

BRITISH MAXIMUM CARDS OF THE YEAR 2005

Maximum Cards by Li Hong. Article by George Constantourakis

WINDSOR CASTLE

Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world, for over a period of nearly 1,000 years. The original castle was built by **William the Conqueror** in the 1070s. In the 1170s **Henry II** rebuilt the Round Tower, the outer walls of the Upper and Lower Ward and the Royal apartments. In the 1360s, **Edward III** extended the Castle, he created the immense St. George's Hall. St George's Chapel was begun by **Edward IV** and completed by **Henry VIII**. Ten British monarchs lie buried in the chapel: Edward IV, Henry VI, Henry VIII, Charles I, George III, George IV, William IV, Edward VII, George V and George VI. **Charles II** created new State Apartments in the 1670s, he also laid out the 5km Long Walk leading due south from the Castle into Windsor Great Park. Much of Windsor Castle's present appearance is due to the alterations instigated by **George IV** in the 1820s. The buildings were refashioned in the Gothic style, with the addition of turrets and towers. One of his most remarkable additions was the Waterloo Chamber, which was created in the 1820s to show portraits commemorating the defeat of Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo in 1815. The recent history of the Castle is dominated by the major fire of Nov. 20, 1992. Nine principal rooms and over 100 other rooms were damaged or destroyed by the fire, about one-fifth of the Castle area. The next 5 years were spent restoring Windsor Castle to its former glory. Queen **Elizabeth II** uses the Castle both as a Royal residence at which she undertakes certain formal duties.

CAERNARFON CASTLE

Caernarfon is the most famous of Wales's castles, at the mouth of the Seiont river. Its sheer scale and commanding presence easily set it apart from the rest, and to this day still trumpet in no uncertain terms the intention of its builder **Edward I**. Begun in 1283 as the definitive chapter in his conquest of Wales, Caernarfon was constructed not only as a military stronghold but also as a seat of government and royal palace. The castle's majestic persona, was designed to echo the walls of Constantinople, the imperial power of Rome and the dream castle, of Welsh myth and legend. After all these years Caernarfon's immense strength remains unchanged. In 1969, the castle gained worldwide fame as the setting for the Investiture of **Prince Charles** as Prince of Wales. Caernarfon's position of pre-eminence in historic rankings is recognized in its status as a World Heritage inscribed site.

EDINBURGH CASTLE

Edinburgh Castle is an ancient stronghold on the Castle Rock in the centre of the city of Edinburgh, has been in use since prehistoric times. It lies at the top of the *Royal Mile*, the principal street of the *Old Town* which leads down to Holyrood Palace. Three sides are protected by sheer cliffs and access to the castle was limited to a steep road on the eastern side. The castle is entered via the Esplanade, which is a long sloping cobbled area between the castle proper and the top of the Royal Mile. From the esplanade the main feature of the castle visible is the cylindrical shaped battery, called the Half Moon Battery. It was built in 1574. The oldest building in the castle is St. Margaret's Chapel which dates from the 12th century.

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CARRICKFERGUS CASTLE

Carrickfergus Castle stands in a strategic position on a rocky spur above the harbour on the northern shore of Lough Belfast and is a perfectly preserved Norman castle.

The name means 'rock of Fergus', Fergus being a king who was shipwrecked and drowned there in the 6th century. John de Courcy, the Anglo-Norman baron who conquered much of Ulster and governed it from 1177 to 1204 started building the castle in about 1178 to guard the approach to Lough Belfast. It has three wards, the inner ward was the first and dates from this time. De Courcy was ousted by another Norman, Hugh de Lacy in 1204. King John captured the castle in 1210, expelling de Lacy, and it became an administrative centre for the English government which it remained for over seven centuries.

