

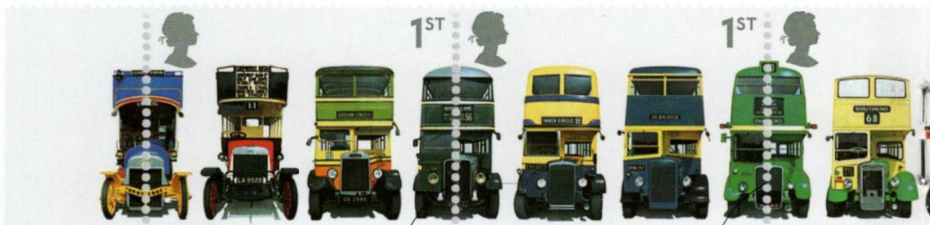
# Buses New stamp issue features the famous

**Leyland X2 open top**  
London Central Motor  
Omnibus Co 1908

**Leyland Titan TD1**  
Glasgow Corporation  
Transport 1928

**Daimler COG5**  
Birmingham City  
Transport 1937

**AEC Regent III, RT type**  
London Transport  
Executive 1948



**London General B type**  
London General  
Omnibus Co 1911

**AEC Regent 1**  
Leeds City Transport  
1934

**Utility Guy Arab Mk II**  
Swindon Corporation  
Transport 1943

**Bristol KSW5G open top**  
Eastern National  
Omnibus Co 1953

## Technical details

**Printer** House of Questa

**Process** Lithography

**Stamp size** 41 × 30mm

**Miniature sheet size** 120 × 105mm

**Sheets** 100

**Perforation** 14.5 × 14

**Phosphor** All-over

**Gum** PVA

**Gutter strips** Horizontal,  
between two strips of stamps

## Cylinders and colours

**Sheets of 100** Q2 new blue

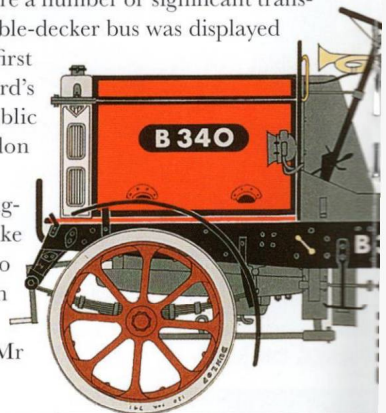
● Q2 greenish yellow ● Q2  
magenta ● Q2 black ● Q2  
grey ● Q2 phosphor

Five stamps featuring British buses will go on sale at post offices, Royal Mail Tallents House in Edinburgh and philatelic outlets on 15 May. They will also be available in miniature sheet format from philatelic outlets.

This will be the first in a series devoted to transport; stamps featuring aircraft will be issued next year. The Buses stamps, each at the inland 1st class rate (27p) form a horizontal se-tenant strip. 16 buses are featured – all are either fully restored, being restored, or are still in service. Each stamp features two complete and two half buses, the design extending across two stamps. Part of the design also appears in the left and right sheet margins and in the horizontal gutter between two strips of stamps.

The stamps depict the major changes of double-decker bus design across the country over the last century. The buses chosen represent a good spread in time, in geographical location, in livery colours and spread of manufacturers and body builders. There are a number of significant transport anniversaries this year – the first double-decker bus was displayed at the Great Exhibition in 1851, and the first London electric tram ran between Shepherd's Bush and Kew Bridge in 1901. The Public Transport Congress will be held in London next month.

The stamps are the work of Michael English, noted for his 1960s posters of bands like The Who. Mr English took three weeks to photograph the buses, before painting each for use on the stamps. Each painting took about two weeks, thus the entire set took Mr English some 35 weeks to complete.



Opposite: A London General Omnibus Company 'B' Type Motor Bus of 1910. Illustration by David J Trussler, from *Early Buses and Trams*.

# British double-decker, both past and present

**AEC Routemaster**  
London Transport  
Executive 1958

**Leyland Titan PD3/4**  
Southdown Motor  
Services Ltd 1967

**Daimler Fleetline**  
**CRG6LX-33** Belfast  
Corp Transport 1973

**Leyland Olympian**  
**ONLXB/1R** Arriva  
Cymru 1985



**Bristol Lodekka FSF6G**  
Cheltenham District  
Traction Co 1961

**Leyland Atlantean**  
**PDR1/1** Manchester  
City Transport 1968

**MCW Metrobus**  
**DR102/43** Go North East  
1984

**Dennis Trident**  
Metroline London  
Northern 1999





The miniature sheet (right, as reproduced on a stamp card), shows the stamps in three rows. The sheet is captioned: BUSES/CLASSIC BRITISH/DOUBLE-DECKERS.

Other handstamps for 15 May will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

For a sample copy write to: The Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 15 May, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the five stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or London WC2 must reach Royal Mail (Edinburgh address below) by the day of issue. Price £2 UK (including VAT) or £1.71 overseas (no VAT). Please indicate whether stamps and/or miniature sheet covers required.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Bureau postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (London WC2 postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0111' (Bureau), or 'FD0112' (London WC2). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the London postmark.

**MINIATURE SHEET** The miniature sheet (price £1.35) shows the five stamps in three rows, comprising two horizontal rows of two stamps and the third of a single stamp. As on the sheets of 100 stamps, part of the image of the buses at the left and right of each stamp is printed in the sheet margin.

**PHILATELIC PRODUCTS** A well-illustrated pack containing the strip of stamps (price £1.70) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack, designed by Delaney Design Consultants, includes an article by Gavin Booth. Six stamp cards (25p each) show the five stamps and miniature sheet. A 'postbag' – a children's pack containing the stamps and related material – will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House and selected Post Office Counters outlets, price £5.99 •



Illustration p240-41 © David J. Trussler