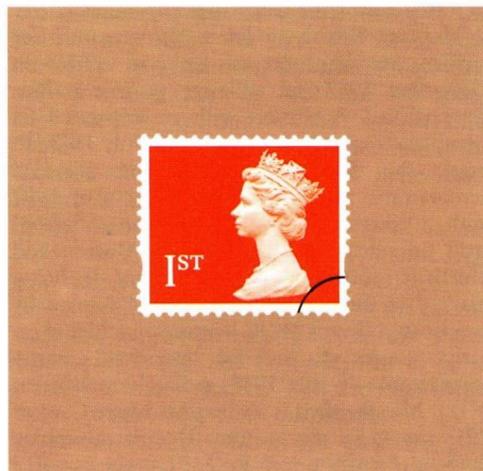


Self-Adhesive 1st Class Definitive

19 October 1993

Royal Mail's first self-adhesive stamp will be issued on 19 October. This will comprise an adaptation of the existing 1st class stamp, in horizontal rather than vertical format. It will be available in books of 20 stamps, price £4.80, from post offices and retail outlets in the Tyne-Tees television area for a trial period of six months. Collectors may obtain the book from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, and philatelic counters. Outside the Tyne-Tees area, the book will be available at all post offices throughout the UK on the day of issue only for the benefit of collectors.



The self-adhesive stamp is expected to be popular with small businesses and the more prolific letter writers. Once the trial has been completed Royal Mail will evaluate the future for self-adhesive issues.

This self-adhesive stamp is valid for 1st class items weighing up to 60g to UK addresses. They can be used in part payment (at prevailing 1st class rate) towards postage on heavier UK mail or on letters to EC and some other European countries.

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and

Philatelic Counters around a week before 19 October, price 21p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamp cancelled with a pictorial “First Day of Issue” postmark of the Bureau or Newcastle upon Tyne, price 64p (including VAT) to UK addresses, 58p to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 19 October.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Newcastle cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Northern England Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed “Pictorial First Day of Issue postmark.”

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial “First Day of Issue” handstamps.

Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe, £21.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Technical Details

Printers: Walsall Security Printers

Process: Lithography

Size: 24 x 20mm

Sheets: Book contains 20 stamps,
two panes of nine and
a vertical pair

Perforation: 14

Phosphor: Two phosphor bands

Gum: Self-adhesive

Presentation Pack: Price £5.15

Stamp Card: Price 21p



Note: Change of issue date from that originally announced (26 October 1993).

Obituaries

Two eminent stamp designers have died this year. Sir George Bellow (1899-1993) designed the 10s and £1 high value stamps of 1939-48 (SG 478/a/b) and the 1949 1s Universal Postal Union stamp (502). Sir George was educated at Christ Church, Oxford and was appointed Somerset Herald in 1926. He was Registrar of the College of Arms from 1935 to 1946 and Garter King of Arms from 1950 to 1961. He organised the state funeral of King George VI (1952) and was involved in the proclamation

and coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Michael Farrar Bell (1911-93) came from a family of stained glass makers and designed and installed windows in churches throughout England and overseas. He completed the west window of Exeter Cathedral and the restoration of the Great East Window in Bath Abbey. He designed the 2½d, 3d, 4d and 4½d values in the "Wilding" definitive series (SG 519-21, 577 *et al*) and the 1s 6d Coronation (535), 1957 Parliamentary Union 4d (560) and 1965 Salvation Army 3d (665) stamps.