The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 59 No.8



Just landed



The Migratory Birds stamp issue

HEROES OF THE COVID PANDEMIC • NEW MACHIN DEFINITIVES • REPLY CARDS

UPA VIP Series: **'Because' …**

Sometimes Collectors Get a Raw Deal, don't they ?

The problem with most stamp auctions is not what they sell, but how they sell it …

1.▶ Imagine, you drive into a Petrol Station, with fuel at 150p per litre it is expensive, so you limit your fuel purchase by putting £50 worth fuel into your tank. Then you go in to pay, and the cashier asks you for £65 … how can that be ? Yes, **£15 (30%) more.** You are infuriated, £65 for £50 worth of fuel! No chance … you would rather empty your tank first, than pay such an iniquitous premium.

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3.▶ You really don't need to imagine – because this is still what happens in most stamp auctions. Further, there is no distinction between when you are buying stamps that are actually owned by that auction, and when you are buying stamps that are being sold on behalf of a vendor. Is this fair ?

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Editor Chloe Tuck, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.45 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £22.95 UK and Europe; £29.50 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) are priced at £4.99 and are available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 2633 2310 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 185 Farringdon Road, London EC1A 1AA ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

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Migratory Birds

They fly thousands of miles through storms, over deserts and across oceans, risking death from starvation and the hunter's gun. Many are so small they could nestle in the palm of your hand. Yet what they lack in stature they make up for with fortitude and strength. Now a new Special Stamp issue pays tribute to the birds that flock in their millions to our shores during the migration seasons – breeding, seeking more abundant stocks of prey, and escaping competition for food from rival animals in their 'home' countries. Among the species featured in the ten-stamp Migratory Birds set (some of whom are under threat) are the Arctic skua, which steals food from other birds' beaks; the swift, a champion flyer that spends most of its life in the air; and the much-loved – but much-hunted – turtle dove. Out on 7 April, the issue is accompanied by a Stamp Souvenir, Postcards, Framed Stamps, Full and Half Sheets, and a Presentation Pack that profiles the birds and tells the extraordinary story of avian migration. Yet what fascinates, in the first instance, are the amazing explanations scholars historically gave for the annual 'disappearance' of birds, before

Nightjar
Caprimulgus europaeus
First Class

Arrives in late April-May, departs in July-August. Migrates through Iberia and across the Sahara to winter in tropical forests of central and southern Africa



Pied Flycatcher
Ficedula hypoleuca
First Class

Arrives in mid-April-June, departs in August-September. Crosses the Sahara to winter in tropical, humid forests of western and central Africa



Swift
Apus apus
First Class

Arrives in late April-May, departs abruptly in August. Travels via Iberia into western Africa and on into central and southeastern Africa, reaching the Indian Ocean



Yellow Wagtail
Motacilla flava
First Class

Arrives in March-May and departs in August-September. Migrates through Iberia into northern Africa, crossing the Sahara to winter in sub-Saharan western Africa



Arctic Skua
Stercorarius parasiticus
First Class

Arrives in April, leaves in August-September. Winters off the west coast of Africa, down to South Africa. Some birds cross the Atlantic, but most follow the coast of Europe and Africa



Migratory Birds – Stamp Specifications

Date of issue	7 April
Number of stamps	10 x 1st Class
Design	hat-trick design
Illustrations	Killian Mullarney
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	25/50
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



modern scientists solved the mystery of migration. Englishman Charles Morton, for example, claimed in the 17th century that swallows flew to the moon in the winter, a two-month flight at 200km/h boosted by the absence of gravity and air resistance. A hundred years earlier, Swedish archbishop and naturalist Olaf Mansson, influenced by the hibernation theories of ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, wrote that birds buried themselves in the mud of riverbeds for the cold season. Perhaps the most bizarre theory is found in ancient Greek and Roman writings, where cranes flew to Africa every winter to fight a race of ram-riding pygmies, in revenge for the little men eating their eggs in the spring. The true tale of migratory birds is no less amazing than those fanciful theories, with some 4,000 species taking part in annual flying marathons around the world – including to the UK. The swift seems engineered by evolution to make the 5,000-kilometre spring migration flight to the UK to breed after wintering in Africa. They're constantly in flight, so during their journey they hunt insects on the wing up to heights of 1,000 metres. They can sleep in the air, keeping part of their brain active to prevent them plunging from the sky. They even drink while flying, catching falling raindrops in their beaks. Swallows, harbingers and symbols of the British spring, start arriving here in April, powering more than 300 kilometres a day from the tip of Africa, some falling victim to starvation over the seemingly endless Sahara. Yet the survivors remain unflappable: if the Channel is stormy, they wait patiently in France for the weather to improve before crossing. Turtle doves, which come to breed here in the summer, fare far worse on their migration mission. Considered a delicacy since Egyptian times, they are relentlessly hunted, shot from the ►



Stone-curlew
Burhinus oedicnemus
First Class

Arrives in March-April, departs in August-September. Winters in southwestern France, Spain and northwestern Africa



Arctic Tern
Sterna paradisaea
First Class

Arrives in May-June, leaves in July-October. Winters in the Southern Ocean off the pack ice of Antarctica, with some British birds reaching Australia



Swallow
Hirundo rustica
First Class

Arrives in April-May, departs in September-October. Travels through Iberia and western and central Africa to winter in South Africa



Turtle Dove
Streptopelia turtur
First Class

Arrives in May, departs in July-September. Migrates south through Iberia and northwestern Africa to winter in tropical western Africa



Montagu's Harrier
Circus pygargus
First Class

Arrives in April-May, departs in September. Winters in the Sahel zone of western and central Africa in semi-arid desert and savannah



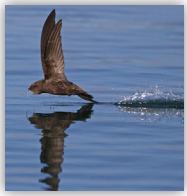
First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp



Nightjar Characterised by long wings, short legs, and a very short bill. A bird of open woodlands, heathlands and moors, seen at dawn and dusk. Eats insects



Pied Flycatcher Slightly smaller than a house sparrow. The male is mostly black on the upperparts and white underneath, with a bold white patch on the folded wing



Swift It spends most of its life flying – even sleeping, eating and drinking – only ever landing to nest. They like to nest in small holes, often in the roofs of old buildings



Yellow Wagtail A graceful, yellow and green bird, with a medium-length tail and slender black legs. It spends much time walking or running on the ground



Arctic Skua A medium-sized dark-looking seabird with pointed wings. It only comes to land to breed and is aggressive towards intruders who stray into its breeding territory



Stone-curlew A crow-sized bird with a large head, long yellow legs and relatively long wings and tail. It's found on the Brecklands of Norfolk and Suffolk and Salisbury Plain



Arctic Tern The 'sea swallow' dives into water to catch small fish. White with a black cap, it's largely coastal, although it can be seen during migration on inland lakes



Swallow Extremely agile in flight, these small birds have dark, glossy-blue backs, red throats, pale underparts and long tail streamers. It nests in sheds and farm buildings



Turtle Dove The gentle purr of this dove is synonymous with summers in the south and east of England. It's now included on the red list of conservation concern



Montagu's Harrier An extremely rare breeding bird in the UK, and its status is precarious. Nests are often kept secret and protected to minimise disturbance

Arctic tern © Les Armishaw/Getty Images; swifts © Phil Savoie/naturepl.com; Montagu's harrier © Graham Catley; pied fl ycatcher © David Kjaer/naturepl.com; rear – Arctic skua © Jerome Murray/ Alamy Stock Photo; Arctic tern © Kit Day/Alamy Stock Photo; Montagu's harrier © Graham Catley; nightjar © David Tipling/naturepl.com; pied fl ycatcher © Andy Sands/naturepl.com; stone-curlew © Mike Read/ Alamy Stock Photo; swallow © MichaelGrantBirds/Alamy Stock Photo; swift © Robin Chittenden/naturepl.com; turtle doves © David Tipling/naturepl.com; yellow wagtail © Alan Williams/naturepl.com



