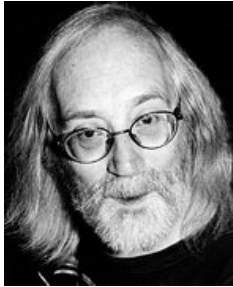


The Story Behind Phil Stamp Covers



J. Edward Oliver (1942-2007)

Ten years ago, just before the London Stamp Exhibition 2000 at Earls Court, Steve Oliver came up with the idea of having a cartoon character to accompany the new Royal Mail Smilers® sheets that were to be issued at the show.

Jack Edward Oliver, Steve’s cousin, originally designed and drew the illustrations that appeared on the covers. The first cover produced was purely for Steve’s collection and was never made available to other collectors. This featured stamps from the first smilers sheets, and the associated labels carried a photograph of Steve Oliver – see illustration. I am grateful to Steve Oliver for permission to reproduce the illustration of this first Phil Stamp cover.



Hunt Emerson

Jack Oliver died on 26 May 2007, after a brave battle with cancer. Initially Richard Duszczak took up the illustrator’s pen, followed by Steve Oliver and more recently since September 2008 Hunt Emerson has become the resident cartoonist and has been doing a fantastic job ever since.



The First Cover

To commemorate Jack's incredible talents as an artist, and friend to many people, Phil Stamp Covers produced two covers in 2007 featuring Jack’s characters and work. The first features an illustration intended to be the first frame of a strip of drawings telling the story of Phil Stamp. Unfortunately the rest of the strip was never completed, so it was used as a tribute to JEO's amazing genius. The second cover features a montage of some of JEO's characters, some famous, some not so famous. Both covers featured personalised smilers label/stamp from a limited number of sheets commissioned by Steve Oliver which are illustrated below.



Cover No. 122a - J. Edward Oliver (1942 - 2007)

Phil Stamp Stock Code: PSC311-PSC312

The Story Behind Phil Stamp Covers



Mrs. Agnes Quont No.1 - J. Edward Oliver (1942 - 2007)

Phil Stamp Stock Code: MAQC001



Three sheets were produced and two used for the commemorative covers



An early example of Phil Stamp's love of Smilers Sheets!

The Story Behind Phil Stamp Covers



Ten years on and Phil Stamp Covers have issued their first Business Customised Stamp sheet featuring more of their cartoon characters in a celebration of their 10th Anniversary in what has to be my favourite Smilers sheet of 2010 so far. A limited edition of 500 sheets, 20 sheets were available signed by the artist Emerson Hunt with 70 numbered covers also available featuring a specially commissioned hand-stamp dated 22 May 2010.



Cover No.166 - Phil Stamp Covers 10th Anniversary

Phil Stamp Stock Code: PSC395