first day cover.



Below: the Durham County Scout troop at the opening of the 1957 Jamboree in Sutton Coldfield.



Erene Grieve's remarkable mission Richard West reports

ERENE GRIEVE looked down at the table on which were plates piled with pork pies, sausage rolls and crisps. 'I taught Food and Nutrition at school, and I can't say I approve of this', she commented. Erene may not approve of the buffet, but countless have been captivated by her presentations to schools, introducing to hundreds of children the joys of stamp collecting.

The stress of being a departmental head of a school made Erene decide that the time had come to retire — at least from teaching. So she returned to her childhood hobby of stamp collecting, and joined her local, Pembrokeshire, philatelic society. It was a chance remark that made her stop and think: youngsters simply have no interest in the hobby, and nothing will persuade them otherwise. It was like a red rag to a bull; it was the catalyst. Erene had been motivated.

Having been in the teaching profession, she knew the best way to approach schools. Her ideas, tested in the Pembrokeshire area, proved an immediate success, with the result that she has now taken her 'Stamps in Schools' project to many parts of the United Kingdom, including the Isle of Man.

Her initial contact can be many-fold. She is not shy in starting conversations wherever she goes, and ensures that the topic soon turns to stamps. It is surprising how often she has been speaking with a parent, who after a short while is convinced that Erene must visit the child's school. Often someone already involved with a school, as a teacher or parent, wonders whether a stamp club would be feasible and popular. Sometimes it is simply a 'cold call' to a head teacher to put forward her ideas.

Erene's approach seems fairly straightforward. She goes into a school, invariably a primary school, and addresses the school assembly. She has, in fact, already been at the school for an hour, setting up a display which will entertain and enthral the youngsters. She introduces herself by



trying to find a nine-year old girl who looks like Erene might have looked when she was that age. For, as she reveals, she was nine when she began collecting stamps. She tells a story of how her father purchased 'a sack of stamps'. They were expecting something like a coal sack brimming with stamps, but instead received a more modest pouch-full.

She finds it surprising how many of her audience reveal that they already collect stamps, and several say that they would join a stamp club if one were established at the school.

After the assembly, Erene meets with groups of children, explaining more about the pleasures of the hobby. But it is not only the children who are inspired. So are the teachers, who are quick to appreciate that there are many educational benefits from the hobby. Indeed, the education authorities on the Isle of Man were so impressed when Erene first visited, that they invited her back, at their expense, to go into more schools.

Her work has attracted national media attention, with articles in many newspapers, the magazine *Woman*, and an interview on *Woman's Hour*.

Understandably, what has been achieved since the first school was approached in 1997 has needed assistance. Extending the boundary of the scheme beyond Pembrokeshire meant travel, and accommodation costs to be met. These have been provided by the British Philatelic Trust, which also ensures Erene has plenty of stamps, so that none of the youngsters she meets goes away empty handed. Royal Mail has also played its part by providing further material.

Erene also has to call upon practical help, not only on the day of the visit, but hopefully afterwards if a stamp club does emerge. Frequently it is a parent who might help, but equally often the local philatelic society will provide support.

So successful has the scheme been, that many would like to see it extended. Clearly, there is a limit to what Erene can personally manage (if the

Stamps in Schools project was not time consuming enough, she also works for The Open University). What is needed is for others with the determination and dedication to follow Erene's example, and be prepared to approach and visit schools – perhaps not covering quite such a large area as Erene has achieved. There is one initiative that looks set to succeed. Consignia has a special unit that utilises the enthusiasm of volunteers, postal workers who are prepared to go to schools and offer practical help. Erene is currently working closely with Consignia to put together a stamp

collecting package which the volunteers can take into the schools with them.

So enthused are many of the youngsters Erene meets, that many have joined the Royal Mail Collectors Club aimed at the young collector. Of the 68 schools she had visited, she knows for a fact that at least 37 have set up their own stamp clubs.