First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp which has the Swallownest, Sheffield, location

sky as they fly over Morocco, Spain and France: up to four million are killed every year. Such ruthless treatment has reduced the UK population by 98 per cent – cruelly ironic for birds that are monogamous for life, and are eulogised as symbols of love and loyalty in high and popular culture by everyone from Shakespeare to Sinatra. Other threats hamper the efforts of our migratory birds. In March, pied flycatchers rise out of savannah woods in Sierra Leone, travelling 8,000 kilometres (with a gruelling 40-hour non-stop flight over the Sahara) to the UK to breed and feed their babies on newly emerging caterpillars. But thanks to global warming, caterpillars are born ever earlier, and the flycatchers often arrive too late to catch them for their young. Such challenges have been devastating – flycatchers have reduced in number by a quarter. The species who migrate to (and from) the UK are, however, survivors against the odds. For example, the little yellow wagtail, which comes to the UK from March to September, is in steep decline thanks to its wetland habitat disappearing due to land being drained. Yet this bird bravely looks after itself, wagging its tail vigorously to warn nearby predators that it's alert, and therefore will not be easy prey. Migrating here in spring and leaving at summer's end, the stone-curlew can detect humans 500 metres away, an early warning skill that allows them to hide from danger. It's nicknamed the 'goggled-eyed plover', for the large yellow, bulging eyes that help it hunt bugs and worms at night. And the nightjar, a summer resident in the UK, is quite the silent nocturnal killer: soft plumage makes its flight noiseless, allowing it to ambush unsuspecting moths on the wing. But perhaps most aggressive in its battle for survival is the Arctic skua. It divebombs intruders who stray too close to its nest, a powerful skill that inspired the Royal Navy to name a dive bomber – the Blackburn Skua – after the ►



FD2210-TH



FD2210-PL



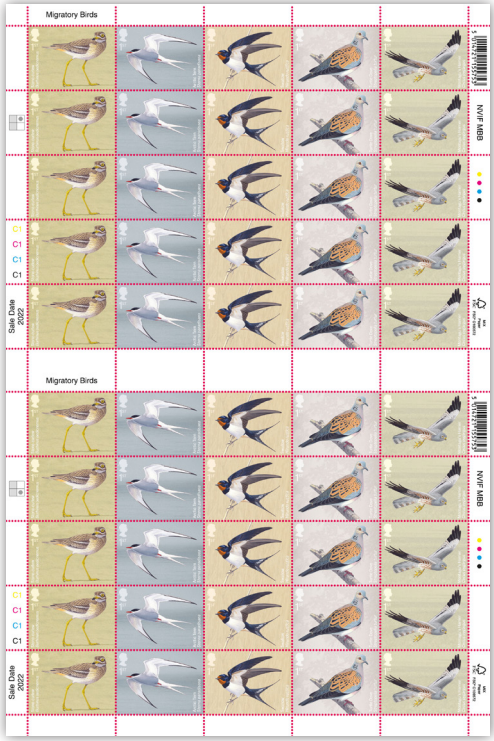
FD2210-NP

The Presentation Pack contains all ten First Class Special Stamps. The inside (below) showcases the Arctic Tern in flight and explores the many reasons behind bird migration and why, despite the hazardous venture for many, there are benefits of doing so. The outer of the pack goes into more detail about each bird, including key facts about their migration patterns and status





The Presentation Pack inner



Full Stamp Sheet (50 x 1st Class)

bird. Known as 'pirates' of the seabird world, skuas often work together to rob food from other species – harassing them in flight and forcing them to drop their dinner, which they then grab. These vagabonds migrate here for the summer, and when they leave in September to winter off the west coast of Africa, our local feathered community must be glad to see them go. Yet whether they are welcome or not, the birds that come to our shores every year are nonetheless a fascinating chapter in the never-ending story of migration – almost as amazing as a trip to the moon…

Migratory Birds – Prices	
Set of 10 Special Stamps	£9.50
Presentation Pack	£10.40
First Day Cover Stamps	£12.05
Stamp Souvenir	£12.05
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (10 in set)	£4.50
Framed Stamps	£19.99
Half Sheet (25 x 1st Class)*	£23.75
Full Stamp Sheet (50 x 1st Class)*	£47.50

**choice of two*

Article by Andrew Neish

Migratory Birds Quiz

1 Which 17th century scientist claimed that birds migrated to the moon?
a) Charles Morton b) Isaac Newton
c) Robert Hooke

2 Which bird has been nicknamed the 'goggled-eyed plover'
a) Turtle Dove b) Stone-curlew c) Swift

3 Which bird 'mugs' other birds in flight for their food? a) Nightjar
b) Yellow Wagtail
c) Arctic Skua

4 The swift migrates to the UK to breed after wintering in...?
a) Africa b) Australia
c) South America

5 The *Hirundo rustica* is more commonly known as the...?
a) Pied Flycatcher
b) Swallow c) Arctic Tern

How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Migratory Birds Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to chloe.tuck@royalmail.com.

Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Migratory Birds Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 May 2022.

January solutions Rolling Stones Quiz 1) c 2) b 3) b 4) a 5) c

Winners Jim Mackin, Castlederg; Allan Downey, Dunfermline; Mr A D Laxon, Swindon; PF Welburn, Scarborough, Alan Wyness, Aberdeenshire.

Terms and conditions Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. Royal Mail's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. Prizes are subject to availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. The winners' names are available 28 days after closing date. To receive this please send an SAE to The Editor.

Etiquettes and Registration

The word 'etiquette' is known to us all, and the Oxford English Dictionary confirms the meanings with which we are familiar. A French word from at least 1750, spelt as we do except with an acute accent on the first 'e', and meaning conventional rules of behaviour in polite society. But there's more. It just says 'A label (rare) 1867'. There are various postal labels, known as etiquettes, but we will deal with those for 'registration' in this short article. To summarise meaning and use, the word 'etiquette' comes from the French 'estique' meaning to attach or stick. In philatelic terms, etiquette refers to advisory labels placed on mail to accomplish or expedite delivery.

The threat of robbery of the post was still a concern in early Victorian times (as was pilfering by staff), even though the memory of Dick Turpin and fellow highwaymen was fading. There was always the possibility that some foolhardy person would attempt to steal mail with the probability of items of value, and so a system to record transmission of items of mail that had value was required. The first period of formal registration began on 6 January 1841, only eight months after the issue of the first postage stamp. An additional fee of one shilling had to be pre-paid in cash when the basic letter rate was one-twelfth of that fee, and this brought some anger from regular postal users. Eventually, over seven years later on 27 March 1848, the fee was halved to sixpence. However, there was no guarantee of compensation for losses until 1878. The process of registration was that every registered item would be allocated a number to be written within a recording book held at the post office of despatch with details of sender and receiver.



From Fleet Street in London to Beckenham, and sent registered post, is this cover postmarked on 4 February 1902. The sender has written the request for registration, and the handstamp confirms it was accomplished. The tariff for registered post was 2d, some handstamps did not show a value – as below. This allowed space for a higher registration fee which included insurance to be handwritten, which although not indicated on this cover was the reason for the stamps totalling 3d in value

This number did not at first appear on a cover, and after earlier use in Victorian times of cross-tied green string, the now familiar blue cross lines were added, as shown in both these registered envelopes from the Edwardian period. From the beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, the senders often gave notice of their request by writing 'Registered' on the cover. The earlier cover has an oval handstamp on each of the three stamps and an additional handstamp which confirms registration, Fleet Street in London as the post office, and the date of 4 February 1902. Apart from the sender's 'Registered' request in writing at the top of the cover, the post office confirmed the request was carried out with an oblong purple ink handstamp.

