

Royal Mail News

Technical Details

Printers: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Size: 41 x 30mm

Sheets: 100

Perforation: 15 x 14

Phosphor: 19p – one phosphor band

25p-41p two phosphor bands

Paper: OBA free (OBA =
Optical Brightening Agent)

Gum: PVA Dextrin

Springtime Stamps

Five stamps on the theme of Springtime will go on sale at post offices, and philatelic outlets on 14 March. This completes the "Four Seasons" series begun with the Wintertime stamps in 1992, and continued with Autumn in 1993 and Summertime in 1994.

The designs are based on photographs of unusual but impressive 3-D sculptures by Andy Goldsworthy – created in situ during the season of Spring. The **19p** stamp (inland basic 2nd class rate) depicts Dandelions; the **25p** value (basic inland 1st class and EU rate) features Sweet chestnut leaves.



Garlic and Hazel leaves are respectively depicted on the **30p** and **35p** values which cover the basic rate for European, non-EU countries and overseas postcard rate.

The subject of the final stamp, **41p** (basic airmail letter rate) is Spring grass.

The sheets now include the inscription "SALE DATE 14-03-95" twice in the top and lower sheet margins. This innovation began with the Cats issue in January.

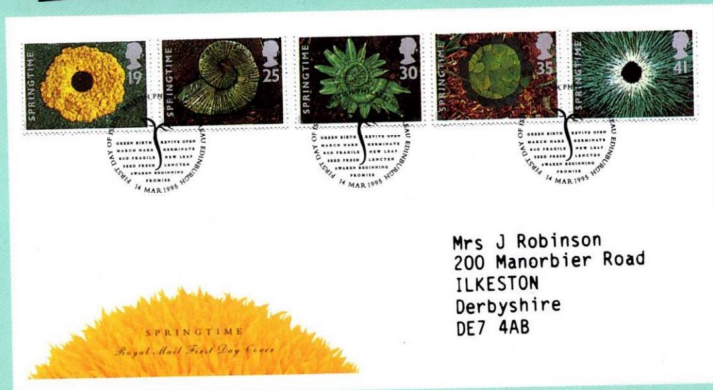
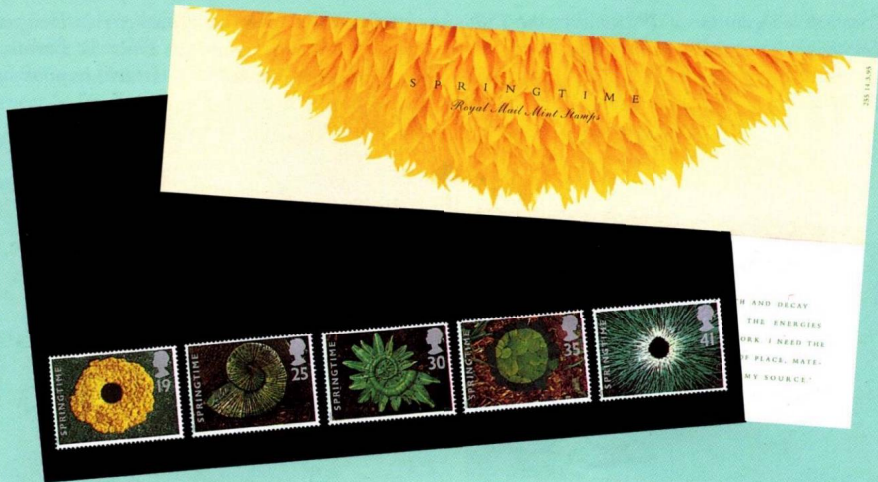
This is the second issue devoted to the Spring season – four stamps issued in March 1979 featured Spring Wild Flowers (SG 1079/82). A posy of Spring flowers was depicted on the 3d value in the 1963 National Nature Week issue (637).

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 14 March, price 25p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps, cancelled with a pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark of the Bureau or Springfield, Fife, price £2.18 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.86 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 14 March 1995.





Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Springfield cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, George Square, GLASGOW G2 1AA (for Springfield postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed "FD953" (Bureau), or "FD954" (Springfield).

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).

Collectors are reminded that it will be in order to affix just the 19p Springtime stamp to covers to receive all special cancels ("First Day of Issue", sponsored and philatelic counters), in use on 14 March. The minimum 1st class rule is suspended on this day as the Springtime set includes a 2nd class rate stamp. It should be noted that this concession applies only to the 19p Springtime stamp; covers bearing other than Springtime stamps must bear at least 1st class postage.

Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

The usual pack (price £1.85) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets and main post offices.