So when anyone suggests that the young cannot be encouraged to turn to stamp collecting, tell them that this is being constantly disproved, thanks to Erene Grieve ●

Postbag Letters to the Editor

Magnifying glasses There have been regular references made to the need for a 10x magnifying glass; as an owner of one I felt that a few points could be clarified. The term '10x' can be very misleading as it refers to a surface-area magnification, which means that any line will appear to be 3.16 times longer, ie the square root of 10; for a line to appear 10 times longer a 100x magnifier would be required! The lens of a 10x is normally plastic, not glass, and has a much smaller diameter than a 2x or 3x magnifier, hence only part of a stamp can be viewed at any one time. A tip: buy one with a built-in lamp – most do have one. Once tried, you will wonder how you ever did without before. G FRANKLIN, HANNOVER, GERMANY ●

Post Office Mauritius I have been enjoying the series 'Eminent Early Collectors' by my good friend Ron Negus. In the March number he featured Edward B Evans and attributed the 2d deep blue of the 'Post Office' issue of Mauritius in the Tapling Collection at the British Library to have been once owned by Evans. This is incorrect. The 2d, or 'the blue Mauritius' as it has become known, in the Tapling Collection was the subject of perhaps the most famous swap known in philately. Tapling had purchased Evans' 1d orange red on cover in 1884 for £75, but lacked the 2d. Philipp la Renotiere von Ferrary, the famous German collector who lived in France, had

two copies, and one was to be swapped in 1886 for either a Poonch 1879 ½ anna red, in a pair used on piece, or a stamp of Afghanistan or Cashmere. Research by the late Norman Williams in his book *Encyclopaedia of Rare and Famous Stamps* (1993) concludes that it was probably the unique Poonch pair. Tapling had the better stamp from the swap! Both 1d on cover and 2d unused 'Post Office' Mauritius stamps are on exhibition at the British Library. DAVID BEECH, Head of Philatelic Collections, British Library, London NW1 ●

Self-adhesive and se-tenant stamps In my view, neither of these two products suit traditional album page mounting. I have decided, therefore, to purchase these in the presentation pack format and to mount them in an album made for these packs. That said, if Royal Mail are really going down the 'self-adhesive avenue' then they ought to consider re-designing the presentation pack for normal page mounting. The album I use offers a transparent full page packet. Whilst I can open out the presentation pack and slip it into the packet, part of the information (written or drawn) in the pack is upside down. As a philatelic product it could be re-thought-out to enable the stamps and the accompanying information to be displayed and read on the two sides when mounted in a transparent pocket. If this were to happen I would be delighted since I am not against self-adhesives. M R LAW, ABBEVILLE, FRANCE ●

Posting boxes 211

THE TWO photographs shown this month were submitted by Mr P Lynch of Middlesex. The first is of a Victorian Ludlow type wallbox fitted with an Edward VII enamel plate which quotes a special registration fee of 4d. Several Victorian Ludlows carry plates showing a registration fee of 8d but the example shown is believed to be the only survivor still in service to display the lower fee.

His second photo is of a modern type a pillar box, located in Gloucestershire, which carries the legend on the back 'This is believed to be the first privately owned pillar box in the UK to be administered by the GPO May 1996'. No similar examples have been reported to the Letter Box Study Group.

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 •

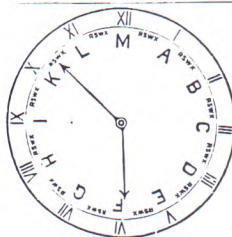


Cover corner

THIS MONTH'S COVER is from the collection of Eastbourne postal history formed by Lionel Jones, for many years Treasurer of the Eastbourne Philatelic Society. The cover bears one 1/2d and two 1d Victorian stamps and was sent from Eastbourne to Colorado on 23 January 1895. The stamps were cancelled by a steel handstamp known to collectors as a 'squared circle' and containing clock time 'DF*P'. This is scribed with three arcs outside of a single circle to form a square. It is recorded in use December 1894 to August 1899. In Clock time, D represents FOUR and F is six five-minute interval, therefore F represents 30 minutes. The final letter P following the asterisk signifies times after noon. The code DF*P therefore is 4.30pm (16.30). At Eastbourne clock code could be found in squared circle type handstamps applied between late December 1894 and late August 1895, whilst in Duplex handstamps clock code could be found between September 1894 and mid-June 1895 •



POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.
TIME SIGNALS.



From Lionel Jones' collection of Eastbourne postal history.

Events

27 April - 5 May Display of Stamps from the Royal Philatelic Collection at Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh. Open 09.30-18.00. Admission to Palace £6.50, over 60 £5, 5-17 £3.30. Free entry to the philatelic exhibition in the State Apartments. **Enquiries** 0131 556 7371.

4 May Federation of South Wales PS Convention at Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. Stamp, postcard, postal history and accessories dealers. Free car parking, refreshments available, souvenir postcard. **Enquiries** G N Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY.