The second cover is but eight years later, in 1910, both covers effectively covering the reign of King Edward VII and showing the one penny red stamp. However, now we have a registration label – etiquette – with an area of despatch, London E.C.1, and a number. The writer in this instance (rather unusually) indicated in advance the wish for registration by drawing crossed lines, but in black ink. The requirement was for blue, which ordinarily the post office clerk added but done by way of an endorsement in this case. Again, an oval registration handstamp with place and date – Threadneedle Street on 3 January 1910. It can be seen that the registration label was initially printed for 'London, E.C.' and the number '1' added in a different font, so that the number could be changed according to sub-office. Registration as we knew it has been superseded, and today's postal services allow your letter or parcel to be tracked from source to destination. The new barcoded Machins will no doubt 'open up the possibilities for a range of new innovative services in the future.' Someone will write about those in years to come…

Article by Dane Garrod FRPSL



From Threadneedle Street in London to Liscard in Cheshire is this cover sent registered post with an etiquette (postal label) on 3 January 1910. There was no need for the sender to write 'registered' on the envelope – his drawing of crossed lines made it clear

Heroes of the Covid Pandemic

'From our family members, teachers, doctors and nurses to our vaccine scientists and fundraisers, we want to recognise and remember them.'

Boris Johnson



NHS workers – Jessica Roberts
– 1st Class



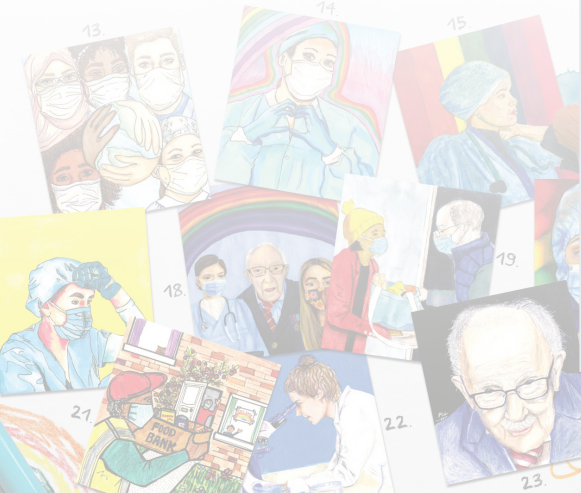
Captain Sir Tom Moore – Shachow Ali
– 1st Class



Lab technician – Logan Pearson
– 1st Class



Delivery driver – Isabella Grover
– 1st Class



Heroes of the Covid Pandemic Stamp Specifications

Date of issue	23 March
Number of stamps	8 x 1st Class
Design	Royal Mail Group
Illustrations	By competition winners: Jessica Roberts, Shachow Ali, Raphael Valle Martin, Alfie Craddock, Logan Pearson, Isabella Grover, Connie Stuart and Ishan Bains
Stamp format	Over-square landscape
Stamp size	37mm x 35mm
Number per sheet	24/48
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



NHS hospital cleaners – Raphael Valle Martin
– 1st Class



NHS/my mum – Alfie Craddock
– 1st Class



The NHS – Connie Stuart
– 1st Class

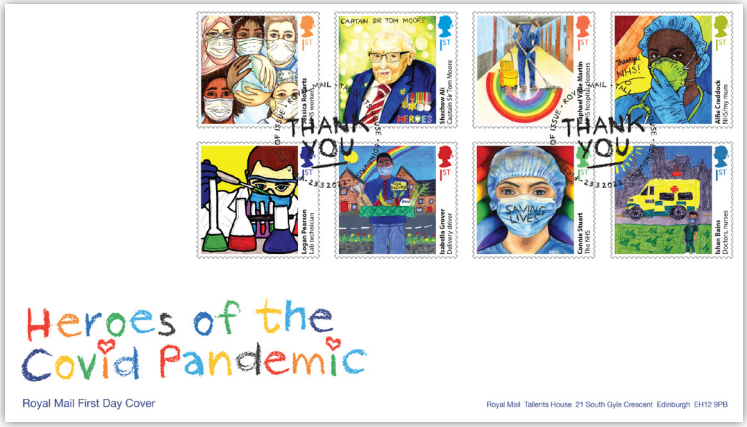


Doctors, nurses – Ishan Bains
– 1st Class

As a Second World War infantry officer he tramped through the snake-infested jungles of Burma, bravely battling alongside his men in vicious close-quarters combat against the Japanese. He endured the constant threat of ambushes, one-man sorties as a motorbike messenger in enemy-held territory, and a dose of dengue fever. Almost 80 years later, however, Captain Tom Moore, a frail 99-year-old cancer survivor with a hip replacement, carried out the most challenging mission of his life… to pace up and down his garden in a sponsored 'march' to raise money for the NHS as the pandemic ripped through Britain. His aim was simply to raise £1,000 by completing 100 laps of his garden before he turned 100, saying modestly: 'One small soul like me won't make much difference'. How wrong he was. Yorkshireman Tom raised almost £40 million, became an overnight sensation, a national treasure, and was knighted for his efforts.

So little wonder, then, that Captain Tom, as he is affectionately known, is a star of the new Heroes of the Covid Pandemic Special Stamp issue, appearing on one of the eight First Class values. The stamps' images pay tribute to the legends of lockdown – nurses and doctors, hospital cleaners ►





First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp featuring a postmark saying a big 'THANK YOU' to all the heroes that are represented on the stamps

and other NHS workers, foodbank volunteers and delivery drivers, and vaccine researchers. They are all children's drawings, winning entries in a Royal Mail stamp design competition, whose judges included Prince Charles and Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Issued on 23 March and accompanied by a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir Cover, Postcards and Full and Half Sheets, the issue is a visual story of the selfless souls who only thought of relieving the suffering of others – the NHS fundraisers, the health workers, community volunteers and vaccine scientists. And it's quite a story. Other amazing fundraisers include 101-year-old East Ender Dabirul Choudhury: his sponsored walk around his garden while fasting during Ramadan garnered more than £420,000 for the NHS, and victims of COVID-19 here and overseas. Little Frank Mills, six, who has spina bifida, embarked on his



The Filler Card – features a montage of all 24 regional finalist designs, as well as the names of the young artists



First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp with the London EC1 location and an illustration of a heart – appropriate for the self-sacrificing love portrayed in the issue

own daily sponsored walk, raising over £300,000 for NHS workers. The Bristol lad had only learnt to walk 18 months before his charity trek, and received a community award for his efforts from Boris Johnson, who called him 'brave and brilliant'.

While fundraisers and their donors supported the NHS, NHS staff were supporting and saving us, fighting Covid on the front line, in the emergency rooms and the wards and the ambulance fleets and the GP surgeries, as thousands upon thousands were felled by the deadly virus. On her first day as a bereavement nurse at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Jackie Brunton met Susan Ayrton, whose father Neville, wracked with Covid, lay dying in a bed there. It was also the day the Government announced families were banned from visiting relatives in hospital. Kindly Jackie arranged for Susan and her dad to FaceTime so he could see his daughter in his last hours. Jackie also successfully campaigned for iPads and a communication system to be installed at the hospital so families could 'be' with loved ones who were being treated there. GP Haider Ali, from Sale in Cheshire, volunteered tirelessly to help health workers, before and after putting in a busy day at work. Following shifts at his surgery, Haider would make up care packages for frontline NHS workers, delivering them personally. And before work, he built protective visors for medical staff in his garden shed, using a 3D printer he'd purchased himself. Instead of going on holiday, Haider spent the time off establishing vaccination centres in Manchester.

