



## BPO plans maritime tribute



Britain's maritime heritage is honored with this set of five to be introduced June 18.

## Australia announces tribute to queen

Australia Post celebrated the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II April 21 with the issuance of a 27-cent commemorative stamp. Issued two days earlier, on April 18, were four definitives in the country's second Australian Animals series.

A further report from Australia Post tells of plans for an Australian Antarctic Territory duo honoring the birth centenary of explorer Sir Douglas Mawson.

The Queen Elizabeth II commemorative is the third in a series of annual Australian stamp issues which appear as near as possible to the actual date of the queen's birthday, although her official birthday celebrations occur in that country at other times of the year.

During the course of her reign, Queen Elizabeth has become the most traveled monarch in Britain's history. She has made extensive tours of Commonwealth and other countries.

In February 1954 Queen Elizabeth became the first reigning monarch to visit Australia and has since returned on several occasions.

The stamp was designed by Ray Honisett of Melbourne and printed by photolithography by Melbourne's Cambec Press in sheets of 100.

It will remain on sale approximately two weeks at post offices and until Nov. 30 at philatelic sales centers.

The four new definitives released April 18 suit the new Australian postage rates which came into effect on April 21.

This portion of the second series of Australia's



The birthday of Queen Elizabeth II was noted April 21 by Australia Post with a 27-cent commemorative stamp (top), while two Australian Antarctic Territory stamps (bottom) will mark the birth centenary of Sir Douglas Mawson on May 5.

lian Animals features amphibians and reptiles.

The 3c value shows the Corroboree frog, which is distributed through Australian alpine regions around Mount Kosciuszko and the high country near the Australian Capital Territory.

The colorful Corroboree frogs often are found under logs or in vegetation close to creeks or marshes.

The Blue Mountains tree frog appears on the 27c value. These frogs are found mostly along the coastal regions and ranges of New South Wales and eastern Victoria.

Much of their time is spent on the ground near water and aquatic growth, but they are capable of climbing trees and have pads on their fingers and toes to aid in climbing.

The 65c definitive depicts the yellow-face whip snake, which is distributed through most of continental Australia from the coastal regions to the arid interior.

These snakes are fast moving and venomous, but only larger specimens are potentially dangerous to humans.

The final value, 75c, shows the eastern water dragon, a semi-aquatic tree lizard which inhabits creeks and rivers of Australia's coastal areas.

These tree lizards are sometimes seen on boughs of trees overhanging streams, and, if disturbed, will drop into the water and can remain submerged for some considerable time.

The 27c value, being Australia's new domestic base rate postage stamp, will be available from all post offices for approximately one year, while the other values will be available for about three years.

The stamps were designed by Beverley Bruen of Uralla, New South Wales, and printed by photolithography by Leigh-Mardon Pty. Ltd., Melbourne, in sheets of 100.

The two Australian Antarctic Territory stamps honoring the birth centenary of Sir Douglas Mawson (1882-1958) were designed by Ray Honisett and show portraits of the Antarctic explorer.

On the 27c stamp Mawson is shown before a bleak Antarctic vista, while on the 75c value he is seen with a map of the Australian Antarctic Territory.

Sir Douglas Mawson, born in England on May 5, 1882, went to Australia at the age of four. While still a student at the University of Sydney, Mawson went on his first Antarctic expedition.

He later returned to Antarctica as leader of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14. For his achievements during that expedition, Mawson was knighted and awarded the King's Polar Medal.

In later years, Mawson was involved in further explorations of the Antarctic, and in

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As a tribute to Britain's centuries of naval and maritime tradition, 1982 has been designated Maritime England Year by the English Tourist Board with over 2,000 events throughout the country.

Events will include the raising of the hull of *Mary Rose* by the *Mary Rose* Trust as the focus of a Tudor Ship Museum to be created at Portsmouth.

Appropriately, it is also the 300th anniversary of the granting of the Livery to Worshipful Company of Shipwrights.

To honor Britain's maritime heritage, the British Post Office will release five stamps June 18.

The stamps were designed by Marjorie Saylor and printed in photogravure/recess on unwatermarked phosphor coated paper by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

Format is horizontal; size 41 millimeters by 30mm; perforations 15 by 14, with 100 per sheet.

The rise of British naval power began under the Tudors. Henry VI (1491-1547) (depicted on the 15 1/4-penny value) began extensive rearmament when he came to the throne in 1509 and the pride of his fleet was *Mary Rose*.

A great ship of 600 tons built in 1518, she emerged from a refit in 1536 as the first ship of the navy fitted with a complete lower deck of heavy guns capable of firing broadsides.

On July 19, 1545, sailing to meet the French in the Solent, she keeled over her open lower gunports and went down with few survivors.

Formerly a colonel of the Parliamentary forces in the Civil War, Robert Blake (1599-1657) (30p) was appointed one of three generals-at-sea in 1649.

After serving in the first Dutch War (1652-1654) and hunting Spanish treasure fleets, he died returning to Plymouth in 1657, having left the Navy the basis of its codes of discipline and tactical communication with the Articles of War and Fighting Instructions of 1653.

His fleet flagship, while commanding the Channel, was *Triumph*, a second rate warship of 921 tons built in 1623 at Deptford.

Vice Admiral Lord Nelson (1758-1805) (22p) remains England's greatest naval hero and commander distinguished by his tactical brilliance, courage and inspiring leadership.

His flagship from 1803 and on whose quarterdeck he was mortally wounded after a resounding victory at the Battle of Trafalgar on Oct. 21, 1805 was HMS *Victory*, a first rate ship of the line of 2,182 tons laid down at Chatham in 1759.

John Arbutnot Fisher (1841-1920) (25p), first Baron Fisher of Kilverstone and admiral of the fleet, was the great administrator whose controversial reforms for efficiency and war-readiness sustained the Royal Navy in the critical period before World War I.

The most outstanding of his many innovations was the 17,900-ton HMS *Dreadnought*, launched in 1906.

As the first all-big-gun, turbine-driven battleship, she made all other battleships obsolete and started the "dreadnought" race among the navies of the world.

Admiral Andrew Browne Cunningham (1883-1963) (28p), first Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope, was the outstanding British naval commander of World War II.

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## Canada salutes new Constitution

On April 18 Canada Post released a new 30-cent commemorative stamp in conjunction with Queen Elizabeth's state visit (April 14-17) during which she signed Canada's new constitution.

The stamp shows an open book. On the left-hand page is the Canadian Coat of Arms, and on the right-hand page is inscribed "Constitution 1982." A stylized Canadian flag appears as a bookmark.

The constitution is Canada's supreme law; much of it originated in the remote past. The mists of time shroud the origins of the monarchy, parliament, courts of law and other such institutions.

The stability and importance of the constitution make people reluctant to alter it and give added significance to any major changes.

Since the first European explorers arrived in Canada, overseas governments have exercised power there.

The British North America Act of 1867 did not entirely remedy this situation. Only the British parliament could amend the act.

In subsequent years Canada slowly gained a greater and greater degree of independence. In 1884, for example, Canada won the right to negotiate trade treaties with other countries.

Canada's efforts during the first World War hastened the independence process.

At the behest of Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden and

others, the Imperial War Conference of 1926 took up the matter and proclaimed Great Britain and the Dominion to be

"autonomous communities . . . equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any

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### New feature

A look at the retail market activity of key United States stamps is provided in a new feature, "U.S. Market Trends," compiled by Linn's staff.

A simplified graph makes it easy for readers to trace the activity of U.S. stamps at a glance.

Readers will find the first installment of this quarterly feature on Page 12.

### Inside this Issue

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