

News Release

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ROYAL MAIL MARKS NATIONAL TRUST CENTENARY

The National Trust's centenary celebrations are to get Royal Mail's official stamp of approval in 1995.

Five stamps celebrating the 100th anniversary of the formation of The National Trust will be issued on April 11, and a special Prestige Stamp Book will be issued on April 25, ensuring that the work of the Trust will be made known to the many millions of people who use and collect British stamps.

The stamps reflect the Trust's commitment to preserving places of natural beauty and historic interest by focusing on its diverse and varied work, one hundred years on from its formation in 1895. The National Trust has become one of the world's best-known conservation charities.

Countryside, architecture, furniture, coastline and property are all featured on the stamps, which will be in the values of 19p [second class], 25p [First Class], 30p [the letter rate for non-EC European countries], 35p [the world-wide postcard rate], and 41p [the Airmail letter rate].

The stamp designs are based on photographs by Tony Evans [1939-1992], who was widely regarded as one of Britain's finest still-life photographers.

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The Letters Business of The Post Office
Official Sponsor to the British Olympic Team

The first stamp shows a detail of a fireplace at Attingham Park, Shropshire, one of more than 230 historic National Trust properties open to the public. The second stamp features an oak seedling symbolising the 590,000 acres of countryside - from forest to fern - under National Trust protection.

The third stamp depicts a detail of a table leg at Attingham Park, Shropshire, symbolising the thousands of items of furniture and other works of art conserved by the Trust, while the fourth stamp of St. David's, Pembrokeshire, shows a tiny fraction of the 550 miles of coastline under Trust protection.

Finally, a detail from the architecture of Little Moreton Hall, Cheshire, one of the country's finest examples of a timber framed manor house, is featured on the fifth stamp.

The stamps will also be available in Presentation Packs priced at £1.85 or for use on First Day Envelopes, price 25p, from post offices nationwide. Alternatively, customers will be able to obtain the stamps or related stamp products by mail order from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT [0131-550 8989]. First Day Covers, price £2.18, will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau. The stamps will also be available from National Trust shops throughout the season.

For further information, please contact: Post Office Newsroom on 0171-320 7443.

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FIRST DAY COVERS

Special First Day Envelopes, designed by Keith Bassford will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT and at main post offices and many sub-post offices, price 25p each. Discounts for bulk purchases are available from the British Philatelic Bureau.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

The five stamps are printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Ltd, are vertical in format and measure 30mm x 41mm with a perforation of 15 x 14. The stamps feature photography by the late Tony Evans. The text in the pack was written by Margaret Willes of The National Trust and the stamp-paper is unwatermarked, with phosphor content as follows: 19p - one bar; 25p and 35p - two bars; 30p and 41p - phosphor-coated. Gum PVA Dextrin.

CYLINDER NUMBERS AND COLOURS

- 19p:** 2A-Grey-green, 1B-Stone, 1C-Grey-brown, 1D-Grey-black, 1E-Gold.
[1 Fluorescent phosphor band [4.5mm] right of centre on non-fluorescent coated paper].
- 25p:** 2A-Grey-green, 1B-Greenish-yellow, 1C-Magenta, 1D-New blue, 1E-Gold, 1F-Black.
[2 Fluorescent phosphor bands. At edge of sheet it is 10mm and between two stamp 15mm wide on non-fluorescent coated paper].
- 30p:** 1A-Grey-green, 1B-Greenish-yellow, 1C-Magenta, 1D-New blue, 1E-Gold, 1F-Black, 1G-Slate-black. [Printed on phosphorised non-fluorescent coated paper].
- 35p:** 2A-Grey-green, 2B-Greenish-yellow, 1C-Magenta, 1D-Blue, 1E-Gold, 1F-Black.
[Same as the 25p].
- 41p:** 1A-Grey-green, 1B-Greenish-yellow, 1C-Bright-green, 1D-Slate-green, 1E-Gold, 1F-Blackish-brown, 1G-Black. [same as the 30p].

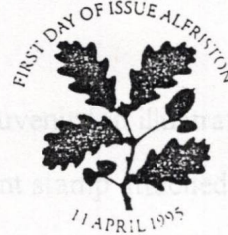
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The usual first day issue facilities will be available at the offices with philatelic posting boxes. There will be pictorial first day of issue postmarks available, one from the British Philatelic Bureau and one from Alfriston, Sussex.

