

## Transports of Delight Royal Mail celebrates



MECCANO  
Constructor Biplane c1931



WELLS-BRIMTOY  
Clockwork Double-decker Omnibus c1938



HORNBY  
M1 Clockwork Locomotive  
and Tender c1948

### Technical details

**Printer** Joh Enschedé Stamps

**Process** Gravure

**Stamp size** 41 × 30mm

**Sheet size** 50

**Perforation** 14.5 × 14

**Phosphor** Two bands

**Gum** PVA

**Gutter pairs** Vertical

### Cylinders and colours

**All values** E1 silver ● E1 deep blue ● E1 black ● E1 cyan (blue) ● E1 magenta ● E1 yellow ● E1 phosphor

FIVE STAMPS, a miniature sheet, and a retail stamp book featuring historic toys will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 18 September. They feature: 1st class Meccano Constructor Biplane (c1931), E rate Wells-Brimtoy Clockwork Double-decker Omnibus (c1938), 42p Hornby M1 Clockwork locomotive and tender (c1948), 47p Dinky Toys Ford Zephyr (c1956), and 68p Mettoy Friction Drive Space Ship *Eagle* (c1960). The Queen's silhouette and value/service indicator are printed in silver and positioned at top right on the 1st, 42p and 68p stamps and at top left on the E and 47p.

The five stamps will also be issued in a miniature sheet (price £2.23), and the 1st class stamp in self-adhesive form in a book with four 1st class Machins (£1.68). The sheet stamps and miniature sheet are being printed by Enschedé, the self-adhesive book by De La Rue.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 18 September, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Toye, Downpatrick must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.04 UK, £2.59 overseas. Please state whether stamps or miniature sheet required when ordering.

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, Rutherglen DO, Duchess Place, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1BT (Toye postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0319' (Tallents House), or 'FD0320' (Toye). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Offices for the Toye postmark.

Additionally there will be a first day of issue postmark for Autumn Stampex, the stamps/sheet being issued on the second day of the exhibition. Collectors may post FDCs in the special box on the Royal Mail stand or send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB marking the outer envelope 'Stampex First Day of Issue Postmark'.

Other handstamps for 18 September will be listed in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to the Editor (address at left).

**British Postmark Bulletin**  
Royal Mail, 148 Old Street,  
London EC1V 9HQ.

# the 'Golden Age' of British toy manufacturing



The Transports of Delight stamps were designed by Trickett & Webb with photography by Martin Langfield. The Meccano biplane and Wells-Brimtoy bus are shown courtesy of Pollocks Toy Museum; the Hornby train, Dinky Toys car, and Mettoy spaceship are from private collections.

Mrs J Robinson  
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**TRANSPORTS OF DELIGHT**  
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

FROM: MAIL TALLENTS HOUSE 18-9-03  
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE TOYE DOWNPATRICK 18-9-03

**TRANSPORTS OF DELIGHT**  
A COLLECTION OF CLASSIC TOYS

Hornby trains, Dinky cars or Wells-Brimtoy vehicles. Collecting by type will enable you to form an orderly collection; toys by the same maker will complement each other far better than a random, mismatched collection. With a specific focus in mind a complete and comprehensive collection is more achievable – although considering the sheer number of toys produced by the various makers, still an ambitious goal. It is more realistic to narrow your interest to one area, for example Hornby trains of the 1930s or television-related Dinky toys from the 1960s.

**MINI REPAIRERS**  
Mini Television Mobile Control Room 1962 Daily Toy commercial vehicle range

Once your collection has begun to grow then you can think about expanding into other related areas; Plink, complete toy cars, lorries and vans made by Lines Brothers in the 1930s are a perfect size match to accompany the Hornby 'V' gauge range of trains.

**LOOKING AFTER YOUR TOYS**  
Never leaves a toy in strong sunlight as this can eventually cause the paint colours to fade. Also, the heat from radiators or light bulbs can prove damaging. Many collectors display their toys in specially-built cabinets so that they can be shown to

0-6 Hornby locomotive packaging  
An example of a typical Chad Valley plate from a pre-war Gramophone box  
**WHERE TO BUY!** Collectors' and toy fairs, advertisers in collecting magazines, auctions and collectors' clubs are all good places to find toys. Societies such as the Hornby Railway Society or the Meccano Toy Club are useful for broadening your knowledge. They often issue monthly newsletters, as well as informing collectors of future events. 'Swap-meets' are usually held once a month, all over the country. They are an excellent opportunity to meet other collectors from your area, discuss toys and perhaps swap or buy that long-sought-for model. More information can be accessed by visiting toy clubs' sites on the internet.