The nation may have now suffered almost two years of grief, fear and uncertainty, but thousands of Britons have shown enormous compassion and kindness, volunteering for foodbanks and other charity schemes to help vulnerable members of their communities. The statistics speak for themselves, showing our level of compassion and commitment to support the distressed and disadvantaged in the age of Covid. Players of The National Lottery, for example, raised around £1 billion for local help schemes around the country, allowing them to continue operating during the pandemic. These amounted to some 9,000 community projects, including around 750 groups which look after the lonely and isolated. Among the heroes were ►



FD2206-TH

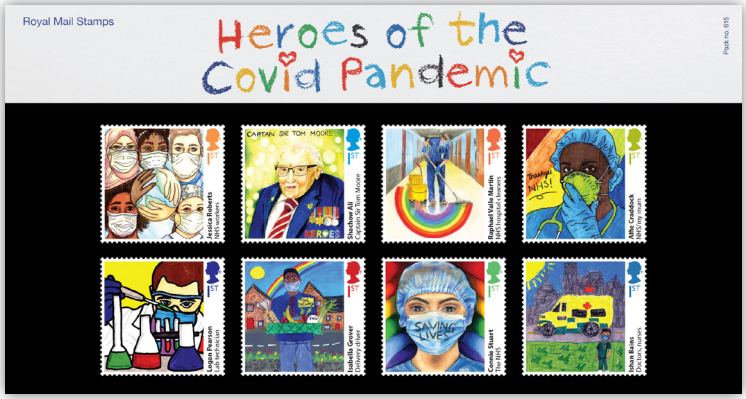


FD2206-PL



FD2206-NP

The Presentation Pack includes all eight Special Stamps. Designed to reflect the nature of the children's competition, the colourful theme from the eight final stamps is weaved throughout the pack too. As well as the eight winning designs, the pack celebrates the 24 regional winners, presenting 12 winners on each side. The final designs showcase the children's heroes from all walks of life; from bus and delivery drivers to food banks, NHS workers and chemists





Presentation Pack inner



Presentation Pack outer

Prakash and Purnima Patel, who came first in the Newsangels competition, run in association with The National Lottery to find Britain's most community-spirited newsagents. In the lockdowns, the couple, who run a convenience store in Manchester, took vital supplies to vulnerable people who couldn't leave their homes – as well as collecting prescriptions for them and paying their bills. With his wife Alexandria, Dominic Warren set up Dom's Food Mission in 2015 to feed disadvantaged Sussex families. During the pandemic the couple's charity work went into overdrive, with Dominic delivering more than 8,000 food parcels every month for the needy.

And while health workers and charity volunteers tirelessly laboured to help the sick and vulnerable, British scientists and researchers have sweated in the lab to find a weapon with which to fight Covid. They include Professor Sarah Gilbert, who with her team of experts developed the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, which has protected millions of people. So while the war with Covid has claimed so many victims, it's heartening to know that, as this new stamp issue shows, there are still heroes in the fight, saving and improving lives ●

Article by Andrew Neish

Heroes of the Covid Pandemic – Prices	
Set of 8 Special Stamps	£6.80
Presentation Pack	£7.70
First Day Cover Stamps	£8.80
Stamp Souvenir	£8.80
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (8 in set)	£3.60
Half Sheet (24 x 1st Class)*	£20.40
Full Sheet (48 x 1st Class)*	£40.80

**choice of two*

New Barcoded Machin Definitives Issues

This month sees the issue of a further 14 Barcoded Machin Definitives – seven low values, three high values and four international tariffs. The three stamp sets are printed from a palette of ten colours. The barcode printed alongside the main body of the stamp (separated by a simulated perforation line) is synonymous with facilitating possibilities for a range of new innovative services in the future.

Low Value Machin Definitives



Sapphire Blue – *1p*



Dark Green – *2p*



Purple Heather – *5p*



Aqua Green – *10p*



Light Green – *20p*



Slate Grey – *50p*



Wood Brown – *£1*



FD2207-TH





FD2207-PL



FD2207-NP

Low Value Machin Definitives – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	4 April
Number of stamps	Seven (1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1)
Design	The stamp features the bas-relief portrait by Arnold Machin OBE, RA, with typography by Jeffery Matthews MBE, FCSD, FRSA
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	39mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	25
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	15 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

Low Value Machin Definitives – Prices	
Stamp Set	£1.88
Presentation Pack	£2.80
First Day Cover	£2.90

Above: the Low Value Machins First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp



The Presentation Pack

High Value Machin Definitives

High Value Machins First Day Cover with the Windsor handstamp. The Windsor location is in recognition of one of The Queen's favourite residences





Bright Blue – £2



Purple – £3



Spruce Green – £5



The Presentation Pack contains all three high value definitives and explains the background history of the timeless iconic Machin design that has graced over two billion stamps

High Value Machin Definitives – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	4 April
Number of stamps	Three (£2, £3, £5)
Design	The stamp features the bas-relief portrait by Arnold Machin OBE, RA, with typography by Jeffery Matthews MBE, FCSD, FRSA
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	39mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	25
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	15 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

Prices	
Stamp Set	£10.00
Presentation Pack	£10.90
First Day Cover	£12.65

International Tariff Machin Definitives



International Tariff Machins First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp. (All envelopes feature the traditional winged horse emblem)





Wood Brown – *£1.85*



Sapphire Blue – *£2.55*



Purple – *£3.25*



Light Green – *£4.20*

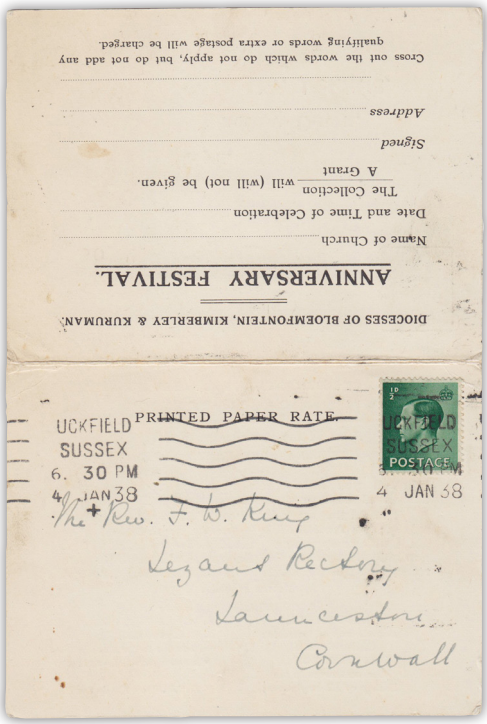
International Tariff Machin Definitives – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	4 April
Number of stamps	Four (£1.85, £2.55, £3.25, £4.20)
Design	The stamp features the bas-relief portrait by Arnold Machin OBE, RA, with typography by Jeffery Matthews MBE, FCSD, FRSA
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	39mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	25
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	15 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

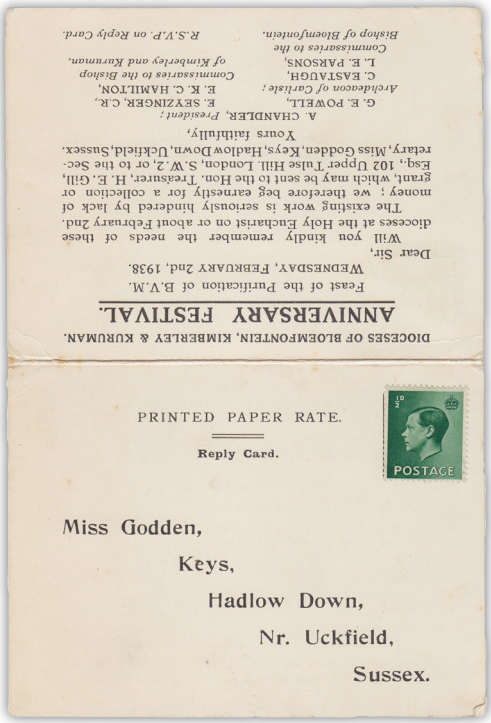
Prices	
Stamp Set	£11.85
Presentation Pack	£12.75
First Day Cover	£14.90

The Presentation Pack that houses the four different values. For further information of prices, letter and parcel specifications visit www.royalmail.com/price-finder. Information defining the geographical zones can be found at www.royalmail.com/international-zones

Reply Cards Maurice Buxton shares further insights into their development

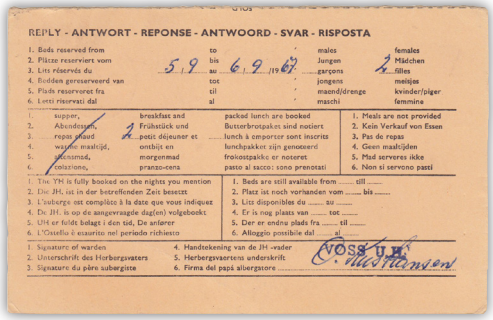
Reply Cards with Adhesives There was no requirement in the UPU rules that the official postal stationery reply cards had to be used, any more than there was for ordinary postcards – private cards stamped with adhesives were perfectly acceptable as long as they had the correct wording printed on them. This is one way in which stamps of any country could be 'used abroad'. This option was not commonly used, even by philatelists, but examples of such cards do turn up from time to time.



