

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 40 Number 7

MARCH 2003 £1.10

# Bulletin

Extreme Endeavours issue •  
Photostamps of the world



**Amy Johnson is remembered along with six other extraordinary individuals in Royal Mail's Extreme Endeavours stamps, to be issued on 29 April.**

## Extreme Endeavours Next month's stamps



### Technical details

**Printer** House of Questa (now part of De La Rue)

**Process** Gravure

**Stamp size** 60 x 21mm

**Sheet size** 50

**Perforation** 15 x 14.5

**Phosphor** 2nd class one band others two bands

**Gum** PVA

**Gutter pairs** Vertical

### Cylinders and colours

**All values** Q1 gold ● Q1 black  
● Q1 magenta ● Q1 yellow ●  
Q1 cyan (blue) ● Q1 phosphor

### British Postmark Bulletin

For a sample copy write to:  
The Editor, British Postmark  
Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old  
Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

**Tariff increase** The prices of the 2nd and 1st class stamps and presentation pack will be increased if a proposed tariff increase comes into effect from 17 April. The pack will then cost £2.80.

THE THEME of next month's issue of special stamps is Extreme Endeavours and honours seven people who have tested themselves in such endeavours. The six, large format, stamps on this theme will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House, Edinburgh on 29 April. They depict: 2nd class Amy Johnson, 1st class Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, E rate Freya Stark; 42p Ernest Shackleton; 47p Francis Chichester; and 68p Robert Falcon Scott. The stamps mark the centenary of the birth of Amy Johnston and the 50th anniversary of the conquest of Mount Everest. The six stamps were designed by Howard Brown.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 29 April, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the six stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Plymouth must reach Royal Mail (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.25 UK or £2.77 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA (Plymouth postmark), marking the outer envelope 'F0309' (Tallents House), or 'F0310' (Plymouth). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Plymouth postmark. Other handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/ Europe; £24.95 elsewhere).

**PHILATELIC PRODUCTS** A well-illustrated pack containing the six stamps (shown opposite, price £2.75) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets.

**STAMP BOOK** A book containing four 1st class definitives in gold and two 1st class Extreme Endeavours stamps will be available from 29 April, price £1.62. All six stamps are self-adhesive, printed by De La Rue ●

# recall the achievements of seven explorers and adventurers



Stephen Goodwin, writer of the presentation pack, tells us that explorers and adventurers lend a dash of colour to life. Their exploits are testimony to the courage and passion of the human spirit. Yet triumph was often tempered by tragedy. Scott of the Antarctic perished while his rival Shackleton lost not a life in one of the great survival epics of history. Hillary and Tenzing's 1953 success on Everest followed years of rebuffs to mountaineers by avalanche and wind and cold. Endeavour on land was matched in the air by Amy Johnson and at sea by Sir Francis Chichester, whilst romantic nomad Freya Stark travelled alone into remote corners of Arabia.



Mrs J Robinson  
200 Manorbie Road  
Ilkinston  
Derbyshire  
DE7 4AB



## EXTREME ENDEAVOURS Royal Mail Mint Stamps

The latter was a feat of extraordinary grit in the most inhospitable terrain on Earth. Hauling sledges and enduring wind chill of minus 50°C, Finnes and Dr Mike Stroud were the first to cross the Antarctic landmass without supply drops or motorized assistance. At 2164 kilometres it was the longest polar journey in history and rescued the pair to frobbleskin wreaths.

Who inspired him? It was not, he admits, polar heroes Shackleton or Scott, though he came to admire them later. His guiding spirits were Lawrence and Stanley, and the exotic Sir Richard Burton and Lawrence of Arabia. After service in the SAS and fighting communists for the Sultan of Oman, Finnes explored the Nile and repeatedly returned to the desert looking for the fabled 'lost' city of Ugar. His ultimately successful search spanned 26 years.

Despite losing his fingertips and having raised more than £6 million for charity, Finnes' competitive urge is still fierce. He is guarded about future ventures. The poles, he thinks, have been all but exhausted, but adds: "If one of our expedition friends rings up with some amazing idea, then it is hard to say no".

Rebecca Finnes' expedition has to be from Reza's Arctic lakes to barrens & deserts. Between 1978 and 1982 he is the first polar navigation of the Earth

Rebecca Stephens was the first Brit to climb the highest mountain in each world's seven continents, reaching it of Everest in May 1992.

REBECCA STEPHENS was the first British woman to climb Mount Everest and to bag the 'Magnificent Seven' - the highest summits on each of the world's seven continents. As one of these - Vinson - is in Antarctica and another - Carstensz Pyramid - rises from dense jungle on a South Pacific island, widely contrasting climates pose with 'tw' challenge. And then there is Everest. The highest mountain in the world presents sailors with the full gamut of hazards - collapsing ice cliffs, avalanches, screaming winds, and sub-zero temperatures - plus the thinnest, most oxygen-starved air on the planet.

Yet Stephens fell in love with Everest and returned from a 1983 journalistic assignment to the mountain's Tibetan side determined to climb it. "I went out really green," she says. "We all got turned on by different things and I just love being in the mountains." Then one evening at the Royal Geographical Society in London she heard Sir Edmund Hillary talking about his historic ascent with Sherpa Tenzing in 1953. Forty years after Hillary and Tenzing's triumph, Stephens followed in their footsteps up Nepal's Khumbu valley. She had quit a secure job to be part of a British expedition, but failure seemed inevitable as the Everest season drew to an end. Stephens was close to exhaustion and the weather forecast was grim. "I knew the chances were very slim, but I had to know I had some sort of a route." On 17 May 1993, she and Sherpa Ang Pasang



The presentation pack was written by Stephen Goodwin and designed by Silk Pearce.