

## Section 4: Postal Mechanisation on British Stamps

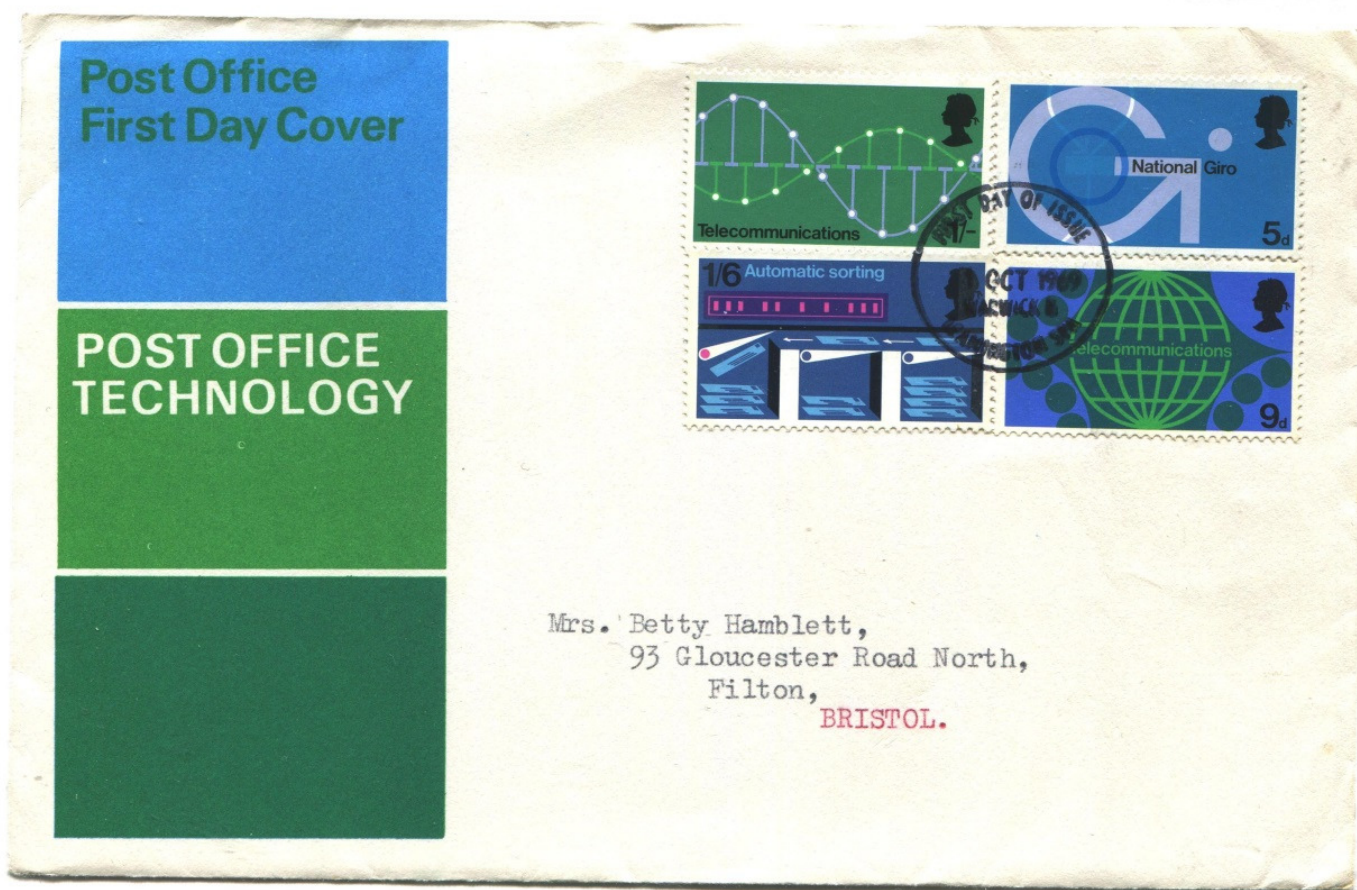
This section covers the following topics:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Event</u>
1969	Post Office Technology
2014	The GPO Film Unit
2016	500 years of Royal Mail Stamps of the future?

## 1969 - Post Office Technology Stamp

In October 1969, towards the start of the installation of 1st Generation sorting equipment, the GPO issued a set of four stamps that featured different aspects of Post Office technology at that time. The stamps were designed by David Gentleman and printed by Thomas de la Rue and Co. Ltd.

