

The Settlers' Tale

The fourth in the series of 12 Millennium stamps sets for 1999 is on the theme of settlers

Technical details

Printers Walsall Security Printers

Process 20p lithography, others gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 20p ● two bands others

Gum PVA

Settlers' Tale stamps go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 6 April. The design of the **20p** stamp (basic inland 2nd class letter rate) symbolises migration to Scotland. By the 12th century the Normans had imposed their culture and administration in England. One of the noble Norman families to make the move to lowland Scotland was the de Brus family, and their migration is one example of how the great Scottish families came into being. From this lineage came two kings of Scots, including Robert Bruce (1306-29), hero of the Scottish War of Independence, who featured on one of the Great Britons stamps of 1974. Other great Scottish families of similar Norman descent include the Frasers, Lindseys, Sinclairs and Gordons.

The **26p** value (basic 1st class inland letter rate) features the Pilgrim Fathers. In 1620 the *Mayflower* sailed from Plymouth bound for America with on board a group of Puritans who, in 1608, had uprooted themselves from their native Nottinghamshire and settled in the Netherlands in an attempt to escape persecution at home. Seeking the religious freedom that still eluded them, the Puritans negotiated with a London stock company to finance a pilgrimage to the New World. After a 66-day voyage, 102 settlers (35 of them Puritan) were deposited near Cape Cod at the site of New Plymouth. Within the first year nearly half the settlers died, but thereafter the health and the economic position of the colonists improved. Now universally known as Pilgrim Fathers, they were initially called the Old Comers or Forefathers. The Pilgrim Fathers and the *Mayflower* were shown on a 16d stamp in 1970, marking the 350th anniversary of their voyage. The us Post Office also issued commemorative stamps for the 300th and 350th anniversaries, in 1920 and 1970 (SG 556-8, 1416).

The important colonisation of Australia is recalled by the design of the **43p** value (basic airmail letter rate) which shows a sailing ship, aspects of settlement and the kangaroo and emu from the Australian coat of arms. James Cook took possession of the eastern coast of Australia in the name of the Crown on 22 August 1770. Two problems facing the British government in the early 1780s – the need for a naval base to defend trade in the eastern seas and a replacement for the lost American colonies where convicts could be transported – were solved in 1787 when the First Fleet set sail for Australia carrying naval crews, marines and 788 male and female convicts. On 26 January 1788 a settlement was established at Sydney Cove. In the following century, the Colonial Office assisted thousands to emigrate, and by mid-century the Australian colonies were legislating to accept only immigrants who could make a full economic contribution.

Cook's signature and his ship *Endeavour* featured on a 199d Anniversaries stamp in 1968, and Cook himself on the recent Travellers' Tale 63p stamp. The bicentenary of Australian settlement was commemorated in 1988.





Migration from one part of the UK to another, depicted on the 20p stamp, established the ethnic fabric of these islands. The Pilgrim Fathers, on the 26p, sailed from Plymouth bound for America, seeking religious freedom. The settling of Australia is recalled by the 43p, while the 63p symbolises migration to the UK, a new home for many immigrants over the centuries.



A Kenyan Asian family arrives at Luton airport, 1968. In the late 1940s, immigration from the West Indies and southern Asia was actively promoted, and the first settlers, 492 Jamaicans, arrived in June 1948 aboard the *Empire Windrush*.

The 20p stamp is the work of John Byrne, born in Paisley in 1940, and educated at the Glasgow School of Art. He is both an artist and a writer of plays for the theatre and TV (*Tutti Frutti* and *Your Cheatin' Heart*). He wrote and directed the 1996 film *The Slab Boys*.

The 26p design is by Wilson McLean, born in Glasgow in 1937, designer of the Europa/Music Year stamps of 1985. A winner of the prestigious Hamilton King Award and several Gold Medals of the Society of Illustrators, McLean has built his reputation on immaculately designed paintings, often for top corporate clients.

The 63p stamp (second step airmail letter rate) features a multicoloured humming bird, symbolising migration to the UK which has become home for millions of refugees and immigrants over the centuries. Many have come from Europe; others from further afield. After the Second World War, many Commonwealth servicemen and women who had fought opted to stay in the UK. From the late 1940s large-scale immigration from the West Indies and South Asia was actively promoted to fill labour shortages in transport, foundry work and the new National Health Service. The first settlers – 492 Jamaicans – arrived in June 1948 aboard the *Empire Windrush*. Over the centuries immigrants have brought with them their own customs and cultures to add to those already here, resulting in the vibrant and diverse society that is modern Britain. The cultural impact of the black community was recalled by the four Notting Hill Carnival stamps issued last August.



The 43p value is by Jeff Fisher, known to collectors for the 1990 Astronomy set.

The 63p is the work of Gary Powell, his first design for Royal Mail.

Travellers' Tale presentation pack, written by Prof Jeremy Black of Exeter University, and designed by The Chase.