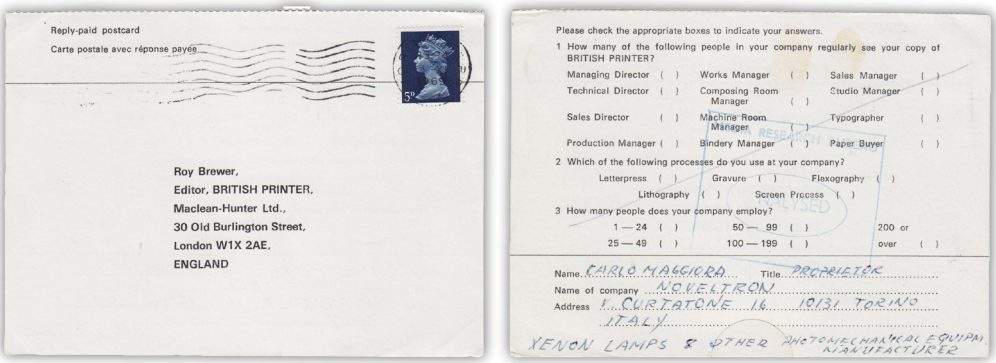


An example of an inland reply card with adhesives, albeit in this case one in which both halves qualified for the printed papers rate – a 1938 request to various reverend gentlemen for a collection to be taken for the work of three South African dioceses, unusually still stamped with the Edward VIII ½ds that had been replaced in May 1937



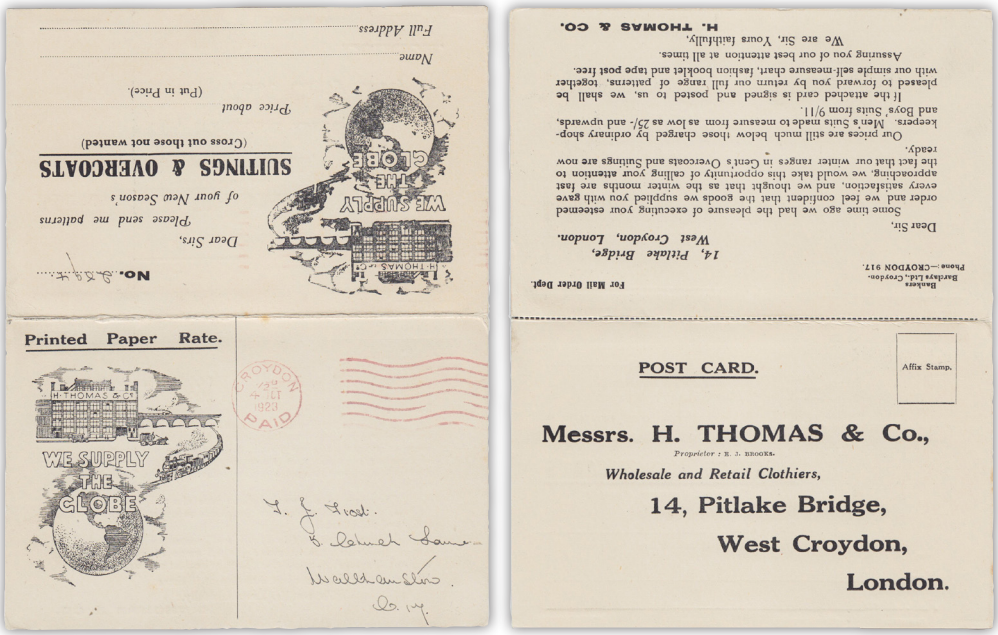


The most frequently seen reply cards posted with adhesives were used by hostelling associations. They were printed with forms for requesting and confirming room bookings in several languages, to allow them to be used to a range of countries. This one was returned from Norway in 1967

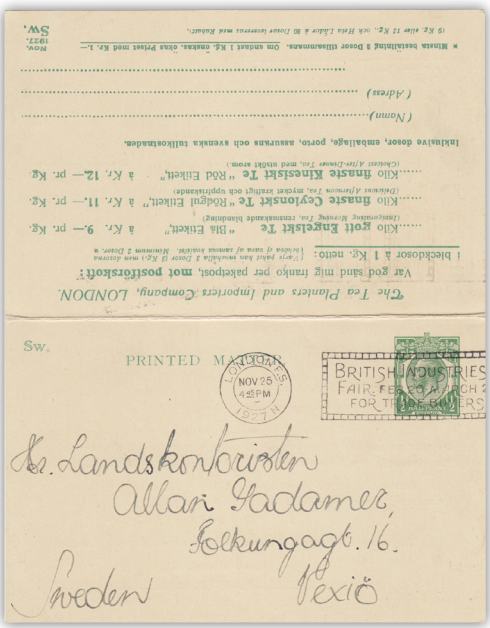


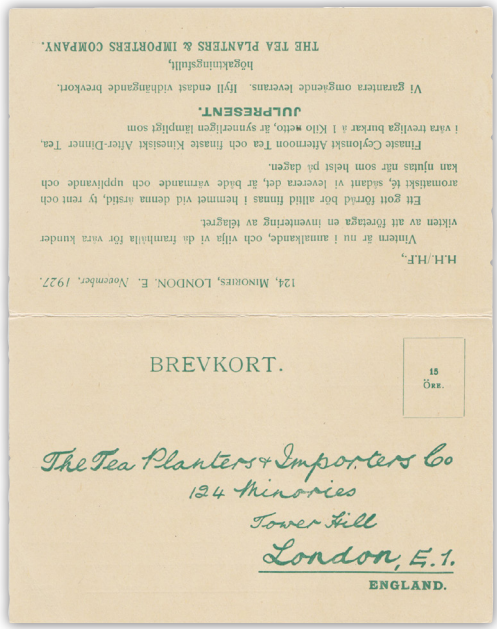
A more unusual privately printed reply card using adhesives, sent by The British Printer, a journal for the graphic arts and printing trades from 1888-2000. It was used for a readership survey and returned from Turin in 1969

Cards with Unpaid Reply Halves The obvious advantage of sending an item with reply paid was that it induced the addressee to return it, as they could do so at no cost to themselves. The equally obvious disadvantage was that they might not actually bother, in which case the cost of the return postage was wasted. Whether this was a paying proposition overall for mailshots depended on the rate of return. Commercial users who judged that it wasn't could, of course, have items made up in reply card format, but with the customer left to pay postage on the return (which did at least imply more than casual interest). ►

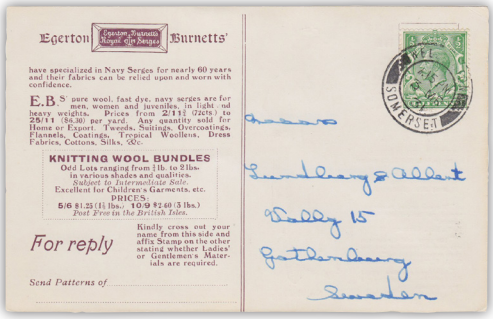


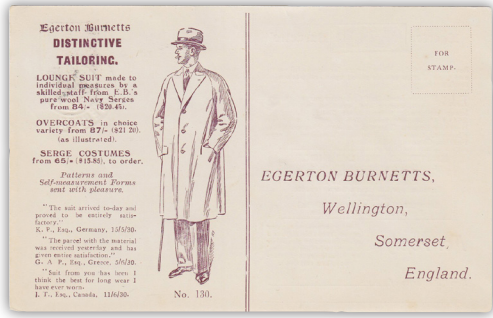
Another advantage of the unpaid-reply format was that the outward mailing would normally qualify for the printed papers rate, which was cheaper than the postcard rate. This 1923 card from a London clothing company was part of a mailshot for the new season's styles, posted in bulk and paid in cash (note the Paid machine mark)





