

FIRST DAY COVERAGE

The Newsletter of the Association of G.B. First Day Cover Collectors

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Number 101



The Association of Great Britain

First Day Cover
Collectors

Membership 271

April 2011

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From the Editor's Desk



Welcome to the April 2011 edition of First Day Coverage. We have a 24 page edition for you this time, thanks to a number of members coming to the rescue and sending in articles and features. We would like to thank everyone who has supplied material for us to

publish in this edition of First Day Coverage. Your newsletter is only as good as the material sent in to us. So please keep it coming – we need lots more.

To date we have had a fairly exciting start to the philatelic year and it will get better, I assure you. A number of excellent stamp issues are coming up and you don't want to miss them. WWF, Royal Shakespeare Company, and Morris & Company are on their way at the time of writing – all lovely designs and each stamp miniature works of art. This is especially true of the Morris & Company stamps. I really like them. There is also a very nice PSB too.

Continued on page 2

Pub Meetings

LONDON

Pub Meetings held in
In The Ship and Shovel, Craven Passage,
London WC2 @ 3pm

Please contact Richard Park for meeting dates during 2011

*Queries to: Richard Park, 2 Chaffinch Close, Horsham,
West Sussex RH12 5HA*

West Midlands Region

Meetings held in The Bowling Green Pub, Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 4BH.

For Future Dates please contact:

Mr Joseph Adam Bevan, Tel: 07969 311 003 & 0121 477 9924
(weekdays 7-10pm).

*Queries to: Terry Barnett, Hon. Secretary, 7 Mackets
Lane, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0QA*

Association Officers

Hon. President
Derek Williams, 51 Longman Court,
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Email: derek@gbcovers.co.uk

PLEASE CONTACT THE RIGHT PERSON

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All membership matters & National Meetings Organiser. General GBFDC queries. Newsletter Distribution.	Terry Barnett Hon. Secretary GBFDC 7 Mackets Lane, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0QA Email: terryhuntsc@tiscali.co.uk
Editorial, Letters to the Editor, Advertising & General Newsletter queries. Leaflets & inserts. Newsletter Editing.	Phil Sheridan. Hon. Editor GBFDC P.O. Box 99, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0NN Email: Sheridanfdds@aol.com
Assistant Editor to Phil Sheridan	Dot R. Hon. Assistant Editor GBFDC P.O. Box 99, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0NN
Hon. Association Treasurer	Alan Knight Hon. Treasurer GBFDC Woodbury Bessels Lea Road Blewbury Didcot Oxon OX11 9NW Email: Alanknight@uku.co.uk

From the Editor's Desk *continued.....*

We haven't received any feedback on the Lenticular stamps used on ordinary post. We have learnt that, in order to remove the stamps from the miniature sheet surround, one has to use scissors, which has been commented on unfavourably by some collectors. I did use scissors to remove the stamps myself and, I have to say, it wasn't easy to do. If you have experimented

Important Notice

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE 2011 EDITION
Items for publication MUST be with the editor by
7th May 2011

Thank you to everyone who has sent in material for publication. If you haven't seen your article in this newsletter, please be assured that we will use it in a future edition. We require more articles and features so that we have them in have for forthcoming newsletters

with these stamps going through the postal system then please write in with your findings. What I can say is that once one of these stamps is affixed to the envelope then it is very secure. I tried removing a miniature sheet from an envelope and the envelope was destroyed without damage to the stamp. The glue on the sheet is extremely good indeed.

The Musicals issue on 24 February were a surprising hit with many collectors (no pun intended). I thought they wouldn't be as popular as other stamp issues but I was pleasantly surprised. Musicals First Day Covers were much sought after and I, personally, received many enquiries and orders for them. If the rest of the year goes as well then I won't be complaining.

We hope you enjoy this edition of 'Coverage' as we have worked hard to bring you some interesting articles and features. We are very grateful to all newsletter contributors. If you feel that you can supply a series of articles that we can publish in several consecutive newsletters then please contact us direct with your ideas – all material is very welcome.

On page three we show the GBFDC RSC official cover, the second of the year. It is for member information only.

Selwyn Goodacre has written two excellent articles on pages 5-6. The GP FDCs are items I didn't know existed and I suspect many of our members have never heard of them either. **Ian** Billings has very kindly allowed us to reproduce his website article on new 1st Class

gold Machin Forgeries that have recently come to light. It does appear that some of these forgeries are getting past the RM inspectors as they are cancelled with machine wavy lines and packet handstamps. It might be worth keeping an eye on our mail for such items. Very often cancelled forged stamps end up being more valuable than the real thing.

The MCS is not as full as usual this time so we ask you to remember to send in your covers for sale in good time for the deadline dates of each newsletter. Remember, this service is free to all members so dig out your duplicates and covers you no longer want and send them in to us for the next MCS.

Richard Dean has submitted two very interesting articles relating to CoverCraft covers on pages 15-17. While Frank Aldridge very kindly sent us a Radio Operators' Card for us to see what they look like (page 18). Apparently this is another area of collecting.

Richard Bennett has sent feedback regarding Ian Billings' query about the producer of the 1973 Cricket cover. See what Richard says on page 22.

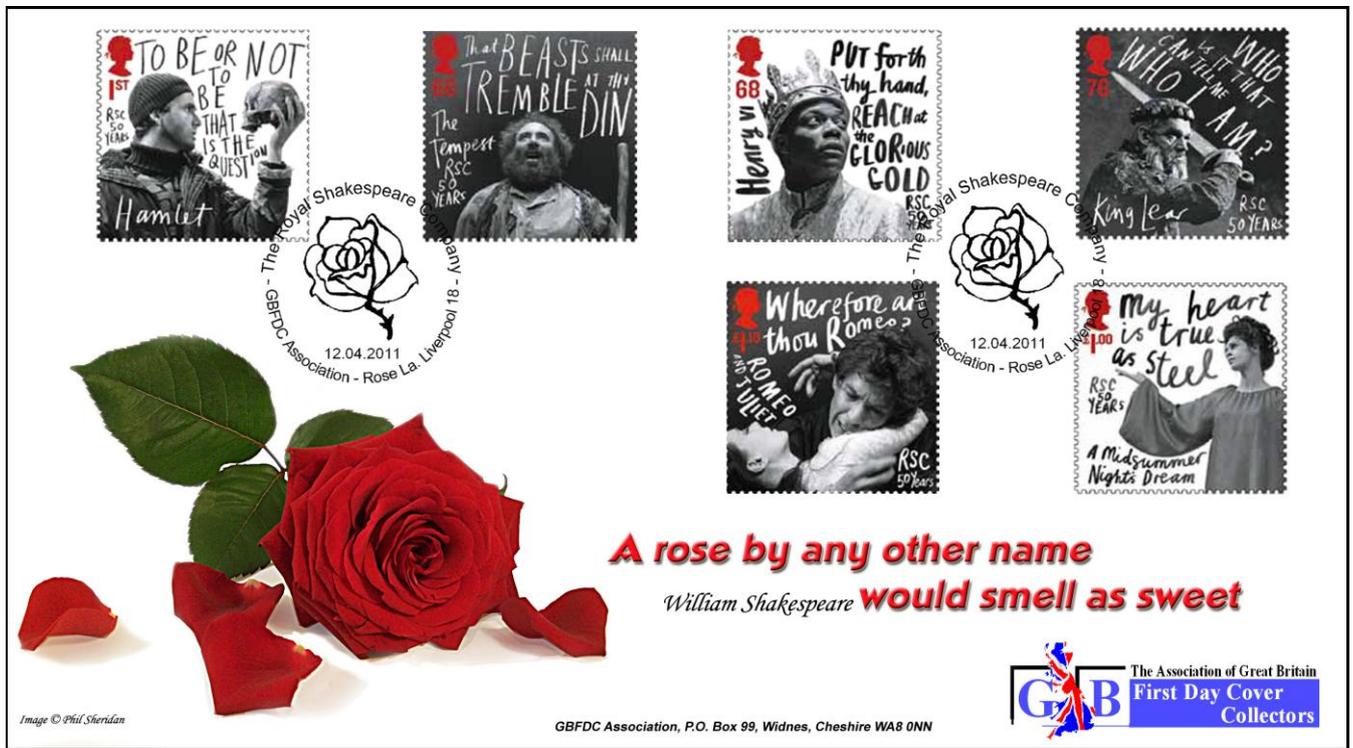
(The date of this year's AGM is on page 19, so make a note of it while it is fresh in your mind. Do try to come along if you can).

