

Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation

Newsletter

June 2021

Welcome to the June newsletter with maybe the signs of a return to 'normal'.

We're arranging a **Stamp Day on Sunday 24th October**, three weeks after Stampex, during which there will home produced displays, competitions with judging on the day and the AGM.

The day will be based at **Buckden Village Hall**, adjacent to the A1, just south of Huntingdon.

It is an excellent venue, well lit, with plenty of parking and close to a rather fine pub, where we would hope to repair for lunch at reserved tables. We'll keep you informed.

Change of Secretary

Please let me know if, after the dust settles from the pandemic, you have any changes of society secretary, so I can inform all our member societies. Peter Morton would also like to be updated on any changes too.

At King's Lynn, Terry Wagg FRPSL, has retired after many years as the secretary, with his tireless efforts keeping us all in line and informed. He was also secretary of the former East Midlands and East Anglian Federation for many years and served as our last President, during which time he visited and displayed at most of our societies. He will be a hard act to follow.

The brave member taking over is: Dahlia Harrison; 01775 423087; tlhmilhis69@gmail.com

2021 – 2022

At the AGM, John Spencer FRPSL will take over as our President. I hope he will have a busier and more fulfilling two years than I have had as a result of the pandemic! As a member of the Federation's committee he has been particularly concerned with organising our Stamp Days, and what a great success they have been. Well done, John.

Machin update with Peter Morton

For self-adhesive issued stamps no account has been taken of the orientation of the printed backing paper, where differences can occur by way of a Type 2 backing paper with Large over Small (L/S) or Small over Large (S/L) layout. Recent issues have also been seen where the stamps have been produced with a much thinner backing paper.

Walsall sheet stamp printings (self adhesive)

"20" and "21" date code stamps

Value	Printer	Code	Comments
£2.55	Walsall	No code	sheet printings (01.10.20), stamps have short bottom bands

Conventionally gummed stamps "20" date code

20p bright green Cartor P ex Fools & Horses prestige booklet

NVI stamps "21" date code

2nd Large	Walsall	F	ex SAC34E booklet
1 st dull red	Walsall	C	ex SAM75 Star Trek

2nd pale blue Walsall T ex series 333F booklets

NVI stamps “21” date code

1st red Walsall C ex SAM77 Only fools & horses

Further “20” date stamps have now appeared:

1st red Cartor P ex Fools & horses prestige booklet

Nothing to report:

High values; country issues.

Post & Go stamps

For those who collect either the Machin head or pictorial strips effective from 1st September 2020, three new values were introduced (a) Europe100g/world 20g; (b) world zone1 – 3; (c) world zone 2.

The Post Office requesting that old P & G material be used up, the 2020 price change is causing a number of new items now being available.

If any collector who specialises in Machins wishes to know more details as to what is available then please feel free to contact me by email; peter.morton@btopenworld.com

Experimental barcode security definitives

On March 23rd Royal Mail introduced a larger style 2nd class definitive with a 2 D barcode data section to the right. This is very much a trial, but at present it is not known what capabilities the barcode data can hold which may involve tracking the posted item through the postal system via an App. The barcode contains the printed date for the stamps; original bright blues tamps were printed on 23rd November 2020, albeit with a “21” date code, but a further batch was printed on 4th January 2021 an appear to be a much deeper blue



Marvel Limited Edition prestige booklet stamps

The Post Office have over the last few years produced limited numbers of prestige stamp booklets for ‘fans’ rather than collectors. Previously the booklets have differed from the standard one in having a different front cover, and of course, charging more for the privilege.

All that changed with the second prestige booklet of 2019. In March of that year Royal Mail celebrated Marvel Comic Books – standard and limited-edition versions of the booklets were produced **PLUS** a further limited-edition booklet – limited to only 1939 copies (80th anniversary from 1939). Within this the images of the ‘heroes’ was changed and the back cover altered together with an extra internal page.

However, it is the se-tenant Machin pane where the excitement lies. The hidden date code is M19L, not M18L and the other values from the pane: 20p, £1.25 and £1.45 are also unique to this pane.

But here's where the trouble begins.

In order to make the booklet even more special it was decided to PRINT a pictorial cancellation onto all stamp panes, simulating a post mark. There is no date or place of cancellation so this is NOT a post mark, but may be considered as a pre-cancel or an overprint, **BUT** can these stamps be used postally as they are already defaced?