11 May East Midlands & East Anglia Phil Fed Convention at Garandon High School, Thorpe Hill, Loughborough, 10.00-16.30. 20 dealers, refreshments, car parking. 1 mile from junction J23, M1. **Enquiries** R Tatton, 01509 268073.

11 May Display Great Britain Postal Reforms by James Grimwood-Taylor to National Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 15.15. **Enquiries** NPS, 020 7336 0882.

11 May Edinburgh PS 75th anniversary exhibition and stamp fair, Brunton Halls, Musselburgh. **Enquiries** J Haggart, 23 Riselaw Road, Edinburgh EH10 6HR.

11-19 May Display of stamps from the Royal Philatelic Collection at Sandringham House Museum, Norfolk. Open 11.00-17.00. Entry £6 adult (reductions for over 60s and children). Free entry to philatelic exhibition in Museum. **Enquiries** 01553 772675.

17-19 May 26th North East Philatelic Weekend at Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Talks, displays, social events. **Booking enquiries** Miss V Beeken, 162 Canterbury Road, Newton Hall Estate, Durham DH1 5XT.

18 May GB Philatelic Society meeting at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 11.00. Displays 'The Englishman abroad - Campaign Mail', members' displays, AGM and Society Awards. **Enquiries** A Lajer, 0118 934 4151.

18 May Thatcham & District PS Stamp Fair at Kennet School, Stoney Lane, Thatcham, 10.00-16.00. Over 20 dealers, over 600 lots on view for forthcoming auction (20 June) - catalogues available. Admission & car parking free. Refreshments available. **Enquiries** G Stewart, 01635 866942.

25 May - 4 June Display of Stamps from the Royal Philatelic Collection, Hampton Court Palace, Surrey. Open 09.30-18.00. Admission £10.80 adult (reductions for over 60s, students and children). Free entry to the philatelic exhibition in the Cartoon Gallery. **Enquiries** 020 8781 9500.

1 June Yorkshire Phil Assn annual convention at Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner at the junction of the ring road (A6120) and Leeds and Bradford Road (A647). Exhibition, dealers, refreshments, etc. 09.30-16.30. **Enquiries** A Peel, 01924 505724.

8 June Swinpex 2002 at St Joseph's School, Queens Drive, Swindon, 10.00-16.30. **Enquiries** M White, 01793 783245.

11 June Display 'GB Modern Postal History George VI and Elizabeth II' by Chris Harman at Croydon PS, United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, 19.00. **Enquiries** F Simpson, 020 8660 3595.

15 June Kent Federation Day at East Malling.

15-16 June Rail/Mail Weekend at Nene Valley Rly, near Peterborough. TPO demonstrations, displays of PO vehicles, railway service stamps and covers, etc. **Enquiries** Nene Valley Railway, 01780 784444.

21-23 June Welsh Philatelic Society Annual Weekend at Maentwrog. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 01772 713917.

29-30 June Thematica at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Near Marble Arch. Open 10.30-17.30 29th, 10.30-17.00 30th. Dealers, displays. Admission free ●

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



February identify The detail is from a Hong Kong definitive of The Queen. The winner was Shirley Mason of South Wales.

February knowledge The answers: 1) Faith Jaques; 2) Tree and Leaf; 3) 1973. The winner was Mr Freddy Pieren of Belgium.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1970 Commonwealth Games stamps?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps featured a comic with a little moustache and a bowler hat?
- 3 In which year were Jeffery Matthews' first stamps issued?

Send your answer (addressed to either the May *Identify* competition or the May *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 14 June 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 •

Special draw Win Christmas self-adhesive trial label sheets

THE 2001 Christmas stamps were the first produced in self-adhesive format. Stamp-size labels featuring the De La Rue logo were supplied to post offices for staff to test tearing stamps from the sheets. We have acquired a number of sheets of these labels and will send complete sheets of 50 labels to the senders of the first two cards to

be drawn on 7 June; 25 runners-up will be sent blocks of the labels.

Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send to Christmas Labels Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ •

2001 Yearpack draw Winners of this February *Bulletin* draw were: C Warren of Berkshire; J O'Hare, Ireland; R Nadin, Leicestershire; Mrs J Williams, Hertfordshire; and C Chugg, Belgium.