*'The last of England o'er the sea, my dear,
Our homes to seek amid Australian fields.'*

FRANK MARSHALL BROWN "SUNSET"

We are a mix. During the previous millennium, to AD1000, successive waves of invasion and settlement had brought the Celts and the Romans, and then Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Vikings to Britain. This trend continued in our millennium. First, there was the fresh Danish invasion bringing Cnut (Canute) to the throne of England in 1016, thus making England part of a Scandinavian empire. Next came William the Conqueror's successful invasion from Normandy in 1066. Having overrun England, the Normans and their successors pressed on to conquer Wales and establish a presence in Ireland. There was, however, no conquest of Scotland. Instead, Normans migrated there in response to royal invitation, especially that extended by David I (1154-83). It was from these early settlers that such leading Scots as Robert the Bruce and the Royal House of Stewart descended.

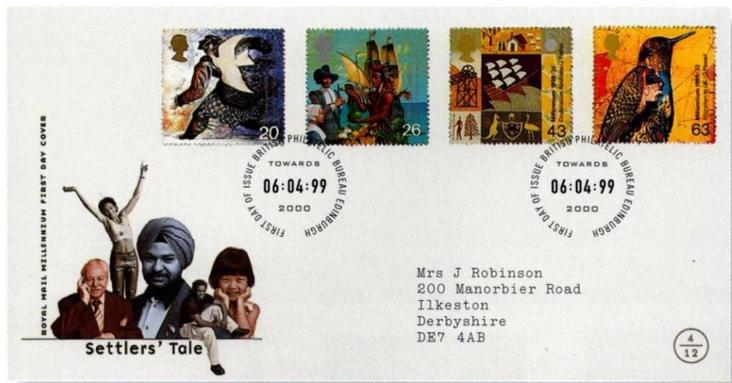
This movement of settlers to Scotland was one of the most prominent examples of a process of migration within the British Isles that has helped to mix its peoples. Most of this migration was driven by people's desire to improve their economic life: settlers seeking land to cultivate, country girls going into service in the towns, workers drawn to the factories supplying goods for the empire. Irish labourers building the railways of Victorian England.

Economic opportunity and a desire for a new life, free of the political and religious constraints that existed in Britain, also sometimes took many people abroad. In 1607 a permanent colony was established in Virginia. The Pilgrim Fathers who sailed to Massachusetts on the *Mayflower* in 1620 found greater political and religious freedom than in England. Possibly as many as 200,000 people emigrated from the British Isles to North America during the seventeenth century. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries most movement was still to what was to become the United States – between 1855 and 1901 the often-perilous journey was made by more than eight million people, many of them Irish fleeing the appalling consequences of the potato famine. There was

also a growing movement of settlers to Canada and Australia. Whereas James Cook's voyage to Australia was an epic of exploration, emigrants were part of an organized process greatly eased by the introduction of steamships, which considerably cut journey times. Entire parishes transplanted themselves to Australia in search of a new life.

Thanks to this emigration, British culture and customs spread around the world. Modern travellers can find Burns Night celebrated on every continent from Johannesburg to Toronto, and British-style Christmas lunches being eaten on the sunny sands of Sydney. Britain also took in many migrants, and continues to do so. Many come from the near continent: European Jews in the latter part of the nineteenth century and Poles and Ukrainians in the 1940s. Others come from further afield. There was a substantial Chinese immigration a century ago, principally to ports such as Cardiff, London and Newcastle. From the 1980s, large-scale immigration to Britain was from the West Indies and South Asia, an actively sponsored inflow to fill a labour shortage in transport, foundry work and nursing, although numbers were limited by Immigration Acts from 1962.

The experience of immigrants has varied. Many found opportunity, others hardship or prejudice. Although racial discrimination is illegal under the Race Relations Act (1977), there continues to be discrimination and tension. Prejudice reflects a lack of knowledge of the long-term history of immigration into Britain, and a failure to grasp that it has helped to make our country a dynamic, vital and interesting place in which to live. On the streets of towns and cities up and down the country there are signs of an active cultural mix: people, clothes, shops and restaurants. Dozens of languages and dialects can be heard. In both the short and long terms, language reflects the impact of immigration and emigration. English itself has been enhanced and enriched by a vocabulary that reflects the movement of people in and out of the country.



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 6 April, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Plymouth must reach the Bureau by 6 April. 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, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (Plymouth postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9907' (Bureau), or 'FD9908' (Plymouth). Covers can be posted or handed in covers at main post offices for the Plymouth postmark. A non-pictorial Plymouth postmark will also be available, by sending covers to the Cardiff Handstamp Centre, requesting 'FD9908NP'.

In accordance with Royal Mail's policy on the 'Welsh Language Scheme', bilingual versions of the Plymouth pictorial and non-pictorial handstamps can be obtained by sending covers to the Cardiff Handstamp Centre quoting reference FD9908 Bil (pictorial) and FD9908NP Bil (non-pictorial).

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). Covers may bear just the 20p Settlers' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 6 April.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £1.85) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. A Royal Mail Millennium Stamps Album, with pages for the 1999 issues, also three FDC and three presentation pack pages, is available from the British Philatelic Bureau. Price: album and slipcase £19.99; sets of pages only £9.99 •

Patients' Tale stamps Readers may be interested to know that a fine screen of 720lpi (lines per inch) was used by Questa for printing this issue. Fine screens were also used for the Endangered Species, Lighthouses and Health stamps – see *Bulletin*, October 1998, pp52-55 •