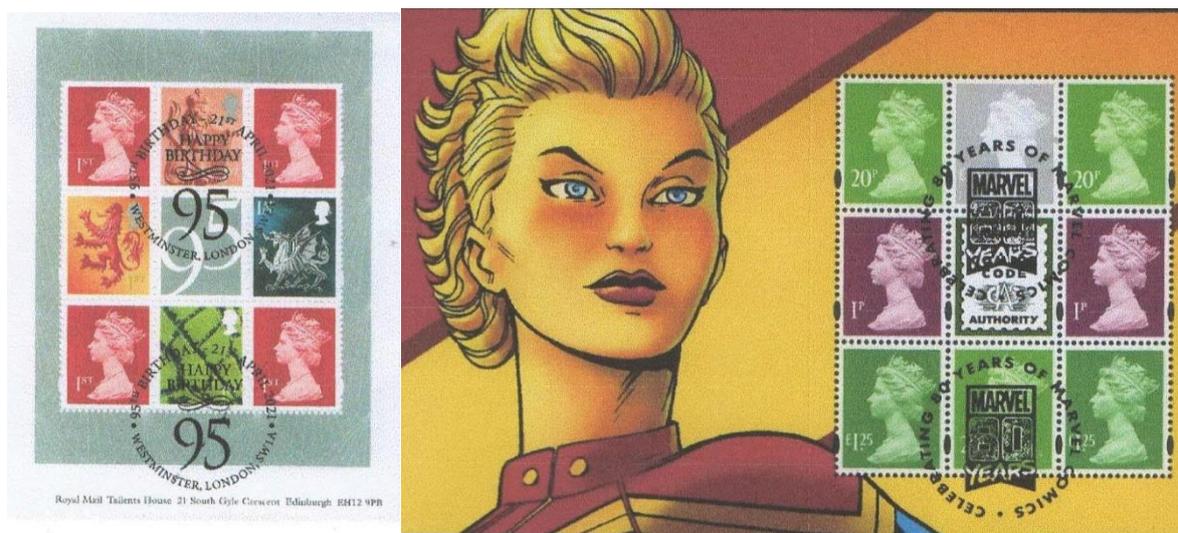
And now it gets worse

Royal Mail had quietly planned to produce a miniature sheet for the Duke of Edinburgh's 100th birthday, but sadly he didn't make it.

However, they did go ahead with producing a sheetlet for the Queen's 95th birthday. This sheetlet which resembles a typical prestige booklet pane, contains each of the 1st class country stamps and 4 standard 1st class red adhesives. BUT:

The stamps are printed in gravure, while the rest of the sheetlet is printed in litho, with the phosphor also in gravure. Added to that there are no security cut outs on the vertical margins and the stamps are GUMMED..

These sheetlets were produced to be used on coin covers so no mint copies were available for sale to collectors. They are only available from First day Cover dealers!



Stamp Fairs

It looks as though the York Show and Midpex are going ahead as planned in a few weeks' time and plans are well on for Stampex, at the end of September and London 2022 next February.

However, it is at the local level that doubts exist. Will the Cambridge and King's Lynn's fairs return; for them social distancing, if still required in the autumn, will cause a problem. Will dealers turn out if sales are likely to be reduced, or maybe there will be a surge in buying!! Certainly, the many dealers who took part in virtual Stampex recently had good sales.

Do please let me know if you hear of Stamp Fairs starting up again near you, so I can promote them in the newsletter

Cover of the Quarter



This letter was written by Sarah Harding to her grandparents in Perth in 1834. She is writing to inform them that her mother, their daughter, has died and left three children under the age of 8 without a mother. Sarah Harding is a young, teenage wife, to a Sergeant Harding, who works in the foundry at Fort William in Calcutta, the home of the 'Black Hole of Calcutta'.

This letter has been posted by Sergeant Harding – see manuscript at top of cover – and countersigned by Major G Hutchinson, his commanding officer. Thus signed, it used the Soldier's Privilege facility to travel to Scotland for just 3d.

This is made up of 2d for the Calcutta to London journey and 1d for inland travel to Perth. The INDIA SOLDIER/LONDON mark is listed in the County Catalogue as L 1302b.

This letter travelled to Scotland during the Additional Half tax period (1813 – 1839), but was EXEMPT from the additional ½d because of the special soldier's rate.

This could be considered as an 'abuse of privilege' as the letter was not written by a serving soldier in the East India Company.

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Federation Committee

President	Mike Kentzer	King's Lynn
Vice President	John Spencer	Leighton Buzzard
Secretary	Peter Morton	Cambridge
Treasurer	Richard Husband	Cambridge
Competition Secretary	Mike Kentzer	
Webmaster	Martin Lovegrove	King's Lynn

Committee Members

Terry Wagg (Past President)	King's Lynn
David Alford	North Herts.
David Belton	North Herts.
Jon Higgins	King's Lynn

Editor's note: my apologies for the weird spacing of some of the text – a computer glitch which I'm not clever enough to sort!

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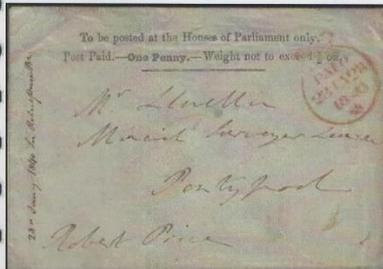
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SPECIALISTS IN THE POSTAL HISTORY AND
POSTAGE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

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LIST 159 GREAT BRITAIN.

1. 1841 1D RED PL.12 (SG8)(IF) CANCELLED RED MALTESE CROSS (SPEC B16b). A fine used 1841 1d red pl.12 (SG8) lettered IF with four close to good margins and cancelled fine to very fine strike of a RED MALTESE CROSS (spec B16b). RPS cert. 202756. Rare. (Ref 124785). £2250.00





To be posted at the Houses of Parliament only.
Post Paid.—One Penny.—Weight not to exceed 2 lbs.

2. 1840 'HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT' ENVELOPE (SPEC PE1b) FROM LONDON TO PONTYPOOL. A good used example of the printed 'Houses of Parliament' envelope, issued to supercode free franking from London to 'Mr Llewellyn, Mineral Surveyor, Pontypool' and signed at lower left 'Robert Price' M.P. for Hereford city. Slight creasing and soiling, on front good strike 'Crown/PAID' date stamp 28 JA 1840. Unusually with letter and on paper watermarked 'J RUMP 1839' (spec PE1b). Rare, fine example £18,000. (Ref 124839). £3850.00

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