

**Bulletin box files** As an alternative to the binders for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*, we now have available sturdy box files for both publications. The files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin*, are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £8.50 each. Order codes: PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the *Philatelic* and about 50 of the *Postmark Bulletins* •

**Going off sale** The special stamp book containing eight 1st class definitives and a pane containing a 1st Eden Project and 1st Trans Pennine Trail stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 4 September. This is the only source of this pane – no 2153a in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. The Treasury of Trees prestige book (price £7), to be withdrawn on 17 September, contains Millennium definitives, Welsh country stamps and stamps from the Stone & Soil and Tree & Leaf sets. The book, printed by the Walsall, yields new printings of the Millennium stamps. The 65p Stone & Soil stamp in sheets was printed by Enschedé, and the 2nd, 45p and 65p Tree & Leaf stamps in sheets were by De La Rue. It is the sole source of the Welsh 2nd class stamp with phosphor band at right (no w83a in the SG catalogue).

The remaining 2000 Millennium issues will be withdrawn on: 4 September (Mind & Matter); 2 October (Body & Bone and 2000 Christmas airletter); 6 November (Spirit & Faith and Christmas stamp books); and 4 December (Sound & Vision) •

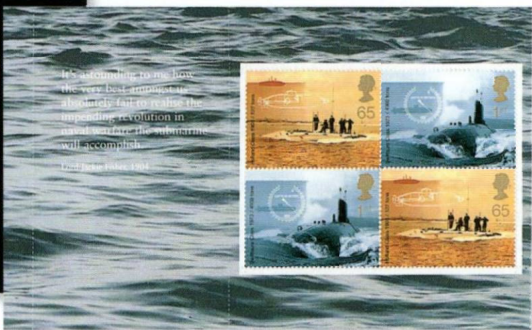
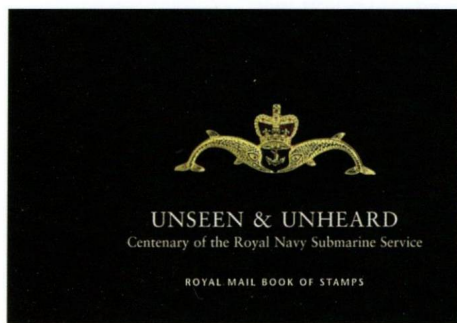
## Flags and Ensigns A miniature sheet and PSB for the Submarine Service's centenary

A miniature sheet and prestige book marking the centenary of the Submarine Service will be available from 22 October, coinciding with the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The miniature sheet, price £1.08, contains four 1st class stamps featuring flags and ensigns: Union Flag ('Union Jack'), White Ensign, Jolly Roger, and the flag of the Chief of the Defence Staff. The sheet, designed by Dick Davis, with illustrations by Anton Morris, is printed in gravure by Questa.

The present Union Flag, popularly if erroneously called the 'Union Jack' dates from 1801 and the unification of Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and Ireland. It combines the English, Scottish and Irish crosses of Saints George, Andrew, and Patrick. (An earlier version, from 1606, combined just the English and Scottish flags.) According to Barraclough & Crampton (see page 13), the Union Flag is a royal flag used by the sovereign and the services and representatives of the sovereign. However there is no objection to any British subject using the flag ashore but the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 states that the Red Ensign is the proper colour for any ship or boat owned by a British subject.



The miniature sheet measures 92 x 95mm, the stamps 41 x 26mm.



**Postmarks for 22 October**  
 For sponsored postmarks see our companion publication, the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

The Red, White, and Blue Ensigns of Great Britain originated in the early 17th century as tactical flags for use in the Royal Navy, which was divided into red, white and blue squadrons. After 1674 the Red Ensign was restricted to merchant ships; the others remained in Royal Navy use until 1864. Current usage is governed by Queen's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions. These include use by the Royal Yacht Squadron, on shore for decoration purposes during periods of national rejoining, and, with the Blue Ensign, on cenotaphs and other memorials to naval personnel. It is described as charged with the red cross of St George, with the Union Flag in the upper canton next to the mast.