A cherished collection leads to very best presentation displayed on glass shelves in a hand-made cabinet

**The Hornby Railway**

a model's mark the surface of a  
Incised the maker's mark on the surface of a to identify.  
Masco A mag metal alloy.  
Mint A toy with bluish. A expression it  
Model A miniature of a vehicle or exactly to scale or to proportion. Sometimes a periphrastic term suggesting that there has been sacrificed for detail.  
Novelty Toys Any non-vehicular mechanical toy which has an amusing action.  
Penny Toys Inexpensive toys usually made from lithographed templates, with a simple push-along action. Production was mainly between 1900 and the 1930s.  
Scale An evoking method for ensuring all elements in a train set were compatible. Standard scale (2 1/8" from wheel hub to wheel hub), was developed to create "O" gauge which is still in use today.  
Take A method of joining two pieces of metal by fitting a small tub through a slot.  
Tinplate Thin sheets of iron or steel that were coated with a shined alloy and used widely in toy production until the advent of

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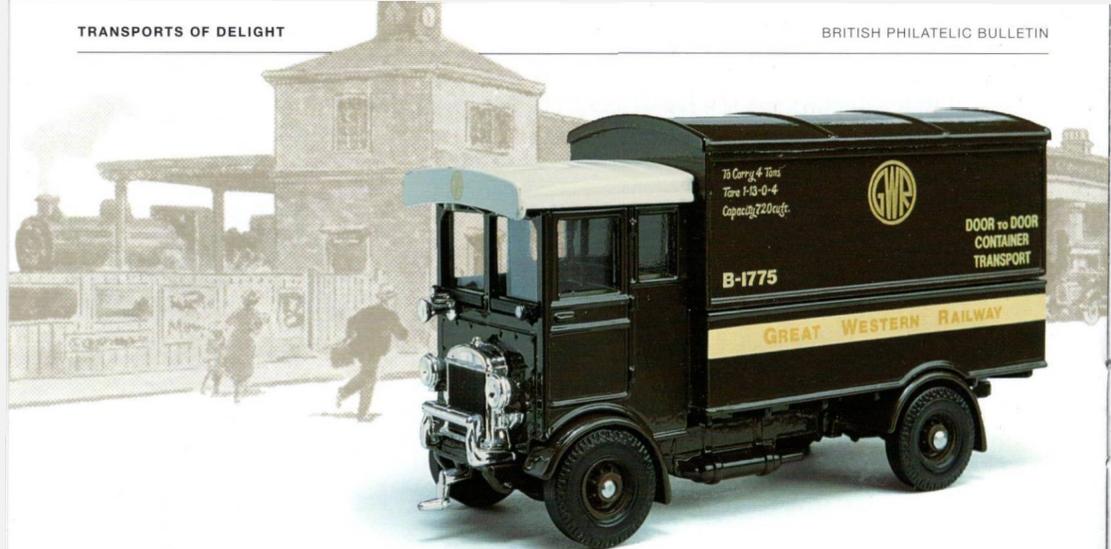
**MECOTO PATHEM**  
**METTOY**  
Founder ... Philip Ullmann  
Formed ... 1933  
Location ... Northampton  
Closed ... & Swansea

**DINKY TOYS**  
Founder ... Frank Hornby  
Formed ... 1919  
Location ... Liverpool  
Closed ... 1979

**Triang**  
**LINE BROTHERS**  
Founder ... George & Joseph Lines  
Formed ... 1919  
Location ... London  
Closed ... 1983

"Triang" was registered on 18-9-03

A pack containing the five stamps (left, price £2.60) and six stamp cards reproducing the five stamps and the miniature sheet (30p each) will be available from Talents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets.



**Collecting toys** Toys can be good investments: Dinky toys bought with pocket money in the 1950s may now be worth a week's wages. Above, the AEC 508 forward control 5 ton cabover, from Corgi's Classic vintage vehicles (1980s).

**Collecting toys** is popular in the UK with, it is said, 30,000 avid collectors eagerly seeking items from the British 'golden age' of toy production: 1910-70. The appeal of collecting is nostalgia for the carefree days of childhood.

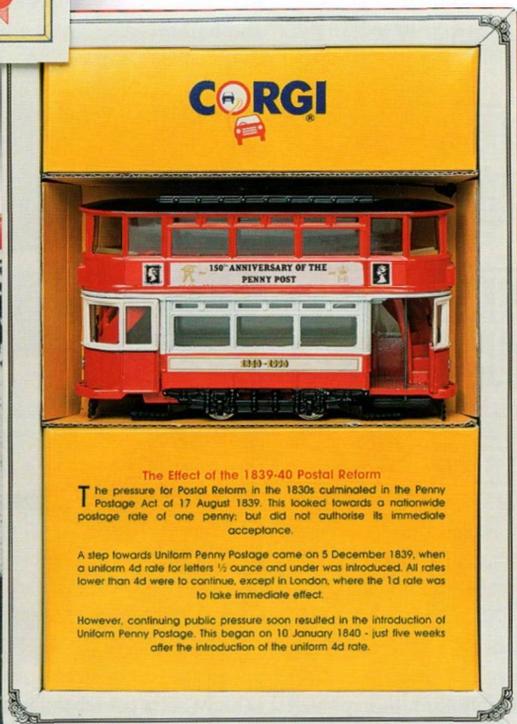
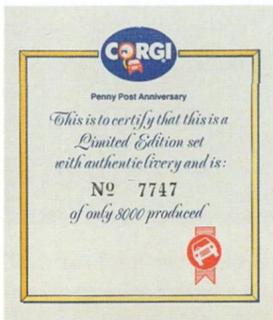
Toy trains date back to the early 19th century, soon after the first passenger-carrying train services. Early toy trains were of a simple, pull-along nature, referred to as 'carpet trains'. Later working models were produced with water-filled boilers heated by a methylated spirit burner, and by the end of Victoria's reign clockwork was the chief motive power. Toy aeroplanes came on the market soon after the Wright Brothers flights in 1903.

