Letter Box on Spanish National Lottery Ticket
Glenn H Morgan

The face of the Lottery Ticket.

It came as something as a surprise to discover a 1975 Spanish lottery ticket with a lion's head letter box depicted on it while surfing the net recently. A thorough trawl has not revealed any further such items in any other country, unless you know differently.

There are many lotteries in Spain, with the state run National Lottery dating back nearly 250 years; in fact it was created on 30 September 1763. However, the fore-runner to today's Spanish National Lottery, called the *Lotería Nacional*, was approved during the Spanish War of Independence by the legislative body which was established during the war, the Cortes de Cádiz, in a session that was held in November 1811. It is this lottery that has the letter box depicted on it.

Visit *www.flickr.com/photos/cesalf/3261126416/* to see a photograph of this type of box, which is still located at Vitoria, Spain. The original box depicted on the lottery ticket could well now be sited in the Spanish postal museum located in Madrid, for they have forty post-boxes from throughout Spain on display. Among the most significant of them are: the marble lion's-head post-box that was at the Royal Post-Horse Relay House from 1877 to 1919, an iron pillar box from the mid-19th century and various models of pillar boxes dating from the 1940s to the present day.

The museum is well worth a visit if in Madrid, but be aware that it has temporarily relocated while building renovation works are in progress at its normal magnificent home, the Palace of Communications. (Go to *www.correos.es/museo/0501-comollegar.asp* for up-to-date information.) □

Close-up of the letter box.

Member **Sally Jones** has four items for sale: two doors, plus a rectangular wooden box about four feet eight inches tall (which is an ex-BBC prop.) and an old correspondence box. Sally says she is open to any sensible offer. Her contact telephone number is 07989 079675 or, after 9pm in the evenings, 0121 777 7062. □