

News Release

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WATERCOLOUR STAMP DESIGNS BY PRINCE OF WALES UNVEILED

Stamps featuring landscape views of Britain painted by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales were today unveiled by Royal Mail.

The five stamps, on sale at Post Offices from March 1, commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Investiture of the Prince of Wales on July 1, 1969.

The issue date, which is also St. David's Day, coincides with the start of a Royal Mail sponsored touring exhibition of His Royal Highness's watercolours, which aims to raise money for the Prince of Wales's Charities Trust.

The landscape scenes featured on the stamps are:

- Chirk Castle, Clwyd, Wales (19p)
- Ben Arkle, Scotland (25p)
- The Mourne Mountains, County Down, Northern Ireland (30p)
- A view of Dersingham, Norfolk (35p)
- Dolwyddelan, Gwynedd, Wales (41p)

Colin Pawson, Royal Mail's Head of Philatelic Marketing, said: "We are delighted that His Royal Highness agreed to allow his paintings to be featured on our stamps this year."



"Although His Royal Highness says that he is simply a 'weekend painter', his watercolours have become a highly attractive set of stamps."

Mr Pawson added: "Royal subjects on stamps are very popular with collectors and customers, but we expect these to be even more sought after as they are designed by a member of the Royal Family."

More than 50 of His Royal Highness's watercolours - including the five featured on the stamps - will be on show to the public at various venues from March 1 until September. More than half of the paintings have never before been on public display.

The touring exhibition begins at Cardiff International Arena, Cardiff, on March 1. It will then visit the following venues: the Ulster Museum, Belfast (March 29 - April 23); Grosvenor Museum, Chester (April 30 - May 15); York Minister Visitor Centre, St William's College, York (May 21 - June 8); Sotheby's, London (June 24 - July 24); Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow (August 8 - September 4).

TECHNICAL DETAILS

The five stamps are printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd. They are horizontal in format and measure 41mm x 30mm with a perforation of 15 x 14. The paper is unwatermarked and phosphor-coated, except for the 19p which has one phosphor bar. The gum is PVA Dextrin.

CYLINDER NUMBERS AND COLOURS

Information will be supplied later.

FIRST DAY COVERS

Special First Day Covers, designed by Howard Brown, will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT and at most main Post Offices and many sub Post Offices, priced 25p each. Discounts for bulk purchases are available from the Bureau.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. There will also be pictorial first day of issue postmarks available, one from the British Philatelic Bureau and one from Caernarfon, Wales, where the Prince was invested as HRH The Prince of Wales. These are illustrated below:



The Bureau will also provide its usual first day cover service. Covers addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all five stamps will be cancelled "British Philatelic Bureau" or "Caernarfon" and despatched for £2.18 (inland) and £1.86 (overseas).

Application forms for these services are available from the British Philatelic Bureau and at main Post Offices and should be returned not later than March 1, 1994.

For customers who wish to pay through Girobank, the Bureau's Girobank account number is 1100009. Customers requiring only the special pictorial handstamps may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending, on the first day of issue, a stamped addressed envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue Handstamp" to the British Philatelic Bureau.

PRESENTATION PACKS

Designed by Howard Brown, with text by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, the packs will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and at most main Post Offices and many sub Post Offices from March 1, 1994, price £1.85 each.

STAMP CARDS

Five new stamp cards (nos 159a, b, c, d and e), each featuring one of the new stamps, will also be on sale, price 25p each, from the British Philatelic Bureau and at most main Post Offices and many sub Post Offices.