The savings for sending at printed papers rate were even bigger when the cards were going abroad. The Tea Planters and Importers Company was a prolific user of STO postal stationery, and had 'reply cards' stamped for only the outward journey made up for a range of destinations, with text (and a 'POSTCARD' heading on the reply half) in the appropriate language, and even an indication of what postage had to be paid on return in the local currency! This one was a version for use to Sweden, posted in 1927





There was, of course, no need to use the folded card format if you were making up your own cards anyway… this 1931 card from a Somerset firm of haberdashers and tailors used the single-card format, with the customer instructed to cross out the original details if they replied



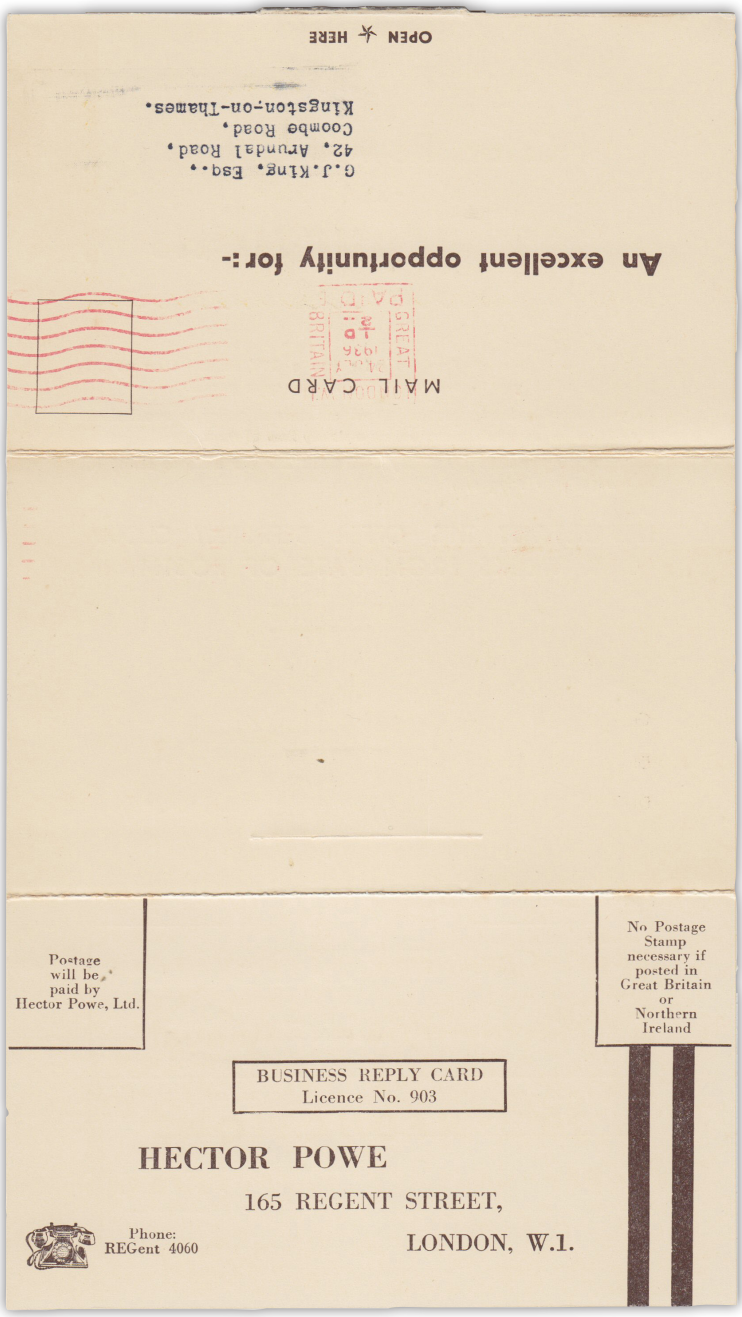




In some cases, you have to suspect that the sender was not really interested in receiving cards back from someone who wouldn't even spend money on the return postage! This 1933 card was printed in full colour (an expensive and unusual choice at the time) and advertised the wares of J.W. Benson Ltd, high-class watchmakers and jewellers and holders of numerous British and foreign royal warrants. Oddly, it was charged customs duty in South Africa

Business Reply

A new postal facility was introduced in the UK in 1932 – the 'Business Reply' service – and this substantially reduced the use case for standard reply cards. The new service allowed holders of a licence to send out stationery printed with a special design which their customers could use to reply to them, with the business paying the postage on receipt (at the normal rate + ½d). This in effect combined the advantages of both the paid and unpaid response versions of the reply card – the free postage encouraged customers to return the card, but there was no wastage from unused cards, as the firm only paid for those actually returned. There was no need for business reply cards to be standard folded cards (although some were), as the outward mailing commonly qualified as printed papers anyway. They have been produced in a variety of weird and wonderful formats, often as an advertising mailshot with a detachable return card included as part of the package.

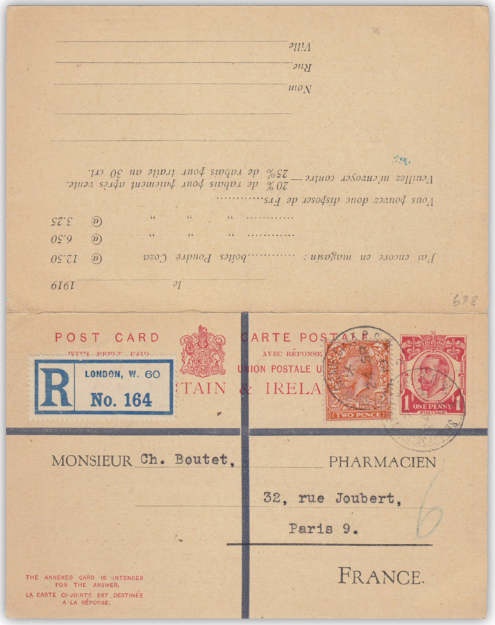


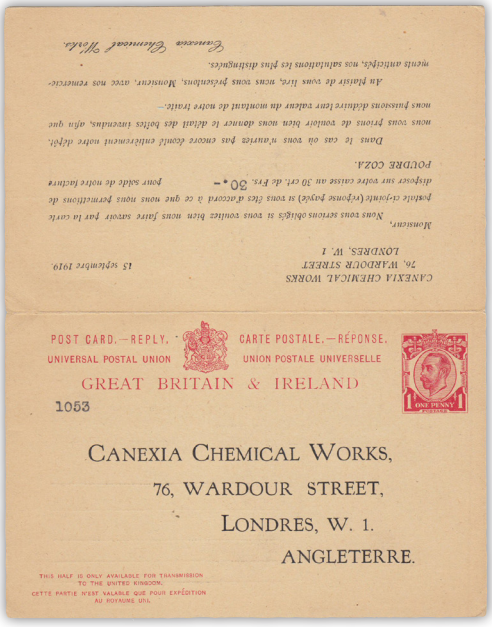
A typical example of a business reply card sending, in the form of a three-part 'MAIL CARD' with tuck-in flap, the interior printed with an advertisement for a London clothing company's annual mid-season sale. Another item sent initially as a bulk mailshot paid in cash at the ½d printed papers rate

Unusual Treatments of Reply Cards Occasionally a reply card is encountered which has been treated in an unexpected manner, either by postal authorities or the user. A few examples of this are shown here, including a foreign reply card (perfectly acceptable for postage in the UK if returned to its country of origin, just as UK reply cards were acceptable abroad under UPU rules) that could not be sent back due to events. ►