The 1/6d value depicted part of a Letter Sorting Machine and showed letters being deflected into sorting trays. The machine was capable of sorting 10,000 items per hour.



Post Office Technology FDC – 1 Oct 1969

## GB Stamps with a Postal Mechanisation theme

On 13 May 2014, Royal Mail released its “Great British Film” special stamp issue to celebrate six key British movies produced since the Second World War.

Accompanying the set was a four-stamp Miniature Sheet of stamps, focusing on the work of the GPO Film Unit, which produced groundbreaking documentaries, animations and information films for the General Post Office in the 1930s and 1940s.

One of the 1st Class stamps included in that miniature sheet was the 1936 film “Night Mail” that depicted one of the scenes from that film. It showed a Post Office employee sorting mail on a Travelling Post Office.



*Miniature sheet with a TPO stamp from the film “Night Mail”*

## GB Stamps with a Postal Mechanisation theme

On 17 February 2016, a set commemorative stamps was issued to celebrate 500 years of Royal Mail history. The quincentenary was marked with stamps that depicted the achievements of great postal pioneers and reformers, as well as images that reflected key milestones and developments over the years.

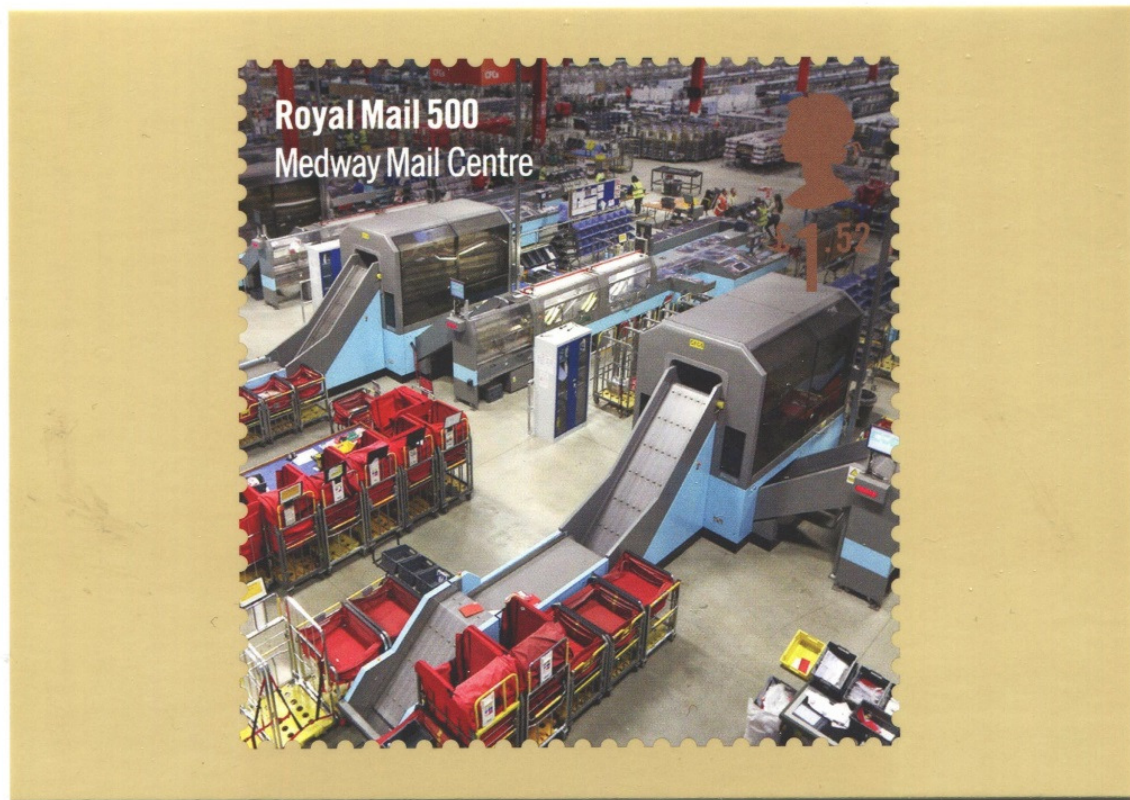
Included in this set was a 1st class stamp that featured an 18<sup>th</sup> century Mail Coach, and a £1.52 stamp depicting operations at Medway Mail Centre.