BLenheim PALACE

Blenheim Palace is a world heritage site and birthplace of **Sir Winston Churchill**, Britain's most famous Prime Minister. The name Blenheim derives from a decisive battle that took place on the 13th August 1704 on the north bank of the river Danube, near the village of Blenheim, where the French leader, Marshall Tallard, had fixed his lines. Here, **John Churchill**, the first Duke of Marlborough, won a great allied victory over the forces of Louis XIV, thus saving Europe from French domination. In reward for his services, **Queen Anne** granted to him the Royal Manor of Woodstock. Blenheim Palace was built between 1705 and 1722. The Great Hall is remarkable for its proportions 67ft or 20m high. The hall ceiling shows Marlborough victorious, with the battle order at Blenheim spread for view. The Green Drawing Room has many fine family portraits painted by Keller, Romney, Reynolds, Sargent and Vandyck line the walls. In the Green Writing Room hangs the most famous of all the tapestries, showing Marlborough as he accepts Marshall Tallard's surrender at the battle of Blenheim. The Park and Gardens at Blenheim provide a majestic formal setting for the Palace. Blenheim is the supreme example of English Baroque architecture.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The current Cathedral was built between 1675 and 1710 after its predecessor was destroyed in the Great Fire of London. As the Cathedral of the capital city, St Paul's is the spiritual focus for the Nation. This is where people and events of overwhelming importance to the country have been celebrated, mourned and commemorated. Important services have included the funerals of Lord Nelson, the Duke of Wellington and Sir Winston Churchill; Jubilee celebrations for Queen Victoria, King George V; peace services marking the end of the 1st and 2nd World Wars; the launch of the Festival of Britain; the Service of Remembrance for the 11th September 2001; the 80th and 100th birthdays of Queen Mother; the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales, to Lady Diana Spencer and the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

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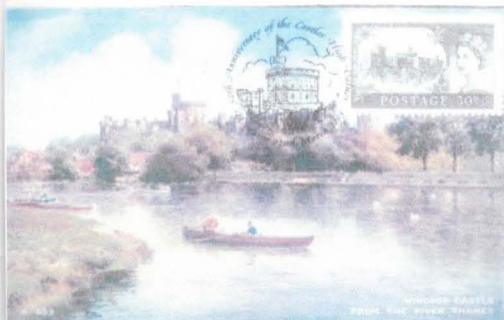
Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 1) WINDSOR CASTLE Issue: 22. III. 2005 (50p. grey, part of a Mini Skheet of 4, re-issue of the 1955 Castles High Values Definitives). For: 50th Anniversary of the 1955 issue of the Castles Definitives. Cancel: First Day, Windsor, special mention: "50th Anniversary of the 1955 issue of the Castles High Values", concordant illustration (triple).

(Figure 2) CAERNARFON CASTLE Issue: 22. III. 2005 (£1.00 red, part of a Mini Skheet of 4, re-issue of the 1955 Castles High Values Definitives). For: 50th Anniversary of the 1955 issue of the Castles Definitives. Cancel: First Day, Windsor, special mention: "CASTLES HIGH VALUES - CAERNARFON - 50th ANNIVERSARY", concordant illustration (triple).

(Figure 3) EDINBURGH CASTLE Issue: 22. III. 2005 (£1.00 blue, part of a Mini Skheet of 4, re-issue of the 1955 Castles High Values Definitives). For: 50th Anniversary of the 1955 issue of the Castles Definitives. Cancel: First Day, Windsor, special mention: "CASTLES HIGH VALUES- EDINBURGH - 50th ANNIVERSARY", concordant illustration (triple).

(Figure 4) CARRICKFERGUS CASTLE Issue: 22. III. 2005 (50p. grey, part of a Mini Skheet of 4, re-issue of the 1955 Castles High Values Definitives). For: 50th Anniversary of the 1955 issue of the Castles Definitives. Cancel: First Day, Windsor, special mention: "CASTLES HIGH VALUES - CARRICKFERGUS CO. ANTRIM - 50th ANNIVERSARY", concordant illustration (triple).



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HADRIAN'S WALL

In 43 AD, the Emperor Claudius sent Aulus Plautius with 24,000 soldiers to Britain to establish military control. Subjugation of southern Britain proceeded smoothly by a combination of military might and clever diplomacy, and by 79 AD what is now England and Wales were firmly under control, the far North remained a problem. Julius Agricola, subdued the Southern Scottish clans and then provoked Northern Scottish clans into battle. The Romans won a decisive victory. However the surviving clansmen melted away into the hills, and were to remain fiercely resistant and independent. By the time Hadrian became Emperor in 117 AD, he was concerned to consolidate his boundaries. He visited Britain in 122 AD, and ordered a wall to be built between the Solway Firth in the West and the River Tyne in the east "to separate Romans from Barbarians". Hadrian's Wall ran for 73 miles.

STONEHENGE

The megalithic ruin of Stonehenge stands on the Salisbury Plain west of Amesbury, Wiltshire, in Southern England. It consists of a series of earth, timber, and stone structures that were revised and remodeled over a period of more than 1400 years.