Well, that's it from us for this edition. Spring is just around the corner and the nights are getting a lot lighter. Enjoy the nice weather while you can.

Phil Sheridan, Hon. Editor.

The Association of Great Britain First Day Cover Collectors Official Covers 2011

GBFDC OFFICIAL COVER FOR 2011 N0.38. RSC – 12 April 2011



Low Value Machins – 8 March 2011

The new low-value self-adhesive Machin stamps are not being distributed to Post Offices until they are needed, so there is no official first day of issue. They are available from 8 March 2011. One special postmark is available, at Birmingham. Note that as special postmarks can only be applied to 1st class mail, additional stamps to the value of 3p must be added to FDCs.

However, a collector thought to ask at Handstamp Liaison, Tallents House, and was told that the straight set of 5 would be OK in this case - pity it wasn't announced in the Bulletin.



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Ian Billings
Norvic Philatelics P O Box
119, Dereham, NR20 3YN
Website: <http://www.norvic-philatelics.co.uk>

On the positioning of stamps on FDCs

by Selwyn Goodacre

I am on record in these columns as having an interest in collecting different examples of the same cover with the same stamps – but affixed in different ways (First Day Coverage, August 2009). I do wonder if fellow collectors share this particular obsession. To me they add interest and diversity – particularly when one restricts one’s collecting endeavours to a few issues only, as I do.

As we all know, the standard ways to affix the set of stamps are either in a straight row (the most usual), or in a square formation (Fig.1). Examples of both occurring in the same cancellation appear to be rare - in fact apart from the Palitoy covers (mentioned above) I have only other example of this variation - the Solihull Maengwynedd Field Centre cover of 22 September 1979 (but this is not strictly an FDC). I do have other examples of stamps affixed in a rather more haphazard fashion.

However - in my obsession with the Year of the Child issue (11 July 1979) I have acquired several examples of stamps being affixed in one particular variation – almost exclusively they are on covers designed and produced by the firm of Cotswold – in fact in the Year of the child issue I have eight different cancellations with these variants. The particular variation was to have them affixed in stepwise fashion (as shown fig.2)

In my experience, it does seem to be a feature almost unique to Cotswold covers. Has anyone else noticed this odd occurrence? And is it significant that all my ‘stepwise covers’, bar one, have a ‘Philately of Bournemouth’ stick-on label? Is this indeed simply a quirk demonstrated by certain dealers only?



The GP first day covers

by Selwyn Goodacre

In my early days in General Medical Practice, certain pharmaceutical companies sent out drug adverts to General Practitioners in specially designed first day covers. Most of these bore the envelope design 'First Day of Issue' slogan (which usually covers the stamp) with the relevant CDS alongside. All are English FDCs, apart from a few Issues for Jersey and Guernsey.

The practice appears to have started in the mid 1960s. The earliest that I am aware of is the Joseph Lister Centenary issue, 1 September 1965 (Fig.1) – and one does wonder if this was the first - chosen because of its connections with medicine. In the early days, more than one firm joined the band wagon. I have three different Lister examples in my own collection. In an article in Cover Lover January 2011, Tony Buckingham shows two further Lister examples. Rather interestingly one of my Lister covers does not have the 'envelope FDI', which suggests this was only just beginning to be used.



As Tony pointed out, these 'bulk medical mailings' 'exist in 1000s'. Certainly they were posted to over 20,000 GPs, though quite how many bothered to collect them is a matter for speculation, but going by my medical partners' off hand approach to medical advertisements, I think the number of still existing examples cannot be all that great. Certainly one rarely sees them being advertised in the FDC market place – though experts will tell us this is because their value is so slight.

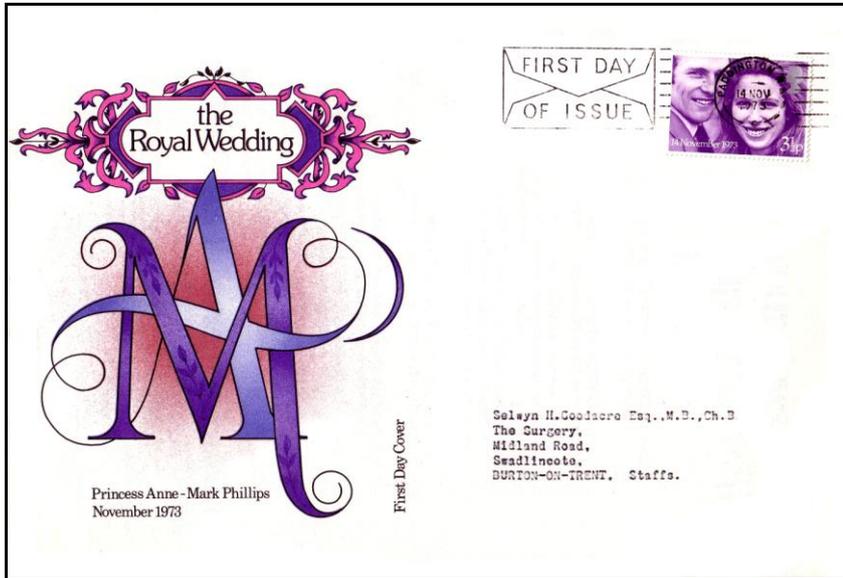
Nevertheless, it is my opinion that they are fascinating items. Many have fine colour pictures, not seen elsewhere. The down side is that they invariably only had the one stamp value affixed (Tony Buckingham in the article cited above, shows an hilarious example where some enterprising individual has tried fixing an extra stamp just in line with the 'First Day of Issue' envelope design in an effort to show that it has been cancelled).

Although not a collector of FDCs back in the 1960s, I happily did keep as many as I could. I now have over 70 examples. All contained medical adverts, so I usually, rather less happily, opened the envelopes at the time, and removed the inserts, an act I now regret. Later in the saga, I did leave some unopened, so these are in pristine condition.

Continued.....

This mass mailing continued up to the 1980s, reaching its heights at the end of the 1960s (I have nine different issues for 1979, twelve in 1970, seven in 1971) but declining thereafter to only one or two a year, ending finally in 1986. The envelope design FDI was almost universally used – until about 1980 – the last example I have where it is used is for ‘Famous Authoresses’ (9 July 1980). After this, drug firms reverted to standard FDIs.

Most covers seem to have been specifically designed for the drug company in question, though some (I have seven) used a particular commercial firm – these covers can be recognised by a gothic ‘C’, which appears either on the picture on the front of the cover, or on the flap.



Occasionally, known commercial firms such as Philart and Wessex supplied the covers, but these were the exception.

I believe these covers deserve to be more widely known – and collected. They are certainly very different to the usual type of FDC that we are all more familiar with.

- END -

GBFDC Association Member receives M.B.E.



Rod Thomas, who has been a member of GBFDC since early 2007, and who many members will have met at several AGMs, was awarded the M.B.E. for voluntary services to education in the New Year Honours List. Rod was presented with his award on 24th February 2011 by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace.

Rod has been a Governor at Holy Trinity C of E Primary School for some 36 years and is currently the Chair of the Governing body. He has been on various other Governing Bodies in the local area at both Senior and Junior levels for some years. He has also been a member of the Kent County Council Educational Appeals Panel for 30 years or so. The Panel deals with

various types of Appeals including exclusion, grammar school placements and admissions and the hearings take place all over the County. Rod has become a keen collector of First Day Covers over the last 4 years and is particularly interested in the Christmas issues and he very much enjoys being a member of GBFDC.