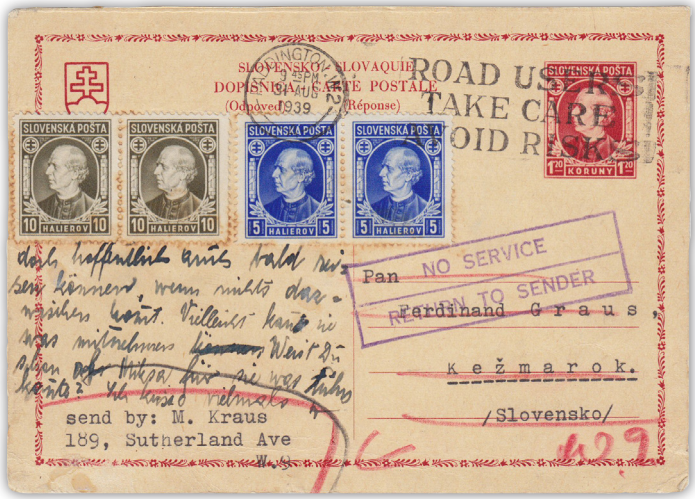
Return half of a 'stout' reply card of the 1899 issue with an unusual cancellation – a boxed "½D / POSTAGE / DUE FOR / RETURN / TO / SENDER". Clearly part of a mailshot from a supplier of scientific equipment. Normally a proportion of the addresses on a mailing list would be invalid, resulting in the cards being returned to sender. Return of undeliverable ½d rate items was not free – they were charged ½d postage due – but as the mailshot was using prepaid reply cards, there was an unused ½d stamp that would pay the sum due! Since the office had to add the explanatory boxed handstamp anyway, they clearly saved some effort by using it as a cancellation



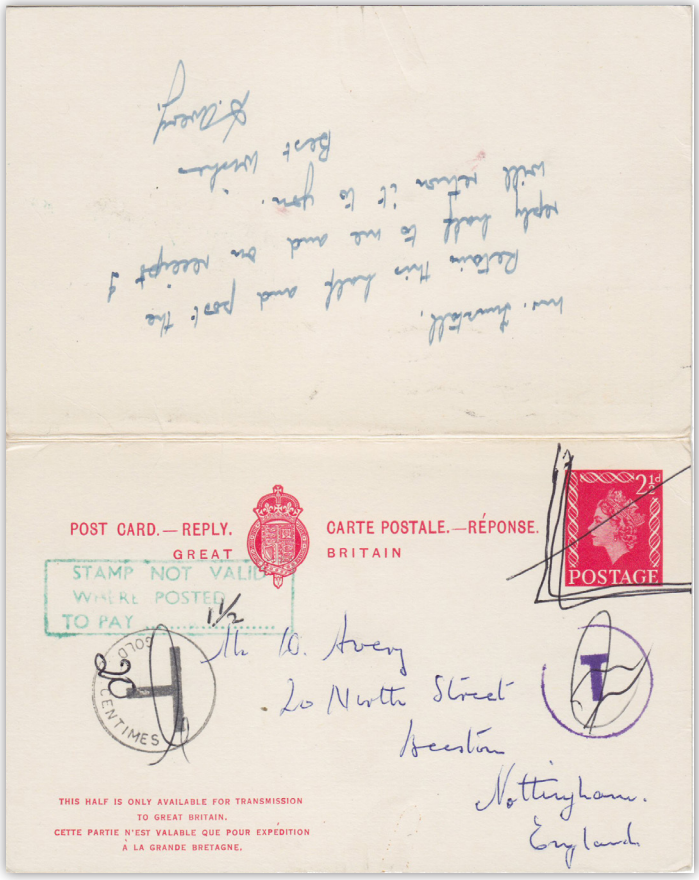


Postcards were sometimes registered, but not very often. Registration of a reply card was extremely unusual, the more so when the user had the blue lines pre-printed on the card, as here. It was used by a chemical company to send requests to French pharmacists with an additional printed message, which appears to be asking for an update on the sale of boxes of their products sent on deposit – presumably the reason for registration was to ensure delivery

A reply card of the first Slovak Republic, which declared independence from Czechoslovakia in March 1939 as a German client state. It was returned from Paddington on 30 August 1939, addressed to Kežmarok, a town which had a large German minority at the time – the message is routine, although it mentions that the post is irregular. However, the Republic was the only Axis nation to aid the German invasion of Poland on 1 September, which meant that service was suspended due to the outbreak of hostilities before this card could be forwarded

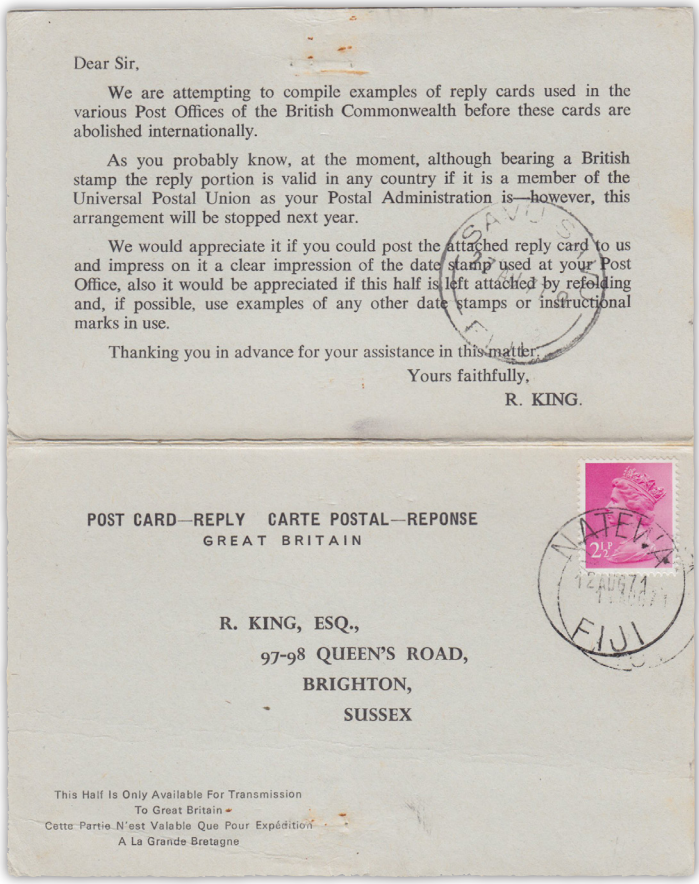


This card was originally sent from Nottingham to Nairobi in 1965 with a message saying 'retain this half and post the reply half to me'. The recipient didn't get the idea and posted the whole thing back. It appears to have been treated as a letter, with the stamp outlined to indicate it was not valid in Kenya, and a surcharge raised. Although sending both halves back was (on a technical reading of the then-current UPU convention) only allowed if the card had a printed question-and-answer format, such cards were almost always accepted. (It's also possible that the postal clerk simply wasn't familiar with the concept of international reply cards and didn't get the idea either.) The circular 'T' (for Taxe) marks appear to be Kenyan, although the 'STAMP NOT VALID / WHERE POSTED' mark is British. The surcharge of 1½d is odd as it appears to be the 4d UK Commonwealth letter rate less 2½d allowed for the stamp, rather than double the deficiency, although there is no indication that it was collected… An example of the confusion reply cards sometimes caused for postal staff, not to mention collectors trying to work out what was going on!



The End of the Reply Card Service Collectors of Post Office postal stationery reply cards will probably have noticed that in the post-World War II era, almost all the used cards available seem to have been sent by philatelists. This is probably because almost all of them were in fact sent by philatelists – by this era, the number of reply cards sent in the mails was very low indeed. At the UPU Congress in Tokyo in 1969, it was agreed that the reply-paid postcard service would be discontinued in the international mails. The Tokyo convention took effect as of 1 July 1971, from which date reply cards were no longer to be accepted, except for a 60 day grace period for the use of any response halves sent before this date. In practice, and in keeping with the regular unfamiliarity with these cards from postal staff throughout their history, examples of used international reply cards can be found after this date. For an example see the 'Tony Piffero' STO card shown earlier in this article, which was posted from the British Philatelic Exhibition on 6 November 1971, and returned without problems from Sydney on 21 December!

Article by Maurice Buxton FRPSL


Dear Sir,

We are attempting to compile examples of reply cards used in the various Post Offices of the British Commonwealth before these cards are abolished internationally.

As you probably know, at the moment, although bearing a British stamp the reply portion is valid in any country if it is a member of the Universal Postal Union as your Postal Administration is—however, this arrangement will be stopped next year.

