



The designer The stamps were designed by Tim Hazael, born 1947, and educated at Ravensbourne College of Art. A freelance photographer for 24 years, he now lives in East Sussex. These are his first stamps for Royal Mail.

This month The Editor previews this issue

THIS MONTH we preview the Carnival stamps to be issued on 25 August – Royal Mail's contribution to the Europa series. Every year since 1980 we have issued stamps on the theme chosen by PostEurop, formerly the CEPT (Conference of European Postal & Telecommunications administrations), covering subjects as diverse as transport, famous women, games and toys, folklore and contemporary art. The Europa symbol appears on the 20p and 26p stamps in the forthcoming set.

We begin this month a three-part series on GB overprinted stamps by Jim Mackay, who also contributes an article on Lewis Carroll, whose characters appear on the Magical Worlds stamps to be issued on 21 July. Another regular contributor, Douglas Myall, reports on a visit to De La Rue Security Printers (formerly Harrison & Sons). JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Royal Mail news Carnival stamps • Special announcement: new Scottish definitives

Carnival Four colourful stamps commemorating the popular Notting Hill Carnival in London go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 25 August. They feature photographs taken during 'the Mas' (masquerade parade) of the Carnival and evoke its colour and spirit. The four stamps are of the following denominations: **20p** (basic inland 2nd class letter rate), **26p** (inland 1st class basic rate), **43p** (airmail basic letter rate), and **63p** (airmail letters over 10g).

The Notting Hill Carnival has been held the last weekend in August for the past 33 years. Local people, especially immigrants from the Caribbean, noted for the Carnival tradition, wanted to create a festival to bring the community together. The Carnival is now the biggest of its kind in Europe, second only to Rio in Brazil. The procession winds through three miles of streets and is attended by two million people who come onto the streets to watch, participate and enjoy.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 25 August, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by pictorial 'first day of issue' postmark of the Bureau or London W11 (Notting Hill) must reach the Bureau by 25 August. Price £2.20 UK (including VAT) or £1.88 overseas (no VAT).

Alternatively, collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (London W11 postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9813' (Bureau), or 'FD9814' (London W11). Collectors can post or hand in covers at main post offices for local (mostly non-pictorial) first day handstamps.

Technical details

Printers Walsall Security Printers Ltd

Process Gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

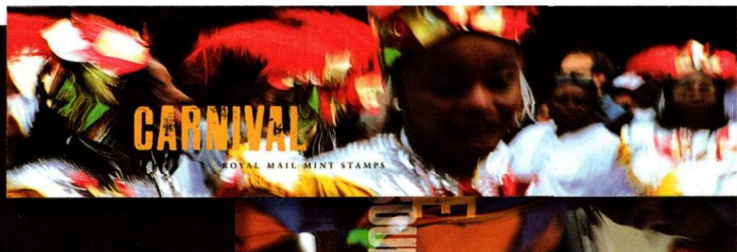
Sheets 100

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 20p • two bands others

Gum PVA





Presentation pack A well-illustrated pack (price £1.85) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. It features a specially commissioned poem by Benjamin Zephaniah, one of Britain's top poets. Called *Carnival Days*, it celebrates the modern Notting Hill Carnival.



Stamp cards will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets, at 25p each.

A Philatelic Numismatic Cover (PNC) encapsulating a 50p coin will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £12.95. Early ordering is advised.



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Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). Covers may be posted bearing just the 20p Carnival stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 25 August; the normal 1st class rule is waived for the day.



CARNIVALS ON STAMPS This is Britain's first set of stamps specifically on a carnival theme although others fall into the general category of performing arts, festivals and popular culture. The Commonwealth Arts Festival of 1965 was commemorated by two stamps showing Trinidad carnival and Canadian folk dancers, designed by

David Gentleman and the late Rosalind Dease. The Cultural Traditions set of 1976 depicted morris dancing and piping at a Highland gathering as well as aspects of the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales. Morris dancers, medieval mummers and the celebration of Lammastide featured in the 1981 Folklore issue. The varied activities of the traditional British fair were graphically depicted by Andrew Restall on the 1983 Fairs stamps. The Lord Mayor's Show – the capital's best-known, free street entertainment – featured on five stamps, by Paul Cox, in 1989.

The world-famous Llangollen International Eisteddfod was celebrated on a Welsh aerogramme issued in July 1974. The Edinburgh Festival and Scottish Folk Traditions have featured on Scottish aerogrammes ●