Many Congratulations, Rod, from all your friends in GBFDC.

Letters

to the Editor P.O. Box 99, Widnes,
Cheshire WA8 0NN

Dear Editor.....

Far be it from me to disagree so strongly with one of your expert contributors, but I really must take issue with Terry Barnett's disparaging remarks about traffic light gutter pairs on first day covers (*First Day Coverage* 100, February 2011). He tells us that they were sold at inflated prices in the early days, and their value has now plummeted. Not in my experience they haven't. For any dealer to prepare such covers meant the necessity of either having very special 'arrangements' with local post offices (or directly with Royal Mail?), to supply examples – not easy as a sheet of 100 stamps only has the one T/L pair. The preparation of T/L G/P FDCs must have been a pretty expensive business.

FDCs with T/L pairs (and personally I also think – those with plain gutter pairs) must have a higher value than your routine FDCs. I would certainly be ready to pay more for such items. With issues where four stamps are involved, you usually need matching pairs in order to accommodate all the stamps. It adds thrill to the chase, and I think the covers look brilliant.

If Terry Barnett is really 'buying them in as postage', then I would suggest he is gathering together some pretty valuable items – let us hear more of these so-called burst bubbles – I for one would be very interested!

Selwyn Goodacre

Dear Editor.....

*Reply to the Editor's Desk First Day Coverage,
February 2011*

Future of our Hobby

I do perhaps feel that there are not enough young people coming through to replace our older generation collecting stamps and covers; that said I also think that there will always be a market for rare stamps of the world and the rarer type of covers but you might need a banker's bonus to purchase them! I believe an unused Penny Black is worth about £2,500. If you have a little more to spend there is always the world's rarest stamp – the British Guiana

one cent Magenta of 1856, a bargain at \$280,000. Better get saving then!

As I deal in more modest meter mark covers, I naturally started to collect these for me three grandchildren when they were born. Samuel is 11, Sophie 8 and Archie is 5 years old and they have quite a substantial collection so far. Is the interest there as much as I would have liked? Perhaps not, as electronic games, football and horses (in my grand-daughter's case) are their main hobbies. They do show a certain amount of interest if the stamp subject is something they are interested in which is fair enough. That is why I applaud most of Royal Mail's new issues.

£20 Star Letter

If you look back to 2010, there was the Mammals issue, Britain Alone, which interested my eldest grandson as did the Olympics issue as he is mad about sport and all three loved the Birds Post & Go stamps and Winnie the Pooh issue, which I know a lot of grown-ups thought was a waste of time. I liked it but, as my wife, Valerie, often points out, I'm just a little boy underneath!

Anyway, this month sees the Magical Realms issue featuring the stories of J.K. Rowling, C.S. Lewis and Terry Pratchett. Now I know these will interest Samuel and Sophie as they have read the books and the stamps are quite stunning so as long as Royal Mail include this kind of issue in their stamp programme, I believe there could be a brighter future for the hobby. However, like anything else, you have to nurture and encourage it and I think parents and grandparents should play an important role in this, no matter what subject their children are interested in.

Will my grandchildren carry on collecting when I'm no longer here, well my friends I guess that will be another story.

Bob Stevens

£20 Star Letter

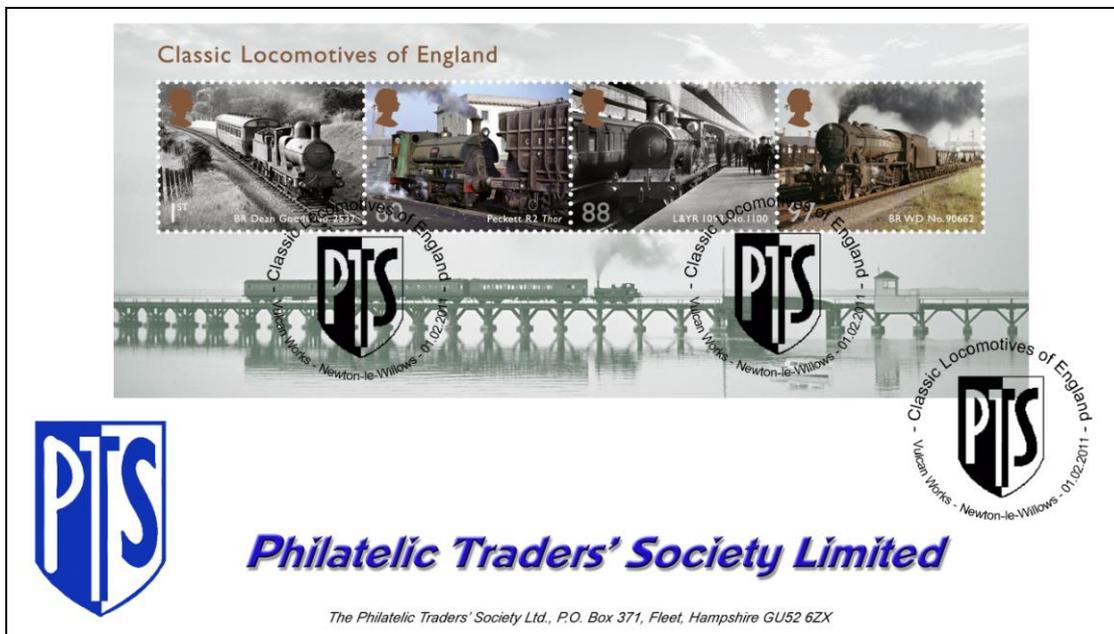
*If we give your letter the **STAR** treatment then you could win £20, so there is a great reason to write in with your news and views. If you would like your Committee to know anything then please write in to the letters page - it is only by receiving your letters that we know what you want from your Association.*

Classic Locomotives of England Official FDC 1st February 2011

The Philatelic Traders Society are producing an official first day cover for the Classic Locomotives of England miniature sheet.

The covers will be numbered for an issue of 100 only and available at £14.95 each.

If you would like one of these covers (or more) please send your cheque payable to Terry Barnett, to 7 Mackets Lane, Hunts Cross, Liverpool, L25 0QA. Postage and packing is included.



World Wildlife Fund official FDC 22 March 2011

The Manchester and District Philatelic Traders Association are producing an official first day cover for the World Wildlife Fund set.

The covers will be numbered for an issue of 100 only and available at £11 each. A percentage of the profit will be donated to a local charity.

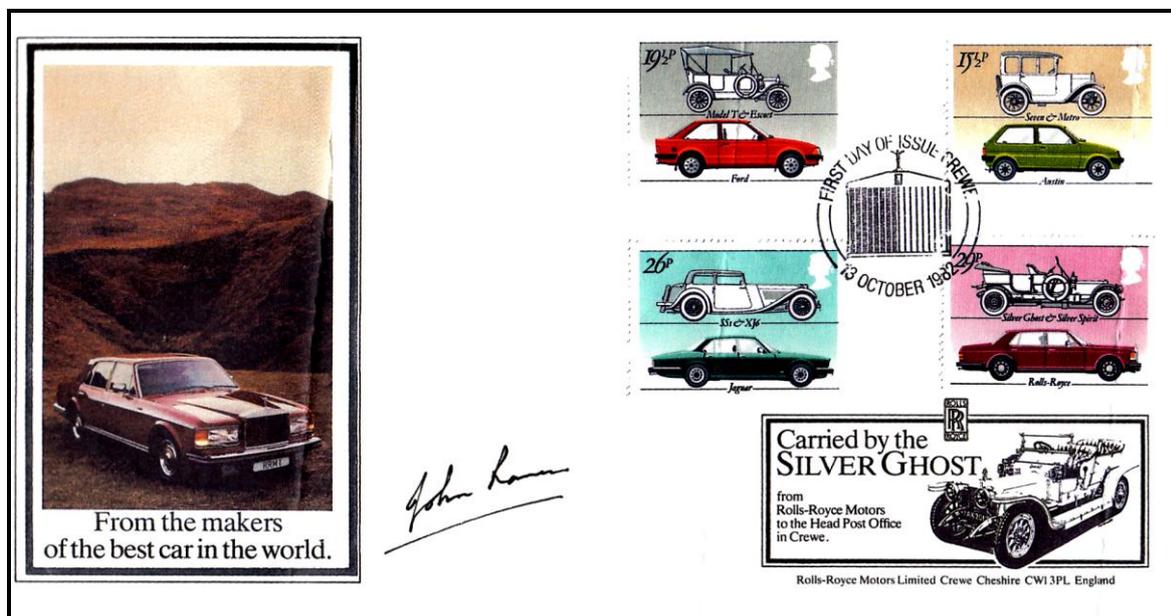
If you would like one of these covers (or more) please send your cheque payable to Terry Barnett, to 7 Mackets Lane, Hunts Cross, Liverpool, L25 0QA. Postage and packing is included.



