

BY AIR MAIL  
*par avion*

Royal Mail



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We are proud to introduce a Special issue celebrating the lives of ten truly great Britons.

## Britons of Distinction

Issue date: Thursday 23 February 2012

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**Issue**  
Britons of Distinction

**Design**  
Purpose

**Stamp format/size**  
Square  
35mm x 35mm

**Printer**  
Cartor Security Printing

**Print process**  
Lithography

**Perforation**  
14.5 x 14.5

**Phosphor**  
All over

**Gum**  
PVA

**Number per sheet**  
25/50

# Celebrating truly distinguished lives

Following in the footsteps of our popular Eminent Britons Special issue of 2009, Britons of Distinction celebrates the birthdays and anniversaries of ten highly significant Britons and their achievements. While the featured individuals come from quite disparate fields, they are united by the courage and determination that led them to greatness.

Despite their eminence, however, some had not left portraits for posterity. So rather than exclude anyone for this reason, the imagery on the Special Stamps, most unusually, features an equal number of portraits and illustrations.

Their stories range from that of Thomas Newcomen, the Devon ironmonger who arguably did more than anyone else to power the Industrial Revolution; through to Alan Turing, the mathematician and code-breaker who played a key role in breaking the German Enigma code and thus hastening the end of WWII.

As ever, the stories behind all of these lives and achievements make for fascinating reading, so this Special issue also includes a Presentation Pack that explores the impressive lives and legacies of our Britons of Distinction in rich detail.

## Sir Basil Spence 1907-1976



Sir Basil created many fine buildings, most notably Coventry Cathedral, which opened in 1962 as a replacement for the original 14th Century edifice, which had been bombed in 1940.

## Frederick Delius 1862-1934



Despite being born to German parents in Yorkshire, and spending many years in France, Delius composed some of the most quintessentially English pieces in the pastoral canon.

## Mary 'May' Morris 1862-1938



Daughter of the artist William Morris, Mary Morris was a leading light in the revival of English embroidery, thanks to works such as the Orange Tree, which features on her stamp.

## Odette Hallowes 1912-1995



The first woman to win the George Cross, Odette Hallowes served with distinction as both a French Resistance worker and English spy, and survived German concentration camps.

## Thomas Newcomen 1664-1729



This Devon ironmonger and engineer invented the atmospheric steam engine that helped to power the Industrial Revolution; the first of which was installed in Staffordshire in 1712.

## Kathleen Ferrier 1912-1953



The greatest contralto of her era, Kathleen Ferrier gave many moving performances of the great operas in her dazzling career, which was tragically cut short at the age of 41.

## Augustus Pugin 1812-1852



Pugin was a great champion and exponent of Gothic architecture, with the glorious interiors of the Palace of Westminster, shown on his stamp, among his many achievements.

## Montague Rhodes James 1862-1936



A quite brilliant classical scholar, MR James is chiefly celebrated as the author of some of the most chilling ghost stories in British fiction, including Ghost Stories of an Antiquary.

## Alan Turing 1912-1954



A mathematician and computer scientist, Turing's work in creating the Bombe code breaking machine, shown on his stamp, was instrumental in saving millions of lives in WWII.

## Joan Mary Fry 1862-1955



Quaker, pacifist and social reformer, Fry was a tireless campaigner for the oppressed, who organised food relief in Germany after WWI and in the coal fields of Wales in the 1920s.



## Mint Stamps

**Price** £4.60  
**Code** AS757

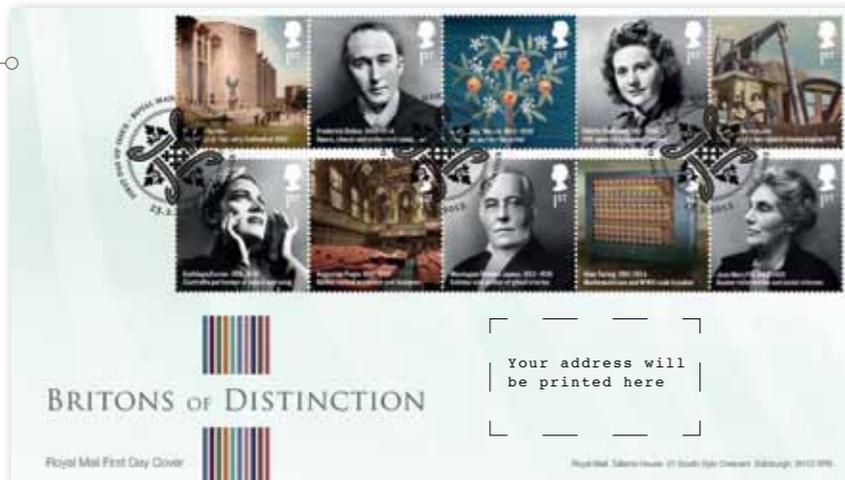
**Giants in miniature**  
Featuring portraits of five of our distinguished subjects and depictions of the other five's greatest achievements, the ten Mint Stamps are brought to you in perfect condition.

white  
mixed  
source  
fsc logo

**First Day Cover Stamps**

**Price Inland** £6.00  
**Price Overseas** £5.00  
**Code** AF353

The specially designed First Day Cover has all ten Special Stamps affixed and cancelled with your choice of a Tallents House or Coventry postmark, the latter chosen as it is the home of Coventry Cathedral. The cover also contains a fascinating filler card complete with brief biographies of our eminent subjects.



Your address will be printed here



**Buy now!**  
 First Day Covers only available until  
**23 Feb**  
 Don't miss out. This date cannot be extended.

**Standard Royal Mail postmark**



**Alternative postmark**



**Presentation Pack**

**Price** £5.10  
**Code** AP357

**Distinguished details**  
 The Presentation Pack contains all ten Special Stamps and takes an in-depth look at the lives and achievements of our distinguished Britons. Containing the words of writer and historian Maev Kennedy and a series of fascinating pictures and illustrations this Presentation Pack is distinct in every way.