Phase I: The earliest portion of the complex dates c. 2950-2900 BC. It is comprised a circular bank, ditch, and counterscarp bank of about 330 feet in diameter. Just inside the earth bank is a circle of the 56 bry holes that held wooden posts. **Phase II:** After 2900 BC and for the next 500 years, post holes indicate timber settings in the centre of the monument and at the NE entrance. **Phase III:** After 2400 BC the monument underwent a sequence of settings of large stones. The first stone setting comprised a series of Bluestones placed in what are known as the Q and R Holes. These were subsequently dismantled and a circle of Sarsens and a horseshoe-shaped arrangement of Trilithons erected. The Sarsen Circle, about 108 feet in diameter, was comprised of 30 upright sandstone blocks of which only 17 are now standing. The stones are evenly spaced 1.0 to 1.4m apart, and stand 13 feet (4m) above the ground. They are about 6.5 feet (2m) wide and 3 feet (1m) thick. They supported sarsen lintels forming a continuous circle around the top. The Sarsen Circle with its lintels is perhaps the most remarkable feature of Stonehenge in terms of design, precision stonework, and engineering.

A CIRCLE OF STONES, ORKNEY ISLES

The Ring of Brogar is a stone circle located on land rising above the Lochs of Stenness and of Harray. When first erected there were 60 stones, in a perfect circle 104m in diameter. Today just 36 stones are still standing. The ring of stones is surrounded by a ditch cut into the rock that was 6m wide and 3m deep. There are entrance causeways across the ditch on the NW side and on the SE side. It is thought that the Ring of Brogar was built between 2500 and 2000BC. Why would a society living on limited resources have spent so much effort building the Ring of Brogar? Whatever the answer, it is certain it must have meant a great deal to the people who built it. Since 1999, the Ring of Brogar is a designated World Heritage Site.

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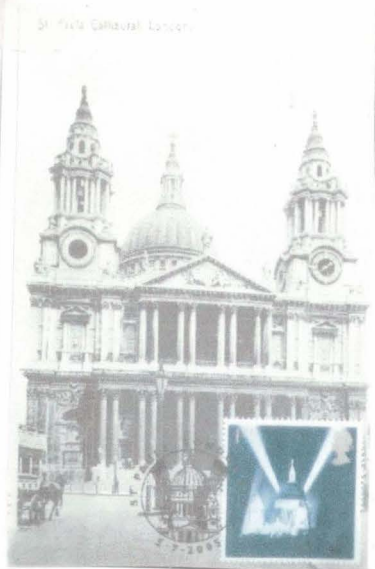
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(Figure 5) ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL. Issue: 5. VII. 2005. For: 60th Anniversary o the End of the 2nd Wold War.. Cancel: First Day, London, special mention: "ST PAUL'S LONDON", concordant illustration (triple).

(Figure 6) ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL. Issue: 5. VII. 2005. For: 60th Anniversary o the End of the 2nd Wold War.. Cancel: First Day, London, concordant illustration (triple).

(Figure 7) HADRIAN'S WALL. Issue: 21. IV. 2005. For: World heritage Site Cancel: First Day, Wall, Hexham, special illustration and mention: "THE HANDRIAN - WORLD HERITAGE SITES"

(Figure 8) BLENHEIM PALACE. Issue: 21. IV. 2005. For: World heritage Site. Cancel: First Day, Woodstock, Oxford, special mention: "WORLD HERITAGE SITES - BLENHEIM PALACE", concordant illustration (triple).



BRITISH MAXIMUM CARDS OF THE YEAR 2005

Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 9) STONEHENGE. Issue: 21. IV. 2005. For: World heritage Site.

Cancel: First Day, Stonehenge - Salisbury, special mention: "WORLD HERITAGE SITES - STONEHENGE - SALISBURY", concordant illustration (triple).

(Figure 10) STONEHENGE. Issue: 21. IV. 2005. For: World heritage Site.

Cancel: First Day, Stonehenge - Salisbury, special mention: "WORLD HERITAGE SITES - STONEHENGE - SALISBURY", concordant illustration (triple).

(Figure 11) THE RING OF BROGAR - NEOLITHIC STONE CIRCLE, ORKNEY ISLES. Issue: 21. IV. 2005. For: World heritage Site. Cancel: First Day, Finnstown, Orkney, regular.

(Figure 12) THE RING OF BROGAR - NEOLITHIC STONE CIRCLE, ORKNEY ISLES. Issue: 21. IV. 2005. For: World heritage Site. Cancel: First Day, Finnstown, Orkney, regular.