We would appreciate it if you could post the attached reply card to us and impress on it a clear impression of the date stamp used at your Post Office, also it would be appreciated if this half is left attached by refolding and, if possible, use examples of any other date stamps or instructional marks in use.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

R. KING.

POST CARD—REPLY CARTE POSTAL—REPONSE
GREAT BRITAIN

R. KING, ESQ.,
97-98 QUEEN'S ROAD,
BRIGHTON,
SUSSEX

This Half Is Only Available For Transmission
To Great Britain -
Cette Partie N'est Valable Que Pour Expédition
A La Grande Bretagne

Marcophilists requesting postmarks of foreign post offices sometimes prepared their own reply cards stamped with adhesives, rather than use postal stationery. This one was part of a large number sent out before the service was scrapped, printed with a suitable message – so presumably it was easier to make up a private card in sheets rather than overprint single Post Office cards. It was sent on 8 June 1971 before the official cutoff date, and returned from Fiji on 12 August



Due to the recent pandemic and occasional cancellations, you may wish to check that a particular stamp fair is going to take place, and so details of contacts and telephone numbers are given.

Stamp Scene Dane Garrod keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

The Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture 2022 will be held at 5pm on Thursday 28 April at the home of the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, when Simon Richards FRPSL will give a talk entitled 'The Influence of Military History on Postal History: Anglo-French Rivalry in the Caribbean'. This very worthwhile presentation has free admission, but is only by non-transferable ticket on application to: Rex Dixon FRPSL at rexdixon@btinternet.com. **The National Philatelic Society** will meet at The Phoenix Centre, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL on Saturday 9 April via Zoom online at 11am when Robert Mott will explain 'How the German Post Office dealt with Hyper-inflation', followed by a short interval and then two short displays given by members. **The Great Britain Philatelic Society** has a meeting in April at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW when on Saturday 23 April at 11am Ray Simpson & Karl Louis will jointly display 'QV Mixed Franking Covers' followed by Members' displays from 2.15pm on the subject of 'Mixed/Unusual Frankings (any reign)'. You are welcome to attend these events, and to contact Phil Waud at secretary@gbps.org.uk for further details concerning the society. **The Royal Philatelic Society London** has two meetings in April, beginning on Thursday 7 April at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW with the Sir Daniel Cooper Lecture from Dr Peter Young on 'De La Rue' from 5pm, followed by Carol Bommarito on Thursday 21 April at 5pm with the title of 'Adhesive Stamp Usage on Transatlantic Mail to and from the US 1840-1875'. Should you wish to attend as a non-member, then please make a telephone call during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day to the Administration Manager, Jason Webber, on 020 7486 1044.

9 April Canterbury Postcard & Collectors Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Hall Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, 50+ tables. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 07802 402873.

Derby Stamp Fair, Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alveston DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Great Barr Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Great Barr B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair, Grove Green Community Centre (opp. Tesco), Maidstone ME14 5BT, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Brian Stonestreet, 01622 675784.

Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.

Charing Cross Market 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 07540 144433.

Leicester Stamp Fair, The Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.

Telford Stamp and Card Fair, Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford, TF1 1HJ, 10am to 2pm. Enquiries: Richard Camp, 01952 405458.

10 April Wokingham Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, Wokingham RG40 1SS, 9.30am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Braintree Stamp Fair, Bocking Arts Centre, 15 Bocking Road, Braintree CM7 9AE, 9am to 2.30pm. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518.

16 April Hull Stamp Fair, St. James's Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, HU13 9EY, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Brighton Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 9 April).

17 April Knowle Stamp Fair, Village Hall, St. John's Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 2.30pm, up to 15 dealers. Enquiries: Andrew Vaughan, 07824 775979.

Dover Stamp Fair, Biggin Hall, Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1BD, 9.30am to 2pm. Enquiries: Keith Shepherd, 07718 157826.

Dronfield Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road & Grove Road (B4540), Slip End, LU1 4BU. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

18 April Aylesbury Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchill Avenue, Southcourt, Aylesbury HP21 8ER, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

23 April Kettering Stamp Fair, Ise Lodge Community Centre, St. Vincent's Avenue, Kettering NN15 5DR, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Gordon Tregidgo, 01536 746800.

Colchester Stamp Fair, Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey CO6 1EN, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 9 April).

Chichester Stamp & Postcard Fair, Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Chichester PO19 8QR, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

24 April Portsmouth (Cosham) Stamp Fair, Cosham Community Centre, Wootton Street, Cosham PO6 3AP, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Peter Jones, 01489 582673.

30 April Morley Stamp Fair, St. Mary's Hall, Commercial Street, Morley, near Leeds, LS27 8HZ, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Bournemouth Stamp Fair, St. Edmund Campion Church, 481 Castle Lane West, Bournemouth BH8 9TN, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Peter Jones, 01489 582673.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 9 April).

Ealing Stamp Fair, Kingsdown Baptist Church Hall, Northfields Avenue, Ealing W13 9PR, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Coventry Stamp Fair, Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, Coventry CV7 9JZ, 10am to 1pm. Enquiries: Dave Mann, 07976 797975.

1 May Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford MK2 2HX, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Stamp Fair, Community Centre, Wye Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 4AZ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Collyer, 07966 565151.

Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 9.30am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Worthing Stamp Fair, Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, Worthing BN11 4PL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

7 May Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, South Parade, Sutton Coldfield B72 1QY, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Rice, 01785 259350.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 9 April).

Wigginton Stamp Fair, Recreation Hall, Wigginton, York YO32 2PL, 9am to 2pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.

Rawreth Stamp Fair, Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Sarah Brooks, 07786 302722.

Swindon Stamp Fair, Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, Swindon SN3 1LA, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: John Puttock, 01793 542767.

Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow (6 mls N of Preston) PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3AU, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

Croydon Stamp Fair, Shirley Methodist Church Hall, Eldon Avenue, Croydon CR0 8SD, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 020 8395 9285.

Leicester Stamp Fair, The Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.

Sittingbourne Stamp & Postcard Fair, Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

Swindon Stamp Fair, Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, Swindon SN3 1LA, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: John Puttock, 01793 542767.

8 May Farnham Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Wings Road, Upper Hale, Farnham GU9 0HN, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Peter Jones, 01489 582673.

Reepham Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Hawthorn Road, Reepham LN3 4DU, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Tony Limb, 07562 570562.

Wokingham Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, Wokingham RG40 1SS, 9.30am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

14 May Margate Collectors' Fair, Union Church, Union Crescent, Margate CT9 1NR, 10am to 3pm, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 07802 402873.

Derby Stamp Fair, Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alveston DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 9 April).

15 May Dover Stamp Fair, Biggin Hall, Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1BD, 9.30am to 2pm. Enquiries: Keith Shepherd, 07718 157826.

Dronfield Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

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PTS

New Issues and Withdrawals

Information correct at the time of going to press

4 April

Issue Barcoded Machin Low Value Definitives: Stamps (1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1). Presentation Pack. First Day Cover. First Day Envelope.



Issue Barcoded Machin High Value Definitives: Stamps (£2, £3, £5). Presentation Pack. First Day Cover.



Issue Barcoded Machin International Tariff Definitives: Stamps (£1.85, £2.55, £3.25, £4.20). Presentation Pack. First Day Cover.



7 April

Issue Migratory Birds: Stamps (10 x 1st Class). Presentation Pack. First Day Cover. First Day Envelope. Stamp Souvenir. Postcards (10 in set). Stamp Sheets. Framed Stamps.



20 April

Withdrawal The Rolling Stones: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.

4 May

Withdrawal Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Stamp Souvenir.

5 May

Issue Unsung Heroes Women of World War II: Stamps (10 x 1st Class). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.85). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover Stamps. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane. Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: 4 x 1st Class, pane two: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.85, pane three: 2 x 50p, 3 x £1, pane four: 6 x 1st Class). Press Sheet. Postcards (15 in set). Stamp Sheets. Framed Stamps. Framed Miniature Sheet.

18 May

Withdrawal The Stamp Designs of David Gentleman: Stamp Sheet Souvenir.

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