Rolls Royce Cover 13 October 1982

Information submitted by D Whalley

Thank you for asking for information on the Rolls Royce cover with Crewe Special Handstamp (*First Day Coverage No.98, October 2010, page 6*) (*Feedback First Day Coverage No.99, December 2010, page 19*). No-one has contacted me to say they have a cover with the full set of 1982 Cars stamps carried from the Crewe factory by the original 1907 Silver Ghost. I have two of these covers (are these the only two covers?) Maybe.



Extracts from Rolls Royce Motors magazine, VOICE, September 1982.

Under the heading 'Unique First Day Cover, a report by Graham Clark, it was published that Royal Mail was to issue a set of stamps which included the Rolls Royce Silver Ghost & Silver Spirit (29p). The article goes on to state, "to coincide with this stamp, Rolls Royce Motors is issuing an exclusive first day cover that is destined to become a prized collectors' item". At 29p, it is the highest value stamp in the set of 4 stamps on the day.

The cover was designed by corporate graphic designer, Des Measures. It features a full colour picture of a Silver Spirit against an English background, all enclosed in a silver border.

The article goes on to state, "Also on the envelope is a cachet stamp depicting the Silver Ghost, and inside, a specially designed insert card giving a brief history of the company and its motor cars. Twenty thousand covers, costing £1 each, are being produced, and a Leicester philatelic agency has already snapped up 5,000 of them".

A stall was set up in the main canteen at the Crewe factory on October 13 and employees could buy the covers in their lunch and break times. They were also on sale at the Cashiers desk "during normal Wednesday hours".

The article went on to state that the covers would be carried from the factory to Crewe Sorting Office by the original 1907 Silver Ghost itself. The company hoped that the press of the day and TV would cover the event.

The special pictorial cancel was said to be in the shape of a Rolls Royce radiator grille with the postal town of Crewe. The article finished with an address and details of how the public could purchase a cover.

It is interesting to note that Rolls Royce Motors only intended the cover to bear the single 29p stamp so some enterprising souls obviously managed to obtain blank covers and service them with a full set of stamps.

New 1st class Machin forgery - with 'security features' found

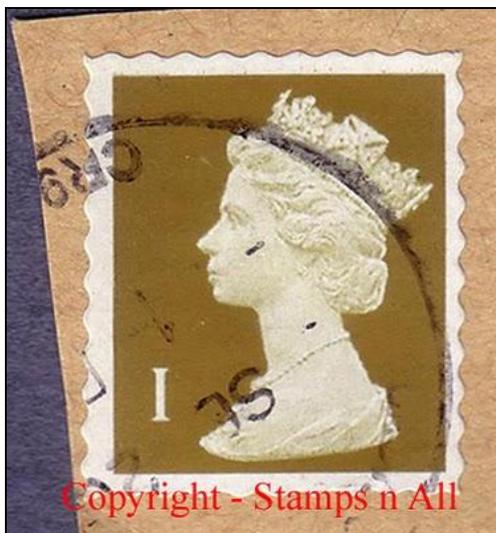
One of the joys of having time to look through kiloware these days is that you are almost certain to find something interesting, and possibly something new. I don't have that time, but I am pleased to pass this on from somebody who does!

It's the latest forgery of the 1st class gold Machin. When I looked at it yesterday as an actual stamp on the piece of envelope it was clearly 'wrong' - wrong die cut, wrong screening to the head. It is also on very glossy paper, the sort of thing that might be used for labels on some retail packaging, and whilst it has the security slits, they are not right - for example the two parts to not properly line up.

However, the scan shows something we could not see with the naked eye or magnifier, the presence of the letters that make up ROYAL MAIL - or most of them! As shown, it is really quite a crude mimic of the genuine, with incomplete words in the middle of the design, not just at the edges. There seems to be nothing on the head, and very little effort has been made to match the 'overprint' to the genuine - so little effort indeed that one wonders why the producers went to the trouble of doing it at all!



Another Barely Credible 1st Class Machin Forgery



The last 1st class Machin forgeries found locally are easily identifiable by their odd die-cut 'perforations'. Now Dave Allwright has shown us another which is notable for its abbreviated form of face value:

Incidentally Dave also points out that the die-cut on these and the earlier ones look very similar to some Isle of Man stamps, although not the same size and format

We would like to thank Ian Billings, www.norphil.co.uk and Dave Allwright www.stampsnall.com for allowing us to publish this item.

Members Cover Sale

The Members Cover Sale continues to be a success however there are not a lot in this edition. If you are an ordinary member and would like to sell your covers free of charge, then be sure to let the editor have your list in good time for publication.

All the covers listed are being sold by the member whose contact details appear at the beginning of their listing. We have laid out each set of listings as requested by the vendor so layouts will probably differ from person to person. If left to the editor to arrange then the listings will take on a more uniform appearance. Prices given are the cost of each cover and buyers must contact the seller direct to negotiate the sale. The seller may or may not add postage costs so it is up to the seller and buyer to come to their own arrangement. All that remains is to wish you good luck.

Seller details:

Contact details: Mr D. Whalley. Tel: 01782 750777.

13-10-87 Pottery	Barlaston S-O-T CDS UA	£4.00
16-07-87 St. Johns Amb.	Epping CDS UA	£5.00
11-09-90 Gallantry	Dresden CDS UA	£5.00
16-10-90 Astronomy	Siddington, Macclesfield CDS UA	£4.00
23-04-91 Europe in Space	Siddington, Macclesfield CDS UA	£3.00
11-06-91 Sport	Lilleshall CDS UA	£8.00
18-07-91 Roses	Kew CDS UA	£8.00
14-01-92 Wintertime	Whitehill CDS UA	£8.00
16-03-93 Orchids	Kew Gardens CDS UA	£7.00
20-07-93 Waterways	Abergavenny CDS UA	£4.00
14-09-93 Autumn	Hazel Grove CDS UA	£8.00
14-09-93 Autumn	Kew Gardens CDS UA	£7.00
12-04-94 Postcards	Seaview CDS UA	£7.00
02-08-94 Summertime	Medina Cowes I.O.W. CDS UA	£4.00
02-08-94 Summertime	Seaside. CDS UA	£5.00
14-03-95 Springtime	Hazel Grove CDS UA	£5.00
14-03-95 Springtime	Kew Gardens CDS UA	£5.00
11-04-95 National Trust	Scholar Green CDS UA	£4.00
02-05-95 Freedom	Butt Lane S-O-T CDS UA	£3.00
06-06-95 Science Fiction	Wells CDS UA	£4.00
10-06-97 Architects of Air	Butt Lane S-O-T CDS UA	£5.00
06-01-97 Greeting Book	Kew Gardens CDS UA	£7.00
11-03-97 Missions of Faith	Isle of Iona CDS UA	£4.00
12-01-99 Inventors' Tale	New Invention CDS UA	£5.00

.....
Contact Details: terrymee@suffolkonline.net Tel 01728 747082

1984 British Film Year Leicester Sq (Pink Panther) BLCS 7 Official Cat £60	£13
1979 Police D&C Exeter Official Cat £40 AL-Printed. Fine	£ 9
1966 World Cup DOUBLE h/s Southampton on the World Cup Set (Connected to Terry Paine -original one of the 22 players to receive medal) & the Winners stamp cancelled Wembley Rare Cat £200+	£45
1975 Jane Austen PHQ with connected Mansfield fdi (Mansfield Park Book) and other Sp h/s on Back - U	£12
1974 Stationery:Postcard 4 1/2p Bright Blue 2 band phos dated 11th Sept cds – U -unlisted and rare-mint condition	£6
1974 Stationery:Postcard 3 1/2p cds 1st May –Unlisted & rare AW with first day reference - clean	£5

Contact details: Phil Sheridan. E-mail: sheridanfdcs@aol.com Tel: 0151 257 8874

All CDS perfect strikes unless otherwise stated – Postage at cost.

