

## 500 Anniv. Of the Magallanes Strait (Chile & Argentina)

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer and colonizer who completed four voyages across the Atlantic Ocean that opened the New World for conquest and permanent European colonization of the Americas. His expeditions, sponsored by the Catholic Monarchs of Spain, were the first European contact with the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. He formulated a plan to seek a western sea passage to the East Indies, hoping to profit from the lucrative spice trade.

After having his proposed expeditions to the Spice Islands repeatedly rejected by King Manuel of Portugal, Magellan turned to Charles I, the young King of Spain (and future Holy Roman Emperor). Under the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, Portugal controlled the eastern routes to Asia that went around Africa. Magellan instead proposed reaching the Spice Islands by a western route, a feat which had never been accomplished. Hoping that this would yield a commercially useful trade route for Spain, Charles approved the expedition, and provided most of the funding.

Magellan's fleet consisted of five ships,



carrying supplies for two years of travel. The crew consisted of about 270 men. Most were Spanish, but around 40 were Portuguese.

During the winter, one of the fleet's ships, the Santiago, was lost in a storm while surveying nearby waters, though no men were killed. Following the winter, the fleet resumed their search for a passage to the Pacific in October 1520. Three days later, they found a bay which eventually led them to a strait, now known as the Strait of Magellan, which allowed them passage through to the Pacific. While exploring the strait, one of the remaining four ships, the San Antonio, deserted the fleet, returning east to Spain. The fleet reached the Pacific by the end of November 1520. Based on the incomplete understanding of world geography at the time, Magellan expected a short journey to Asia, perhaps taking as little as three or four days. In fact, the Pacific crossing took three months and twenty days. The long journey exhausted their supply of food and water, and around 30 men died, mostly of scurvy. Magellan himself remained healthy, perhaps because of his personal supply of preserved quince.

On 21 April, Magellan and members of his crew attempted to subdue the Mactan natives



by force, but in the ensuing battle, the Europeans were overpowered and Magellan was killed. Appreciation of Magellan's accomplishments may have been enhanced over time by the failure of subsequent expeditions which attempted to retrace his route, beginning with the Loaísa expedition in 1525 (which featured Juan Sebastián Elcano as second-in-command). The next expedition to successfully complete a circumnavigation, led by Francis Drake, would not occur until 1580, 58 years after the return of the Victoria.



The route that was found is a strait between the southern cone of Argentina and Chile and the island of Tierra del Fuego; it is called Magallanes Strait.

The Suez and Panama canals that were built in the 19/20 Century have shadowed the need for the Magallanes Strait.

During WW II it was used to send mail to Europe from Chile.

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## SUEZ CANAL

The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway in Egypt, connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea through the Isthmus of Suez. It is often considered to define the border between Africa and Asia. Constructed by the Suez Canal Company between 1859 and 1869, it officially opened on 17 November 1869.

The canal offers watercraft a more direct route between the North Atlantic and northern Indian oceans via the Medi-

terranean and Red seas, thus avoiding the South Atlantic and southern Indian oceans and reducing the journey distance from the Arabian Sea to London, for example, by approximately 8,900 kilometers (5,500 mi). It extends from the northern terminus of Port Said to the southern terminus of Port Tewfik at the city of Suez. Its length is 193.30 km (120.11 mi) including its northern and southern access-channels. In 2012, 17,225 vessels traversed the canal (an average of 47 per day).

The company transported mail between Port Said (Egypt) and Suez between 1859 and 1867. In 1868 these stamps were issued, but they have not been used much (however forged cancels exists



a lot!). The stamps are lithographed in sheets of 12x10 stamps. ... The Suez Canal Company stamps were only in use for 38 or 39 days. Beware of forgeries.



Egypt issued several stamps related to the canal after it was nationalized. In 2014 Egypt issued a tryptic for the



145 years of the canal. However the middle stamp shows the Panama Canal. The issue was withdrawn and a new set issued shortly after. ©



# Panama Canal

On January 22, 1903, the Hay–Herrán Treaty was signed by United States Secretary of State John M. Hay and Colombian Chargé Dr. Tomás Herrán. For \$10 million and an annual payment, it would have granted the United States a renewable lease in perpetuity from Colombia on the land proposed for the canal. The treaty was ratified by the US Senate on March 14, 1903, but the Senate of Colombia did not ratify it. Bunau-Varilla told President Theodore Roosevelt and Hay of a possible revolt by Panamanian rebels who aimed to separate from Colombia, and hoped that the United States would support the rebels with US troops and money.