These are illustrated below:



The Bureau will also provide its usual First Day Cover service. Covers addressed to the postal address of the destination required and bearing all five stamps will be cancelled "British Philatelic Bureau", "Alfriston" 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, should be returned no later than April 11, 1995.

For customers who wish to pay through Alliance and Leicester Giro, the Bureau's 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 stamp-addressed envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue Handstamp" to the British Philatelic Bureau or South East England Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 15 Wrexham Road, SLOUGH, SL1 1AA.

PRESENTATION PACK

The Presentation Pack was designed by Keith Bassford, featuring many photographs of The National Trust's properties and text was specially written by Margaret Willes. The Presentations Packs will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, main post offices and many sub-post offices from April 11, 1995, price £1.85 each.

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STAMP CARDS

EW4035/TT/EW4

Five new stamp cards [168A,B,C,D and E] each featuring one of the stamps, will be on sale, price 25p each, from the British Philatelic Bureau, main post offices and many sub-post offices from March 27, 1995.

GIFT PACKS

The Gift Pack includes: The National Trust Centenary Souvenir [an illustrated guide to the Trust's history and activities], a set of maxi cards [with relevant stamp attached and cancelled with a First Day of Issue pictorial Handstamps] and the Presentation Gift Pack price is £9.95 [illustration of cancellation First Day pictorial Handstamp attached].

Available from many post offices, National Trust outlets and by mail order from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT. It is likely that other retailers, such as WH Smith, will also take this product, but this is not yet confirmed.

STAMP PACKS

At the request of The National Trust, we are developing a pack of stamps for sale to visitors to National Trust sites throughout the country. The packs will comprise ten National Trust Special Stamps, folded and packed for retail display.

Stamp Pack prices are:

10 x 1st class	- £2.50
10 x 2nd class	- £1.90

Pack 1 This is the first time Special Stamps [other than Christmas stamps] have been packaged in this way. Available from all National Trust outlets, POCL philatelic outlets and by mail order from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT.

Pack 2 Pane of 6 stamps, 1 of each of the following - 19p and 25p for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Pack 3 6 x 19p National Definitives.

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IMAGES

EW4035/TT/EW4

To celebrate the centenary, The National Trust is publishing a beautiful and informative book called "Images". This lavishly illustrated, hard back edition, published in association with Royal Mail, will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, price £14.99. Copies of the book purchased from the Bureau will contain a set of the National Trust Special Stamps. The book will also be available from The National Trust outlets [at the same price] but these will not have the stamps included. POCL Philatelic Outlets may also take the Royal Mail version of the products.

There will also be a First Day Cover bearing one sheet of stamps from the Prestige

STAMP PYRAMIDS

These beautiful gift items are made to order from Crown-quality optical glass. They are currently available by mail order only, from both POCL philatelic outlets and the British Philatelic Bureau, priced £24.95.

PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK

The National Trust will also be the subject of the 1995 Prestige Stamp Book, to be issued on April 25, 1995. This is a fully illustrated book priced £6 and containing £6 worth of stamps include a special pane of six of the 25p National Trust stamps. It will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, and National Trust shops.

The four stamp panes contained within the Prestige Book are as follows:-

- Pane 1:** 6 x 25p National Trust stamps featuring an oak seedling
- Pane 2:** Mixed pane containing 1 x 10p, 1 x 30p, 1 x 35p, 1 x 41p, 2 x 19p and 2 x 25p National Definitives.
- Pane 3:** Pane of 6 stamps, 1 of each of the following - 19p and 25p for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Pane 4:** 6 x 19p National Definitives.

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The book contains eight new varieties of stamp.

These are: 10p litho with 2 phosphor bands, 19p litho; one band right, 30p litho; 2 bands, 35p litho; 2 bands [Questa], 41p litho; 2 bands [Questa], 19p Northern Ireland; 1 band right, 19p Scotland; 1 band right, 19p Wales; 1 band right.

Other varieties included in the book are: 19p litho; 1 band left, 25p litho; 2 bands [Questa], 25p Northern Ireland; 2 bands, 25p Scotland; 2 bands, 25p Wales; 2 bands.

FIRST DAY COVER

There will also be a First Day Cover bearing one sheet of stamps from the Prestige Stamp Book, will be available, priced £2.80. [Full details of the Prestige Book and Cover are available from Jane Ormrod, telephone 071-614 7011].

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