05/10/99 Soldiers RM fdc Union Jack Club M/M & Battle CDS	£8.00
17/12/99 Artists RM fdc Theatre Museum M/M & Theatre Square CDS	£8.00
18/01/00 Above & Beyond RM fdc Royal Observatory, Greenwich M/M & Greenwich CDS	£10.00
04/08/00 Q. Mother (stamps from M/S) RM fdc Glamis Castle M/M & Glamis CDS	£18.00
05/09/00 Mind & Matter RM fdc SCRAN, Edinburgh M/M & St. James, Edinburgh CDS	£8.00
17/11/00 Spirit & Faith RM fdc Bible Society M/M Christchurch CDS.	£8.00
17/11/00 Spirit & Faith 4d Post fdc St. Edmundsbury Cathedral M/M & Bury St. Edmunds CDS.	£8.50
06/03/01 N.I Pictorial Defins RM fdc N.I. Tourist Board M/M & Bushmills CDS	£8.00
04/09/01 Punch & Judy RM fdc College of Law M/M & Law CDS CDS. Old cancel but very readable. A rare M/M & CDS for this issue	£10.00
04/09/01 Punch & Judy RM fdc Puppet Centre M/M & Blackpool CDS	£9.00
19/03/02 Coastlines RM fdc Doverport.co.uk M/M & Dover CDS	£8.50
19/03/02 Coastlines RM fdc Getmapping.com M/M & Portrush CDS	£8.50
20/08/02 Peter Pan 4d Post fdc Kidscape M/M & Kidsgrove CDS	£8.50
10/09/02 London Bridges 4d Post Blackfriars Bridge fdc (No M/M) with Blackfriars Rd. CDS	£6.00
02/06/03 Coronation RM fdc Royal Warrant Holders M/M & Coronation Parade CDS	£8.50
02/06/03 Coronation 4d Post fdc (No M/M) & Coronation Parade CDS	£8.00
02/06/03 Coronation 4d Post fdc (No M/M) & Throne CDS	£15.00
15/07/03 Scotland 4d Post fdc (No M/M) & Scotland Road CDS	£6.00
15/07/03 Scotland 4d Post fdc (No M/M) & Baltasound, Unst, Shetland CDS	£6.00
15/07/03 Scotland 4d Post fdc (No M/M) & The Scotlands CDS	£6.00
19/12/03 Rugby Champions 4d Post fdc (No M/M) & Rugby CDS	£8.50
25/05/04 RHS Full M/S RM fdc (No M/M) & St. Bees CDS	£6.00
25/05/04 RHS Full M/S Cotswold fdc (No M/M) & Bloomfield CDS	£6.75
02/11/04 Xmas Santas RM fdc (No M/M) & North Pole Rd. CDS	£6.00
07/06/05 TTC Stuart fdc Westminster Group M/M & The Mall CDS	£9.00
07/06/05 TTC RM fdc E:R The Royal Studs M/M & Coldstream (double ring) CDS	£8.00
8/4/05 Charles & Camilla M/S RM fdc Weddington CDS (dated 9/4/05) plus block 4 stamps from M/S & Royal Wedding, Windsor SHS (dated 8/4/05) Issue delayed one day	£9.00
8/4/05 Charles & Camilla M/S RM fdc Mey CDS (dated 9/4/05) plus block 4 stamps from M/S & Royal Wedding, Windsor SHS (dated 8/4/05) Issue delayed one day	£9.00
03/07/07 Grand Prix Sheridan Special fdc (No M/M) M/M & Moss Way CDS (9 of 13)	£10.00

Contact details: D. Radley. E-mail: salwals@aol.com Tel: 07939 832 184

21/10/97 Great Tudor 4d Post fdc Tower of London M/M & Tower of London SHS	£8.00
23/06/98 Health NHS RM fdc National Blood Service M/M & Healing CDS	£8.00
23/06/98 Health NHS RM fdc Zeneca Pharmaceuticals M/M & Pill CDS	£7.00
12/01/99 Inventors RM fdc Institute of Patentees & Inventors M/M & New Invention CDS	£8.00
02/02/99 Travellers RM fdc Railway Industry M/M & Railway Road CDS	£7.00
02/03/99 Patients RM fdc Patients Association M/M & Healing CDS	£8.00
04/05/99 Workers RM fdc Confederation of British Wool Textiles M/M & Wool CDS	£7.00
01/06/99 Entertainers RM fdc Stadium M/M & Wembley CDS	£6.50
01/06/99 Entertainers RM fdc Prof. Footballers Assoc. M/M & Wembley CDS	£6.50
01/06/99 Entertainers RM fdc BAFTA M/M & Ealing CDS	£6.50
01/06/99 Entertainers 4d Post fdc The Stage M/M & Wembley SHS	£6.00
06/07/99 Citizens RM fdc North West Water M/M & Freshwater CDS	£6.50
06/07/99 Citizens RM fdc OFWAT M/M & Freshwater CDS	£6.50
05/10/99 Soldiers RM fdc The Commandery, Worcester in the Civil War & Worcester CDS	£7.00

Continued.....

07/12/99 Artists 4d Post fdc The Stage M/M & Theatre Square	CDS	£8.50
01/02/00 Fire & Light RM fdc Met Office M/M & Thunder Lane	CDS	£7.00
04/07/00 Stone & Soil RM fdc Stone M/M & Stone (double ring)	CDS	£7.00
01/08/00 Tree & Leaf RM fdc Unwins Seeds M/M & St. Austell, Cornwall	CDS	£7.00
01/08/00 Tree & Leaf RM fdc Millennium Forest for Scotland M/M & Forest Hill	CDS	£7.50
05/09/00 Mind & Matter RM fdc SCRAN M/M & Edinburgh SHS		£6.50
03/10/00 Body & Bone RM fdc Bath Spa University M/M & Bath	CDS	£7.00
07/11/00 Spirit & Faith 4d Post fdc St. Edmundsbury Cathedral M/M & Bury St. Edmunds	CDS	£8.00
07/11/00 Spirit & Faith RM fdc Jesus Army M/M & Holy Island	CDS	£7.00
05/12/00 Sound & Vision RM fdc Wales Millennium Centre M/M & Wales	CDS	£7.00
15/07/86 Sports Bradbury Amateur Rowing Assoc. off. cover signed Des Lynam		£9.00
27/07/94 Bank of England Label pane Bradbury official		£6.00
15/05/95 R.J. Mitchell Booklet pane Bradbury official signed by G. Mitchell, son of R.J. Mitchell (No.88 of only 108 signed covers)		£9.00
30/10/95 Xmas Robins Loughborough Grammar School Bradbury official cover (No.91 of only 150 covers produced)		£9.00
26/02/96 Greetings Cartoons Bradbury Titterhill SHS official cover		£6.00
26/02/96 Greetings Love & Kisses Bradbury Lover SHS official cover		£6.00

Postage charged at cost.