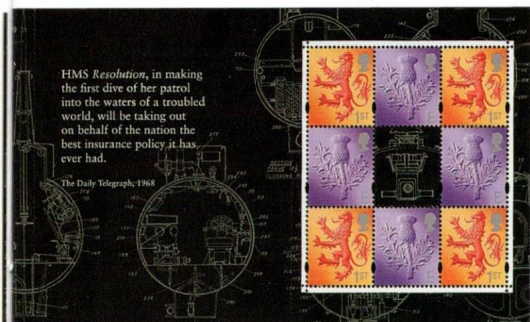
The Jolly Roger is the flag used on submarines. When the Royal Navy Submarine Service was formed in 1901, one opponent to their introduction, Admiral Sir Arthur Wilson, said that any submariner captured should be 'hanged as a pirate'. During the First World War a young British submarine captain, after he had sunk an enemy cruiser, raised the Jolly Roger as a mark of honour. Thereafter, the flag became the emblem of British submarines returning from successful actions on patrol. Each submarine has a unique Jolly Roger; bars represent shipping sunk or disabled, crossed guns and stars are gun actions, and the dagger is for 'cloak and dagger' activities. Individual boats also devised emblems such as the crossed tin openers at the bottom of the flag of HMS *Proteus*, featured on the stamp.

The flag of the Chief of Defence Staff represents, with horizontal bands, the three services – Navy (dark blue), Army (red) and Air Force (light blue) – with the Union Flag at upper left and the 'unified device' of the services – white and blue eagle for the RAF, two red swords in saltire for the Army, and a blue foul anchor for the Navy – surrounded by the Garter and surmounted by the royal crown.

The word 'ensign' is derived from the Latin *insigne* and *signum* and was originally used to mean a sign or signal. It is probable that the Navy first used the term, for the first record of ensign, in 1574, relates to ship ensigns.

For details of flags on British stamps see James Negus's article in the *Bulletin* of February and March 1992. Subsequently flags have featured on the 1992 Europa and 1995 Shakespeare's Globe issues, and on the current 2nd class Scottish country stamp.

Source *Flags of the World*, edited by E M C Barraclough & W G Crampton (1978)



### Unseen & Unheard prestige stamp book

**Pane 1** Top row: 65p and 1st class Submarines stamps. Bottom row: 1st and 65p Submarines stamps.

**Pane 2** Top row: 45p and 2nd class Submarines stamps. Bottom row: 2nd and 45p Submarines stamps.

**Pane 3** Flags & Ensigns stamps (as in miniature sheet).

**Pane 4** Top and bottom rows: two Scottish 1st class stamps separated by Scottish E stamp. Middle row: two Scottish E stamps separated by pictorial label.

**Unseen & Unheard** A new prestige book containing country stamps, Flags and Ensigns, and Submarines stamps will be issued on 22 October, price £6.76. It contains four panes, as described above.

The panes are being printed in gravure by Questa – the first time they have printed the 1st and E Scottish stamps. They printed the 2nd and 65p values in The Queen Mother prestige book last August. The Scottish stamps in sheets of 200 are by Walsall.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices about a week before 22 October, price 25p. The cover can be used for the miniature sheet or panes from the prestige book. Orders for serviced FDCs, prices opposite, must reach Tallents House by 22 October. Alternatively, collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the pictorial Tallents House or Rosyth postmarks to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ marking the outer envelopes 'FDO101 PSB' or 'FDO102 PSB' respectively. A non-pictorial Rosyth postmark will be available from the Special Handstamp Centre (FDO102 PSB NP). First Day Posting boxes will be provided at main post offices for collectors to post covers for the pictorial Rosyth postmark. Any stamp from the miniature sheet/prestige book can be used, singly or in combination, for all first day, philatelic and sponsored handstamps in use on 22 October.

**PRESENTATION PACK AND POSTCARDS** The miniature sheet will also be available in a presentation pack, price £1.45. Five cards will be available, price 25p, reproducing the four stamps and the miniature sheet.

**SELF-ADHESIVE STAMP BOOK** A book containing four 1st class definitives and one each of the White Ensign and Jolly Roger stamps will be available from Tallents House and philatelic outlets from 22 October, price £1.62. It will contain self-adhesive stamps, printed by Questa ●

### FDC prices

**Miniature sheet** £1.69 UK; £1.44 overseas

**Prestige Book pane 4** £3.43 UK; £2.92 overseas