Roosevelt changed tactics, based in part on the Mallarino–Bidlack Treaty of 1846, and actively supported the separation of Panama from Colombia. Shortly after recognizing Panama, he signed a treaty with the new Panamanian government under terms similar to the Hay–Herrán Treaty.

In 1921, Colombia and the United States entered into the Thomson–Urrutia Treaty, in which the United States agreed to pay Colombia \$25 million: \$5 million upon ratification, and four-\$5 million annual payments, and grant Colombia special privileg-



es in the Canal Zone. In return, Colombia recognized Panama as an independent nation.

The construction of the canal was completed in 1914, 401 years after Panama was first crossed by Vasco Núñez de Balboa. The United States spent almost \$500,000,000 (roughly equivalent to \$9,169,650,000 now[50]) to finish the project. This was by far the largest



American engineering project to date. The canal was formally opened on August 15, 1914, with the passage of the cargo ship SS Ancon.

After World War II, US control of the canal and the Canal Zone surrounding it became contentious; relations between Panama and the United States became increasingly tense.

The canal was operated by the Pan-

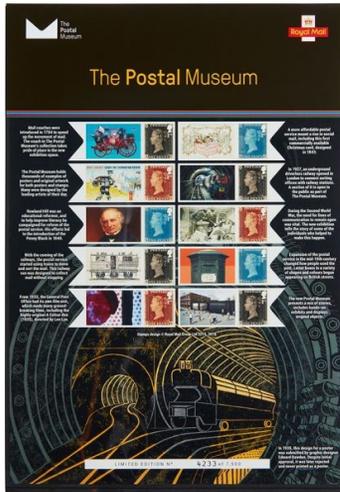


ama canal Commission who also controlled the canal Zone. Initially US and Panama Stamps were overprinted. Later the PCC issued its own stamps, until 1999 when Panama took control of the Canal Zone.



# Great Britain Postal Museum.

In 2017 London got its first new, national museum in over a decade, The Postal Museum. The Museum has seven interactive exhibition spaces covering five centuries of social and communications history and offers an underground ride on Mail Rail. Royal Mail worked together with the Museum to produce a stamp sheet commemorating its opening, featuring 10 x 1st Class Pictorial Definitives: 4 x Penny Black, 3 x Two penny Blue and 3 x Penny Red stamps first issued in 2015.



## Spotting a Royal Cypher

What is a Royal Cypher? Delve into our collection to find how they pop up on pillar boxes, medals and (of course!) stamps.



The Royal Cypher also appears on medals, as you can see in the Distinguished Service Cross below, with the monarch's cypher surmounted by the Imperial Crown. It was initially called the 'Conspicuous Service Cross' until 1914, when it changed title, and later in 1993 it became available to all ranks, not merely officers.



You may also have seen Royal Cyphers on the postmarks that adorn incoming post.



The below postmark commemorates 100 years since the Accession of King George V, depicting 'GVR' for 'George V Rex', adorned with the St Edward's Crown.

There are simply thousands of Pillar Boxes across the United Kingdom and the best way to date them is to look at their cypher. This will identify the Monarch that was on the throne during their creation. When the

monarch changes, new pillar boxes do not replace old but are added to those in use, and this is why Britain has such an array of boxes.



## Post and Go Stamps

Post & Go stamps, also called Fast stamps, are variable rate postage stamps printed on self-adhesive labels and sold by stamp vending machines by Royal Mail in the United Kingdom, as well as by Jersey Post, Guernsey Post, the Royal Gibraltar Post Office and Q-Post (Qatar).



## Post & Go Basic Background

Post and Go machines from three suppliers (IBM, Fujitsu, and Pitney-Bowes) trialled in 2007 in nine locations, and in 2008 these machines were replaced by Nixdorf machines, and 700 machines were rolled-out nationwide.

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