Late news

Queen Mother stamps Details of this issue (25 April) were given in a special supplement to the April *Bulletin* which we sent out to subscribers. Readers are reminded that covers may be sent to Tallents House or Special Handstamp Centres for the first day and other special postmarks of 25 April until 23 May •

World Cup stamp book Please note that the book containing four definitives and two World Cup stamp (all self-adhesive) will contain two of the four St George flag and football stamps, not the crowned lion stamps as originally intended and announced in the April *Bulletin*. The book will be on sale from 21 May •

Cavendish auctions Some 95 per cent of the lots in the auction of the 'Valuables by Post' collection formed by Vivien Sussex were sold by Cavendish on 6 March. Top price was £12,650 for the four Penny Blacks on registered cover, followed by £8050 for the first Falklands frank cover. A spectacular 1855 Crimea cover franked with 42 GB Penny Red stars, sent to Ireland, made £6325. The Ivan Green collection of Bristol Postal History will be auctioned on 25 May. Cavendish will be present at the Edinburgh Philatelic Society exhibition at Musselburgh on 11 May.

Enquiries: Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY •

Obituary Herbert Spencer, who died on 11 March aged 77, served on Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee 1968-93. He was an influential figure in British communication design, launching *Typographica* in 1949 and editing and designing the magazine for 18 years. Aged 12 he bought a small hand-press on which he taught himself the basics of typography. He served as an RAF cartographer during the Second World War. His first book, *Design in Business Printing* (1952) became a bible for design students. He taught at the Central School of Arts & Crafts in London and was Professor of Graphic Arts at the Royal College of Art from 1978 to 1985 •

Titanic postcard A card sent from the *Titanic* two days before it sank realised £7500 at an auction in March. It featured a picture of the liner and was posted from Cork on 13 April 1912 as the ship began its ill-fated journey. The message read: 'Good voyage up to now.' The *Titanic* featured on the 60p Marconi stamp in 1995; the 90th anniversary of its sinking has been commemorated on a number of recent special handstamps •

Corrections The wrong reference numbers were given in the March *Bulletin* for the first day postmarks for the Circus stamps – they should have been FDO209 (for Tallents House) and FDO210 (Clowne). The numbers quoted were those for the Airliners stamps; we regret any confusion caused. The correct numbers were given in the *British Postmark Bulletin* of 15 February.

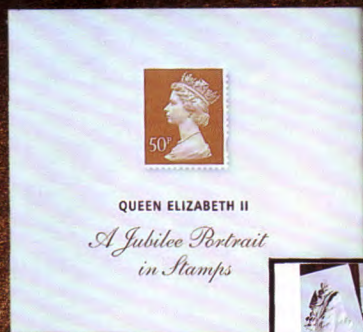
In our rush to include the Rowland Hill Award winners in April, we inadvertently gave Manchester PO as winner for Post Office Excellence. The winner was in fact Queen's Drive PO, Swindon; Manchester was one of the two runners-up for 2001, and winner in 2000 •

Golden Jubilee coin The special Royal Mint £5 coin commemorating The Queen's golden jubilee will be available from Post Office branches from 7 May. The coin cover will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House from 1 June, price £15.95 •

Stamps on TV 'Collectable Stamps' will be shown on Home Shopping Europe (a transactional TV shopping channel available on Sky guide number 644) at 18.00 (6pm) on 13 and 24 May. It will feature a selection of collectable items available by phoning in your order. A knowledgeable stamp collector will be available to answer questions •

Wembley exhibition A display marking the 50th anniversary of Wembley Historical Society can be seen at Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley until 6 May. It includes tickets, photographs etc relating to exhibitions and sporting events, even the torch used at the 1948 Wembley Olympics •

QUEEN ELIZABETH II – A JUBILEE PORTRAIT IN STAMPS



Queen Elizabeth II – A Jubilee Portrait in Stamps, is a stunning new book issued to mark the Golden Jubilee Weekend on 1 June. Co-published by Royal Mail and The British Library, it is lavishly illustrated with more than 200 images and explores the Queen's reign from the unique perspective of five decades of definitive and commemorative stamps.

It features every issue of UK 'special stamps' that have marked royal occasions as well as stamps designed by members of the royal family such as the Prince of Wales' watercolour landscapes.

Many stamps from Commonwealth countries are also reproduced. In addition to telling the story of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, the book focuses on the stamps themselves and how they have evolved in the past half century.

Royal Mail is issuing this book with a limited edition Commemorative Document. Just 5000 of these documents have been produced, and each is numbered and bears a pane of Golden Jubilee stamps cancelled with a special Jubilee Weekend handstamp in gold.

Price £16.95. Quote order number 03 AMA.

Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
UK telephone order line 08457 641 641, overseas +44 131 316 7483



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