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Contact Details: Peter Middleton, P.O.Box 118, Nottingham NG8 1GA

1966 Landscapes	Grantown on Spey FDI (written)	(Cat £125)	£20
1966 Technology	Coventry FDI	(Cat £35)	£12
1972 Silver Wedding	Charlton Athletic official (single stamp)	(Cat £275 full)	£10
1975 Parliament	Sanquar CDS official	(Cat £35)	£10
1977 Heads of Gov't	House of Commons CDS	(Cat £50)	£10
1977 Wildlife	Badgers Mount CDS	(Cat £75)	£25
1979 Flowers	Royal Blisworth official (written)	(Cat £35)	£5
1981 Royal Wedding	Portsunlight official	(Cat £50)	£10
1982 Maritime	Britannia Maritime History official	(Cat £90)	£30
1983 Engineering	Middlesborough Phil Counter Slogan	(Cat £35)	£9
1987 Flowers	Kew Gardens CDS	(Cat £30)	£8
1988 Aust. Bicent.	Cricketing Links Trent Bridge off.	(Cat £75)	£20
1989 Food & Farming	Bewcastle CDS (Farm Office)	(Cat £20)	£6
1989 Microscopes	Jeol (UK) official	(Cat £75)	£25
1989 Christmas	Nene Valley Railway official	(Cat £30)	£10
1990 1d Black Anniv.	Etchingam Stamp Festival off.	(Cat £35)	£8
1990 Europa	Carlisle 1st Roadside Pillar Boxoff.	(Cat £55)	£10
1990 Q. Mother	Mey CDS	(Cat £25)	£8
1990 Gallantry	Bigging Hill CDS	(Cat £30)	£10
1990 Christmas	Nasareth CDS	(Cat £25)	£8
1994 D-Day	Utah Beach (Army Benevolent cvr)	(Cat £50)	£12
1995 Communications	Portishead Radio Off.	(Cat £50)	£18
1995 Xmas Booklets x 3	Set of 3 full pane covers	(Cat £35)	£20

Special Offer :- 1974 Churchill M/S (Postally Valid) Southampton CDS Free cover with all orders.

- END of SALE -

MCS How to submit your covers for sale

Please send in your covers for sale for December Newsletter to Phil Sheridan, The Editor, GBFDC, P.O. Box 99, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0NN. Please submit your list either LEGIBLY HANDWRITTEN or typed in a Word Doc. otherwise it will not be included. Send them by e-mail to sheridanfdcs@aol.com. We would prefer you NOT to list covers in a table as it makes formatting difficult. Please ensure all copy is sent by the deadline date of 7th of the month prior to the publication of the newsletter. Any member can sell covers via the newsletter free of charge. If you require further details then please contact the Editor.

Please, if possible, only send the list of covers for the next newsletter rather than sending a large list or several lists. It is becoming a little confusing to work out which list belongs to whom and which edition it is for. Thank you

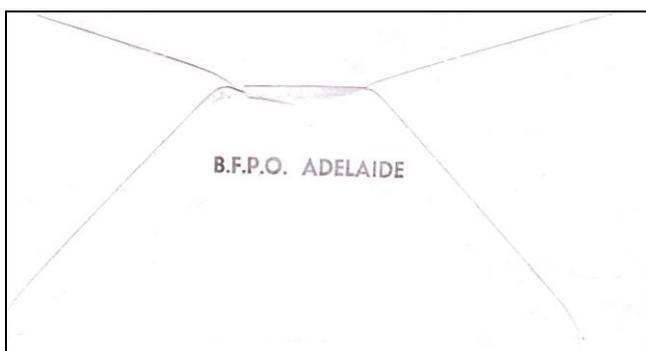
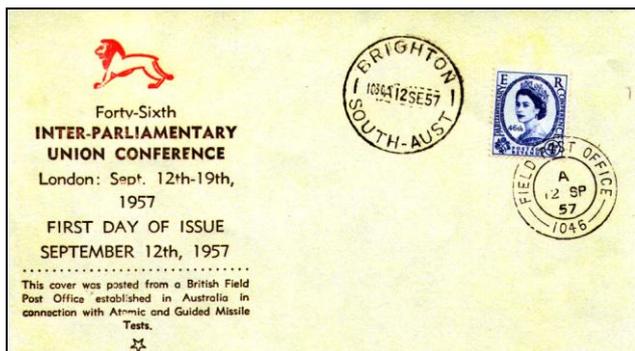
- 1) Please list them in a Microsoft Word Document (NOT in a table though). The more details you include then the less space there will be for your covers and less covers will be listed.
- 2) Either email your list or send it by post to Phil Sheridan. Hon. Editor, GBFDC Association, P.O. Box 99, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0NN. E-mail: sheridanfdcs@aol.com When posting hand-written lists please make sure we can read them. It is probably best to print all lists.
- 3) Deadline for all items for inclusion in to any newsletter is ALWAYS 7th of the previous month to the newsletter publication. Please see top of page 2 and inside back page in EVERY newsletter.

The 1957 46th Inter Parliamentary Conference 4d - Revisited



The cover samples opposite & below were sent in by Frank Aldridge. Frank states: Figure 1 shows a cover were somebody cut out the stamp of the Airletter issued for this stamp and put it on an illustrated envelope making a FDC postmarked 12 Sept. 1957 at 7.15 pm

Figures 2 & 3 show the front and back of a FDC posted in Australia by a British Field Post Office connected with Atomic and Guided Missile Tests. I bought it mainly for the Brighton postmark having been born in Brighton, Sussex. It has a back stamp of B.F.P.O. Adelaide. A very interesting FDC – part of postal history.



Apollo 11 20th Anniversary - First Day Covers (Cachets)

The Fascinating story of how 25 CoverCraft blank covers became collector's pieces.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of Apollo 11 and the first man on the moon, a special cancellation postmark was created exclusively for the Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, Texas.



This postmark was available for four days only, from July 20, 1989, to July 23, 1989, at a special cancellation booth set up inside the JSC visitor's center, and at select post offices in Houston.

Also on July 20, 1989, a new \$2.40 priority mail stamp commemorating Apollo 11 was released by the U.S. Postal Service in Washington, D.C. The stamp was released nationwide the next day (July 21). The Special US Post Office stamp was created, featuring a painting by space artist Chris Calle, son of original Apollo stamp artist Paul Calle, depicting astronauts Amstrong and Aldrin holding US flag on Moon Surface

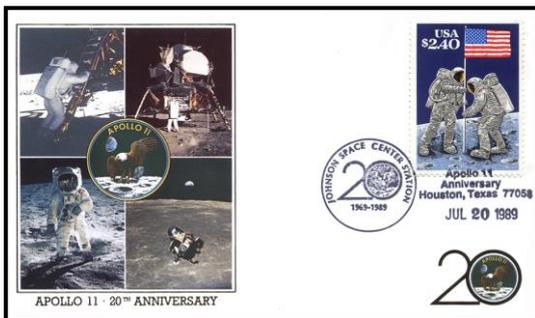
Since the 1989 commemorative stamp was only issued in Washington DC on the 20th anniversary date, 55 of the \$2.40 stamps were flown from

Washington to Houston, mounted on limited-edition cachets, and cancelled at the Johnson Space Centre with the special cancellation postmark. Although the postmark was available at certain Houston post offices, the stamps were **not**, and the postal representative at JSC assured us that these were the only such stamps cancelled at the JSC cancellation booth on July 20th.



We mounted thirty of the stamps on a cachet made exclusively for the JSC stamp club. The cachet depicts Alan Bean's famous painting, "For One Priceless Moment". Alan Bean, the Apollo 12 astronaut who walked on the moon, has done many fine artworks of moonwalks, astronauts, and other space themes. To make these covers truly unique collectibles, twenty-eight of the thirty cachets were personally signed by Alan Bean, on the twentieth anniversary of his moonwalk (although the cachets are not dated, outside of the postmark itself). Mr. Bean retained one of these covers himself as a souvenir and collectible.

We have also initialled and numbered the back of these, with numbers 1-28, to indicate that they are part of our limited set.



We mounted the remaining twenty-five stamps on the 20th anniversary cachet made by Cover Craft of London. CoverCraft blank cachets (covers) were available to purchase in the Johnson Space Centre gift shop. This flashy cachet depicts four photos from various moon missions, the Apollo 11 mission logo, and the 20th anniversary logo. The cachets are also embossed in a goldtone foil. The cachets were part of a limited edition

from Cover Craft; ours are numbered from 581 to 605. We have initialled the back of these, next to the number, to indicate that they are part of our limited set.

