

The Lord Mayor's Show

17 October 1989



Five stamps, printed se-tenant, featuring the Lord Mayor's Procession will be issued on 17 October to mark the 800th anniversary of the Mayoralty of London. The stamps, all of 20p value (basic inland first class and EEC rate) depict the procession from Guildhall past the Royal Exchange, Mappin & Webb and St Paul's Cathedral to the Law Courts. There are few events more colourful or deeply rooted in tradition than this annual display of pagentry in the heart of the City. Far more than a swearing-in of the newly elected Lord Mayor, the procession proclaims to all the ancient right of London's citizens to elect their own mayor, independent of both monarch and national government influence.

The first Mayor of London, Henry Fitz-Ailwyn, was also the longest-serving; his term of office lasted from 1189 to 1212. In 1215, King John recognised the right of Londoners to elect their mayor on condition that he should swear an oath of allegiance. Hence the origin of the Lord Mayor's Show which is built around the swearing-in of the new Lord Mayor.

Perhaps the best-known Mayor was Richard Whytngdone of Pauntley in Gloucestershire who is usually referred to as "Dick Whittington". He was Mayor in 1397, 1406 and 1419 and also served as Master of the Mercers' Company. He had close business connections with the Royal Household and was deeply involved in charity work, for example the provision of

drinking fountains for the poor.

In 1983 Dame Mary Donaldson became the first woman to be elected Lord Mayor; the current holder of the office (1988-9) is Sir Christopher Collett.

Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Paul Cox and printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Limited in sheets of 100 on phosphor coated paper. They measure 30 x 41mm, are perforated 14 x 15, and have PVA Dextrin gum.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards featuring enlargements of each of the five stamps will be available from 2 October, price 18p each. They are numbered 121A-E.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 202) will cost £1.25. It has been designed by Silk Pearce with text by Chris Somerville. The illustrations have been supplied by the Guildhall Library, Nicola Ames, London Transport Museum and the Museum of London.

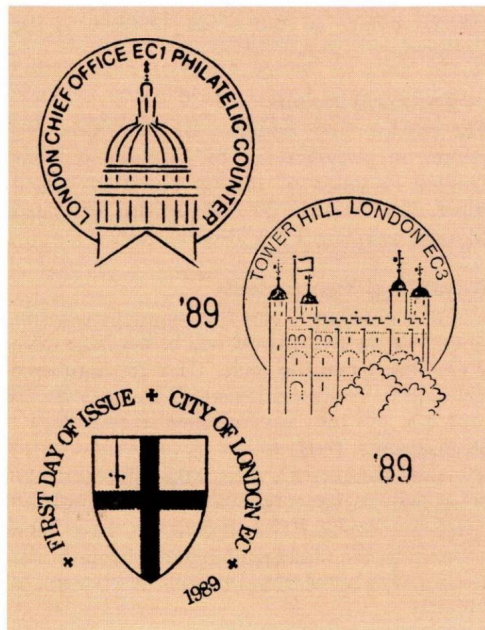
First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum and main post offices from 2 October, price 18p. Two



pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service - one for the Bureau and one for the City of London.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the five stamps cancelled with either postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 17 October.



Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks 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:

British Philatelic Bureau	20 Brandon Street EDINBURGH EH3 5TT
City of London	Special Postmark Duty City of London LDO King Edward Street LONDON EC1A 1AA

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. In addition three relevant pictorial postmarks in

regular use at the City of London Letter District Office will be available: (1) London Chief Office Philatelic Counter, showing St Paul's Cathedral; (2) Tower Hill London EC3 showing the Tower of London and. (3) pictorial "First Day" handstamp showing the City coat of arms (this was introduced in January 1989). Items for reposting should be sent to the Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Please state clearly which handstamp(s) is/are required.

A number of special handstamps, sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 17 October - full details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards may be given any of the First Day of Issue and sponsored special handstamps. Collectors wishing to have their first day covers/cards returned under cover should enclose a large self-addressed envelope when sending covers/cards in to the relevant Special Postmark Duty for handstamping.

Special First Day Cover Cachet

A limited number of Royal Mail first day covers will be carried in the actual Lord Mayor's Procession on 11 November and will bear a special cachet to this effect. These unique covers will cost £3 and should be ordered, by 16 October, from the British Philatelic Bureau. Further details were given in last month's *Bulletin*, page 291.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 18 October, price 18p. This can be used to obtain relevant Lord Mayor postmarks after the first day of issue and will be on sale for one year.

Earlier Related Issues

A small, but interesting, collection can be made of stamps having designs relating to the City of London. The 31p Heraldry stamp of 1984 featured the City's coat of arms; the arms of the College of Arms (situated within the city boundary) were shown on the 16p value. St Paul's Cathedral has featured on the 1s 3d stamp in the 1965 Battle of Britain set, the 9d value in the 1969 Cathedrals issue and on the 50p London 1980 stamp. The Tower of London also featured on this exhibition stamp and on the 9p value in the 1978 Historic Buildings set. City buildings are depicted on the 17p value in the 1985 Royal Mail: 350 Years of Service issue.