Famous British toy manufacturers include Meccano, Tri-ang, and Wells. Frank Hornby, credited as the 'father' of the British tin toy industry, had the inspired idea for a new toy, 'Mechanics Made Easy', later renamed Meccano. His ingenious design was for perforated metal strips, enabling different models to be constructed. He patented this innovation in 1901. Hornby trains appeared in 1920 and were an instant success. Three years before his death in 1936, Hornby oversaw the manufacture of Modelled Miniatures which became Meccano Dinky Toys. By the time his famous Liverpool factory closed in 1979 over 1000 different Dinky toys had been produced.

When beginning a collection, it is advisable to choose one type of toy – such as cars, boats or aeroplanes – or focus on a particular manufacturer such as Hornby trains, Dinky cars or Wells-Brimtoy vehicles. This way a complete and comprehensive collection is a more achievable – if still ambitious – goal. Some collectors restrict their interests to a specific area, such as Hornby trains of the 1930s or television-related Dinky toys from the 1960s.

Try to find toys with their original paintwork and in their boxes. Many TV- and film-related models – such as Thunderbirds or James Bond – were sold in decorative boxes with inner scenic stands and accessories. Ever in demand, they sell for high prices in fine condition. Repainted or incomplete toys are always worth much less. Collectors' and toy fairs are often advertised in collecting magazines, some collectors' societies publish newsletters, and monthly 'swap-meets' are held all over the country.

**Toys on stamps** Toys first appeared on British stamps in 1968 – on the Christmas stamps, designed by Rosalind Dease, the 1s6d value showed a boy with a train set. In 1989, one of the first Greetings stamps featured a teddy bear and the Games and Toys set depicted a toy train and airplane, building bricks, dice and board games, a toy robot, boat and a doll's house. A teddy bear featured again on a greetings stamp the following year, and a model car was the subject of one of the 1992 Memories greetings stamps ●

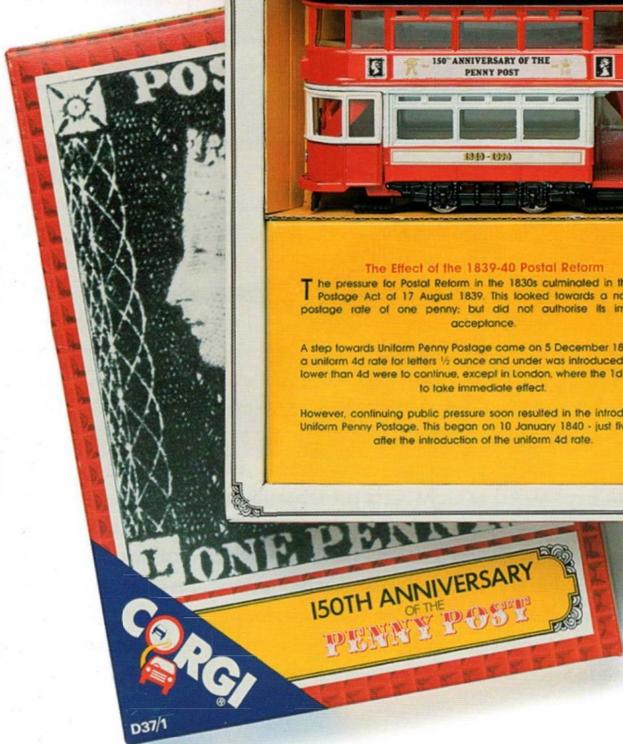


**The Effect of the 1839-40 Postal Reform**

The pressure for Postal Reform in the 1830s culminated in the Penny Postage Act of 17 August 1839. This looked towards a nationwide postage rate of one penny, but did not authorise its immediate acceptance.

A step towards Uniform Penny Postage came on 5 December 1839, when a uniform 4d rate for letters ½ ounce and under was introduced. All rates lower than 4d were to continue, except in London, where the 1d rate was to take immediate effect.

However, continuing public pressure soon resulted in the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage. This began on 10 January 1840 – just five weeks after the introduction of the uniform 4d rate.



Left, a limited edition Corgi model of a closed-top London tram, issued to mark the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the Penny Post.