These 55 first day covers are valuable collector's pieces, and will make a highly unique addition to anyone's collection. To our knowledge they are they **ONLY** such first-day covers in existence with the special 20th anniversary postmark.

For information about purchasing one of these rare first day covers, please send e-mail to kira@lightsphere.com

Our thanks to the Hamilton family, and to Richard Dean, for sending in the article for publication.

CoverCraft Covers

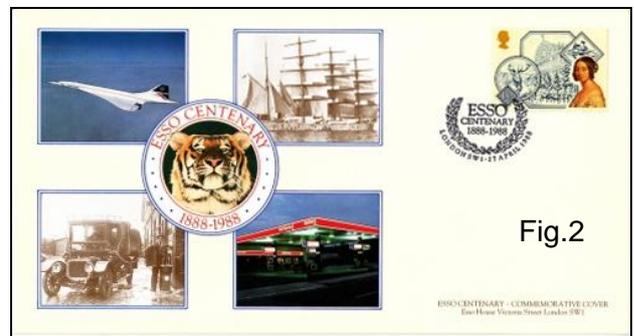
by Richard Dean

I have uploaded my collection of CoverCraft covers to my website: www.covercraft.co.uk where you can view my personal collection of CoverCraft official First Day Covers.

The collection includes most of the signed copies, as issued originally by CoverCraft, as well as later versions where I was fortunate enough to get a signature purely to add to this collection. There are also a few 'cds' and slogan postmark variations and other oddments.

CoverCraft was founded in London in 1985 by Raf de Swarte who had previously worked as 'Design Encounter' producing a number of special posters, prints and postcards as well as First Day Covers. As demand for his 'philatelic' work increased it became clear that this would be the main focus of the business, hence the change of name to CoverCraft.

A wide range of special projects soon followed with anniversary editions for oil companies such as Ultramar (fig.1) and Esso (fig.2), historic Trades Unions such as the GMB and the T&G (Fig.3), the RAF Memorial Flight (Fig.4) and magazines such as Radio Times (Fig5). A set of six postcards marking the Tercentenary of Lloyd's of London was also produced in 1988, as well as a cover (Fig.6).



The most recent First Day Cover was issued in 2004 and a Commemorative Cover in 2005. For over 20 years Raf has designed covers for various well known companies and worked with some of Britain's top designers and illustrators. In addition to sponsored official First Day Covers he has produced hundreds of Commemorative Covers and has worked with the Royal Mail and many other

Continued.....

household names in the world of First Day Covers and postmark designing. When I was offered the opportunity of obtaining the covercraft.co.uk web name directly from him I decided this was a great chance for me to show my collection on the Internet!

The collection is not quite complete however as I continue to search for a handful of signed covers, and other possible cover variations, but that is part of the challenge and pleasure of collecting what are recognised as some of the most innovative and interesting First Day Covers ever produced. Below is my 'Wants' List if anyone can help.

Events Covers

1986 Christmas. Royal Academy of Dancing. Signed by ballet dancers.

1989 GMB. Signed by John Edmonds, Norman Willis & Olga Mean.

1995 Last Day of self adhesive. Signed by Jeffery Matthews.

First Day Covers.

1983 Engineering. AEUW official signed by Terry Duffy

1983 Engineering. AEUW official signed by Roy Bottomley

1983 Engineering. AEUW official signed by Tony Benn

1983 British Gardens. Blue official single 16p stamp

1983 British Fairs signed by Chairman (NABMA official)

1984 Greenwich. Royal Institute of Navigation signed by Michael Burgoyne

1984 British Council. RBP Middle East Construction logo (orangy yellow colour) single stamp

1984 British Council. Manchester Medical Society. Full set. FDI Manchester

1984 British Council. Manchester Medical Society. Single stamp. Manchester Philatelic Counter

1985 Composers. Ultramar single stamp covers

1985 British Films. Association of Cinematography TV & Allied Technicians (single stamp)

1987 Gardeners Question Time (signed Daphne Ledward)

1989 Apollo 11. USA £2.40 stamp cancelled by Johnson Space Centre postmark

1989 Toys & Games signed by Caron Keating & Mark Curry

1989 Toys & Games signed by Caron Keating & Yvette Fielding

1990 Penny Black. Queen Elizabeth Ave. CDS postmark

1990 Penny Black (Min sheet). Octagon CDS postmark (BPF cover)

1990 Penny Black (Min sheet). Aveling Barford slogan postmark

1992 King George Fund. Single stamp cover signed by Vice Admiral Sir John Coward

1994 D Day. Full set RAF Wings cover with pair French stamps added

1994 D Day. Full set Portsmouth (RAF Wings) cover. Unsigned

1994 D Day as above with pair of French stamps added

2002 Airliners. Manchester CDS postmark

2002 Airliners. Gatwick CDS postmark

And any other variations not shown on my website www.covercraft.co.uk

- END -

***David Millership (A Tom Green Associate) 29, Richmond Road, Pontnewydd,
Cwmbran, Torfaen NP44 1EQ***

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Fairs:

The Grandstand, York Racecourse Fri & Sat July 15th & 16th 2011

Radio Operators' Card by Frank Aldridge

I collect Hovercraft covers and cards of the world and what I bought as a Hovercraft Postcard turned out to be a Radio Operators card (these were mentioned in *First Day Coverage No.98, October 2010, page 6 & Feedback First Day Coverage No.99, December 2010*). As you can see from the scan, the date on the front of the card was blocked out when I bought it. The back of the card gives all the information about the radio operator concerned.



TO RADIO G2FIX
 CONFIRMING QSO 13 July 1969
 AT 1830 GMT ON 1-8 Mc/s
 x SSB AM EW
 RST 5-8 QSB TO 9

PSE/TNX QSL VIA RSGB OR GB311F

10 ALVINGTON ROAD
 CARISBROOKE
 ISLE OF WIGHT
 UNITED KINGDOM

Exhibition Station operated by members
 of the Isle of Wight Radio Society

John G3YIU OPERATOR

Visit the Isle of Wight. Only ten minutes by
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 obtained from GB311F.

BRITISH HOVERCRAFT CORPORATION

The British Hovercraft Corporation has the world's only fully-established hovercraft production lines, located at Cowes, Isle of Wight and Itchen, near Southampton. A total of 60 SR.N5's and SR.N6's is now being produced, and a first batch of four 165-ton SR.N4 passenger/vehicle ferries is also under construction. Production of the 40-ton BH.7 will begin in the near future.

British hovercraft have so far seen commercial service in the United States, Scandinavia, U.K. and the Far East, and have logged a total mileage equivalent to 30 times round the Equator. Some 750,000 passengers have so far been carried.

The value of contracts won to date is almost £10,000,000, of which half is export business. BHC is also playing an important part in the recently-announced Black Arrow satellite launcher programme.

Artist's impression of the 165-ton SR.N4 passenger/car ferry designed for 'open-water' operations across routes such as the English Channel

Four of these craft are now being built at Cowes on the Isle of Wight and the first is scheduled for completion in the Autumn of this year

Post Office Posters



The two Post Office stamp posters shown above were sent in by Frank Aldridge. The two shown are from 1974, advertising Great Britons and Universal Postal Union stamp issues. These posters were issued to post offices throughout the country to advertise forthcoming new issues. Some collectors asked their local post office for them after the stamp issue date had passed and collected them along with the stamps. A few collectors affixed the stamps to the poster and had them cancelled with CDS postmarks. The two shown here are cancelled with Park Road, Stretford, Manchester, on their respective FDI.

I have seen such posters before, some with special handstamps applied as well as CDS postmarks. I can't see very many being serviced in this way as they are a bit of a niche collecting theme, but they are nice items to have in one's collection. Can anybody give an estimate on their value? I have seen similar posters (without stamps on) priced up to £5 on the Internet but how much would one of these posters be worth serviced with stamps and CDS? If anyone knows then please write in to the usual address and we will publish your feedback. Our thanks to Frank for sending them in to us.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We have arranged for the 2010 AGM/Cover Fair to be held on Sunday 2nd October 2011 at the Collingwood Centre, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF (for Sat Navs). Tel: 0121 360 1484

A lunchtime buffet will be laid on with the AGM starting at around 1pm.