*Cover processed at Medway Mail Centre – 17 Feb 2016*

# GB Stamps with a Postal Mechanisation theme

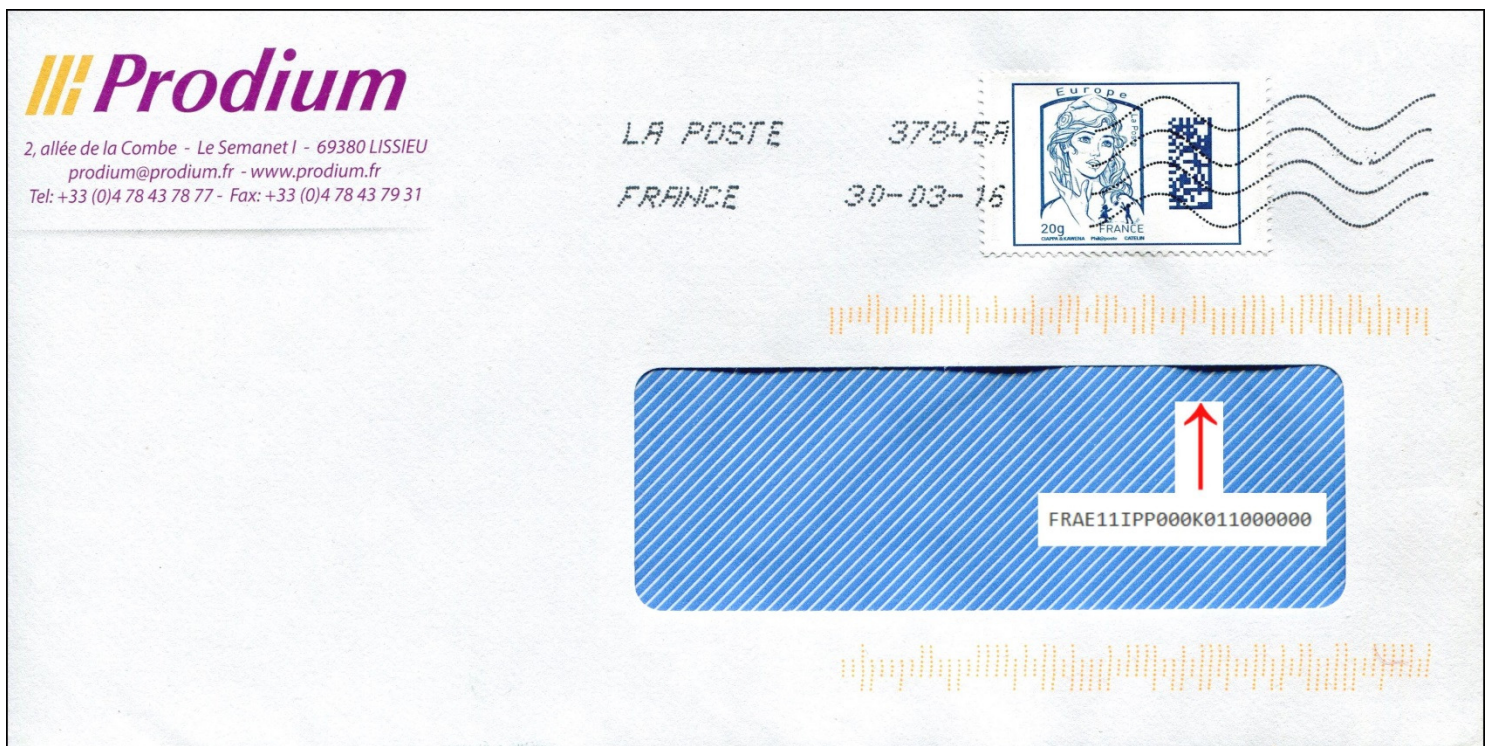
“Royal Mail 500” PHQ cards, issued 17 Feb 2016.



## Stamps with QR and 2D Barcodes

2D barcodes have not yet been introduced on British stamps, but they will surely be so in the future so that Royal Mail can gather even more information on items that pass through the post.

The French item below has a stamp with a 2D barcode included in the design. The data matrix decodes as 'FRAE11IPP000K0110000000'.



Greece issued this stamp in 2013 that has a QR code incorporated in the design. It decodes as 'http://www.elta.gr' which takes you to the Greek Postal Authority web site.



Stamps with QR codes and 2D barcodes will, no doubt, become another aspect of Postal Mechanisation for the philatelist to collect in the future!