

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology

10 April 1990



Four stamps will be issued on 10 April to mark the 25th anniversary of the introduction of The Queen's Awards. The stamps will be in set-tenant pairs showing, respectively, the familiar Export and Technology Award emblems. There will be two pairs, at **20p** (basic inland first



class and EEC rate) and **37p** (Airmail Zone C).

The Queen's Awards are, in effect, a mirror of the diversity of marketing and technical skills which have sustained British industry during one of the most challenging periods in its history. The birth of the Awards in 1965 came at a time of considerable ferment in Britain — a ferment which the then Prime Minister (Harold Wilson) described as “the white heat of the technological revolution”. Electronics and computing were creating new technologies and industries at a pace never before known. At the same time, a new world of business opportunities in finance, tourism, leisure and entertainment was beginning to be explored.

The establishment of the Awards was recommended by a committee chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh. In the early years the winners received a single Award — known as The Queen's Award to Industry. By Royal Warrant of 1976, two separate Awards have been granted — for Export and Technological

Achievements. All organisations which operate regularly in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man as well as foreign companies with a UK subsidiary, are eligible for Awards. Also eligible are central and local government departments with industrial functions, research associations and educational institutions. The Awards are made by The Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister who is assisted by an advisory committee.

Applications for consideration have to be received at the Awards office by 31 October and the Awards are announced each year, in a supplement to *The London Gazette*, on The Queen's birthday (21 April). The Awards are presented by the Lord Lieutenants or, in the City of London, by the Lord Mayor. Companies granted the Award may fly the Award flag at their main premises and use the emblem on stationery, advertising and goods for five years. The emblem is the work of Abram Games, a foremost designer, who will be known to stamp collectors for his 1948 Olympic Games 3d and 1951 Festival of Britain 4d stamps and various Israeli issues.



In the first 25 years, there have been nearly 3,000 Award winners covering industrial and business activities as diverse as the export of

tractors, cars, computers, even whisky, smoked salmon and custard. Technology Awards have been made to companies involved in the production of life-saving drugs, telextext information services, disease-resistant potatoes and artificial limbs. Some have featured on Royal Mail stamps, for example the Giotto spacecraft (1986 Halley's Comet 22p) and the hovercraft. About 100 organisations were granted the Export Award in 1988 and about 40 received the Technological Achievements Award.

New Ground

Royal Mail stamps had a connection with one of the earliest Awards granted for colour-printing techniques used in stamp production. Appropriately on this occasion when Royal Mail stamps honour The Queen's Awards, further new ground is being broken. These stamps are the first to be produced by "Paintbox" — a revolutionary British electronic graphic-design system which produces artwork of complex designs in a fraction of the normal time. "Paintbox" was developed by Quantel Ltd of Newbury, Berks which received The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in 1988.

Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Simon Broom and printed by The House of Questa in offset-lithography. Printing was in sheets of 100 on phosphor-coated paper. They measure 30 x 41mm, are perforated 14 x 14½ and have PVA Dextrin gum.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 207) will cost £1.40; it was designed by Keith Bassford with text by Mike Barden and printed by Moore & Matthes Limited.

Stamp Cards

Postcards featuring enlargements of each of the four stamps will be available from 26 March, price 18p each. They are numbered 125A-D.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and main post offices from 26 March, price 18p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the British Philatelic Bureau, the other for London SW. The Queen's Award office is located in the London SW1 district.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Price £1.64 UK (includes VAT), £1.43 overseas (no VAT). Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 10 April.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue handstamp" to:

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

London SW
London South Special Handstamp Centre
53 Nine Elms Lane
LONDON SW8 5BB

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. A pictorial First Day postmark, showing the arms of the City of London will be used at the London North Special Handstamp Centre, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 11 April, price 18p. This will be on sale for one year.

Earlier Related Issues

British industry and technology have featured on a number of issues since the 2½d Victory stamp of 1946. Information technology — a growth industry of the 1980s — featured on stamps in 1982 with major engineering works shown on the 1983 Europa issue. 1986 was "Industry Year" with four stamps in recognition. A fairly extensive and interesting thematic collection on British industry and Technological Achievements can be formed from stamps alone; to which could be added stamp book covers, postmarks and commemorative covers.

**The Queen's Awards
for Export and Technology**
Royal Mail First Day Cover



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All organisations regularly as well as for UK subsidiaries. These are made available with the assistance of the government trade union nature of the fact that applications are scrutinised by a panel of experts.

Exporters on three

A substantial and sustained increase in export earnings to a level which is outstanding for the products or services concerned and for the size of the applicant unit's operations. In addition, established exporters, who have a consistently high export performance but are unable to demonstrate dramatic export growth over three years, can have earlier export achievements taken into account. Consideration is given only to export orders which have been fulfilled - undelivered orders and estimates are ignored.

Technology applicants must satisfy equally stringent criteria:

A significant advance, leading to increased efficiency, in the application of technology to a production or development process in British industry or the production for sale of goods which incorporate new and advanced technological qualities. Innovation by itself, however, is not enough. Since a principal aim of this Award is to counteract the impression that Britain, despite winning many Nobel prizes for her natural inventiveness, often fails to exploit it, applicants must also provide evidence of a product's commercial success.

The Awards are announced each year on 21 April, The Queen's Birthday, and presented by the Lord Lieutenants or, in the City of London, by the Lord Mayor. Winners may fly the Queen's

This diversity of products and services has led to the Queen's Awards for Export and Technology Awards. Life-saving drugs, aircraft automatic landing systems, tungsten-halogen lamps, teletext information services, disease-resistant potatoes, brain scanners, high-yielding wheat and new types of artificial limbs are just some of the outstanding achievements which the Awards have recognised. Others include the Giotto spacecraft, which was featured on the Royal Mail stamps issued to celebrate the return of Halley's Comet in 1986, hovercraft, Hawker-Harrier jump-jets, and thermal-imaging cameras used to save life in natural disasters as far apart as Mexico and Armenia.

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Royal Mail Mint Stamps



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