We will be producing a first day cover (this year's will be Centenary of the Aerial Post) which will be sold for £5 to the first 60 members attending the AGM.

We hope that you will support the fair and look forward to seeing you all.

Terry Barnett (Hon. Sec.)

A list of dealers attending and a map will be published a little nearer the time:

Balloon Post

Thinking about the centenary of the first aerial post (1911 – 2011), I got to mulling over other forms of 'aerial' post. Pigeon post for example and mail carried by Zeppelin. I had a browse on eBay and spied the Balloon mail cover below, which took my eye. I am always looking for unusual covers and the more cancels on it the better I like it so I thought I would bid on it. The starting price was 0.99p and it was timed to end on February 2, 2011 at 18.48.52 GMT. I put in a sniper bid of £10.50 and sat back to see what happened. I was a little surprised to see it fetch £23.57 at the end of the auction but, then again, it is a nice item and it looks in lovely condition. I was sorry to lose it but perhaps I should have bid higher.



AUSTRIA OSTERREICH Balloon Post 1950 Registered Stamps dated 29th & 30th July 1950.

Dot R.

.....

Sam Downes

To the many members who have contacted me asking about Sam knowing that he has not been too well,

I am pleased to say that I have spoken him today (25 Feb), at home, and, his recovery is ongoing.

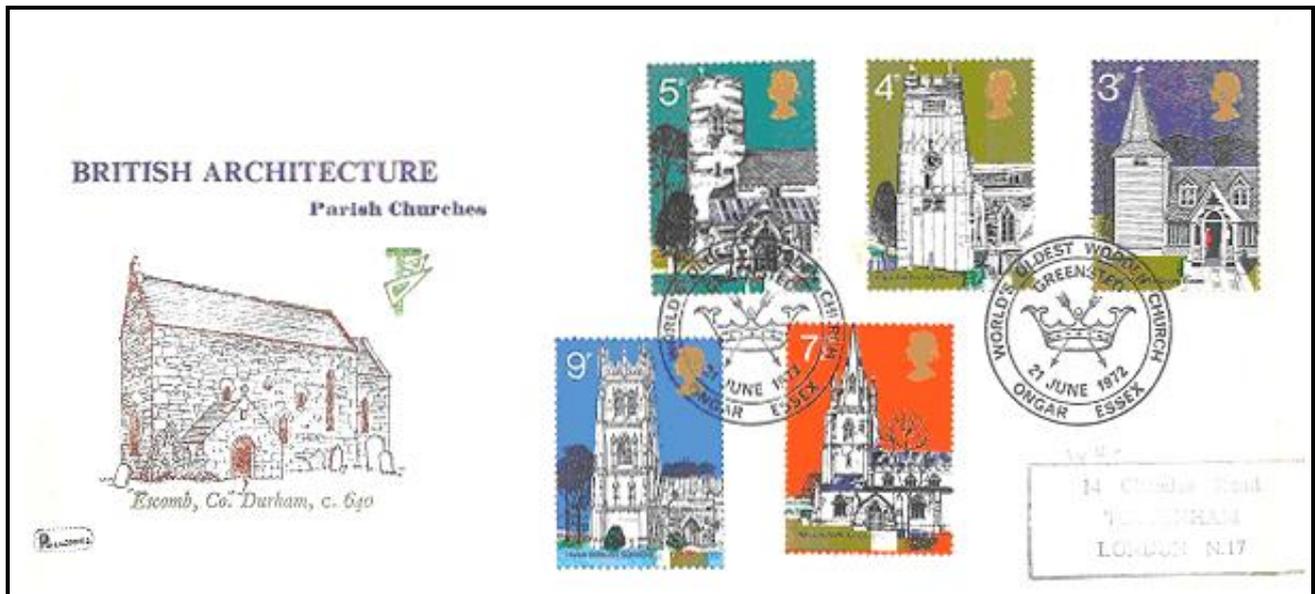
He asked me to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and wishes and hopes to be back 'on the road' in the not too distant future.

Terry Barnett – Hon. Sec. GBFDC

Response to Ian Billings query on the 1973 Cricket FDC
(First Day Coverage No 100, February 2011, page 16)

The quick answer is that this was produced by Philcovers – which started operation in 1965 and continued through to 1983.

I attach a picture of one example – 1972 churches – as an example of the earlier brand name (bottom left corner) – replaced in 1974 by the name in a round circle of dots.



The longer answer can be found in two video's on YouTube made by Chris Phillips - the first covering the Newlands Road Philatelic Society, and the story behind the origin of Philcovers up to 1967:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HgNtKnd5vY>

followed by the story from 1968 to 1983, when production stopped

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXXrimnRufA>

The Cricket FDC in question is shown after about 3.07 minutes of the second video.

Both these video's give a great record of the covers from both the NRPS and Philcovers, and have for me made a connection between a series of covers from 1965 and 1967/8 which had no producers name on them and the others in the series from the earlier NRPS and also the later Philcovers.

Richard Bennett

Non-commercial advertising rates – members only	Membership Fees		
Covers wanted advert: No charge Covers for sale advert: Two or three items with no illustration, free Half page, £4.00 (Mint decimal stamps accepted) Full page, £7.50 (Mint decimal stamps accepted)	U.K.	£12	Other major currency to the value of
	U.K. Junior rates	£6	
Member Commercial advertising rates Full page: £20 , artwork £5 extra, total - £25 Half page: £10 , artwork £3 extra, total - £13 Third page: £7 , artwork £2.50 extra, total - £9.50 Quarter page: £5 , artwork £2 extra, total - £7 Fifth page: £4 , artwork £1 extra, total - £5	Europe	£15	£25
Non-Member Commercial advertising rates Full page: £30 , artwork £5 extra, total - £35 Half page: £15 , artwork £3 extra, total - £18 Third page: £10 , artwork £2.50 extra, total - £12.50 Quarter page: £8 , artwork £2 extra, total - £10	Rest of the World	£18	£28
	Junior rates apply for children up to 16 years of age		
	<i>All advertisements must be accompanied by the appropriate fee, otherwise your advert will not be published – Sorry, but no exceptions</i>		
IMPORTANT NOTICE Name & address of contributor is printed with each item, as it is assumed members do not object to this information being given to other members through the Newsletter. At no point will members' names & addresses be sold on to other members or dealers. Your name & address may be supplied to another member if we think it is a genuine enquiry. If you object to this then please advise the editor. Only your name, address & membership number is recorded on the computer hard disk, no other information is recorded with it. © All material published in the Newsletter is the copyright of the writer of the item concerned ©			

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE 7th May 2011

Notice for all Advertisers

If an advertisement is not accompanied by the relevant fee (all fees are displayed in the rates column above), then we are afraid we cannot publish your advertisement. **Receipts will only be issued if a stamped SAE is received.**

Return of CD's:- For those of you who supply disks containing advertisements – if you wish these to be returned to you, please include a PADDED stamped SAE. If you require them back by Special Delivery then you must supply the full amount, padded envelope and completed silver label.

All Advertising fees must be sent in through the editor – thank you.

Letters and Articles for inclusion into the Newsletter

The Association welcomes readers' letters, tips and views, and we look forward to hearing from you. The Newsletter is only as good as the material that is sent in for publication so please continue to do so. However, views expressed in *First Day Coverage* do not express the views of the GBFDC Association or its officers. Material published is the copyright of the person who writes it. It is worth remembering that items published may also express controversial views and opinions, which may well stimulate equally controversial replies. It is only to be expected and individuals are advised that such views may well prompt ongoing debate.

The editor has complete discretion over what is, or is not, published in *First Day Coverage*.

Please send all items for publication to:

The Editor, GBFDC Association, P.O. Box 99, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0NN

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