

## Fabulous hats Celebrating British designers

FOUR STAMPS featuring hats by leading British designers will be available from post offices, Royal Mail Talents House Edinburgh, and philatelic outlets from 19 June. As well as for Royal Ascot week and weddings, stylish British fashion hats are admired the world over and typify an aspect of the 'British Way of Life' for other nations.



**1st class (27p)** Red 'toque' hat by Pip Hackett, whose work has been exhibited in the UK and Germany.

**E (European rate, 36p)** 'Butterfly' hat by Dai Rees, whose womenswear explores the interplay of garments and accessories, especially hats.

Background above: a goose feather hat by Philip Treacy.

### Technical details

**Printer** Joh Enschedé Stamps

**Process** Lithography

**Size** 35 x 37mm

**Sheets** 100

**Perforation** 14.5 x 14

**Phosphor** All over phosphor

**Gum** PVA

**Gutter pairs** Vertical

The stamps are the work of Rose Design using photographs of the modelled hats by Nick Knight, whose photos were used for the 1996 Olympics stamps. London-based Rose Design was founded by Rebecca Oliver and Simon Elliot (hence ROSE). They were previously in design company CDT, which has a long association with Royal Mail's stamp programme and assisted in the creation of the 1999 Millennium stamps. Rose designed the 2000 yearpack. The Dress Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum advised on contemporary, cutting-edge milliners and the four contacted were happy to provide some of their existing creations to be photographed. The hats were modelled by Erin O'Connor – the well-defined features of her face and long neck made her very suitable as a model for hats.

**THE MILLINERS** The four young milliners whose work appears on these stamps create headwear for all occasions from everyday hats to high profile, glamorous catwalk inventions that are internationally celebrated as works of art.

Pip Hackett, who graduated from the Royal College of Art in 1996, delights in making fantasy hats and headpieces which are stylish concoctions of feathers, flowers and fluid shapes in jewel-like colours. She combines conventional millinery techniques with contemporary designs,



favouring luxurious silks, velvets and lace with fragile tulle and feathers. Her ideal clients are 'disco divas and sophisticated sirens'.

Dai Rees was born in Wales and studied at Central Saint Martins and the Royal College of Art before achieving success with his dramatic hats and launching a millinery and accessory partnership in 1997. He trained as a ceramicist and frequently challenges hat-making conventions. With quills, cane, bone and other natural components, he makes spatially remarkable hats that sometimes have menacing and cage-like aspects.

Stephen Jones established his own millinery company in 1981 after graduating from St Martins College of Art. He has a special awareness of youth and club culture and as well as providing custom-made hats for international celebrities, he works with top couture houses including John Galiano at Christian Dior.

Irish-born Philip Treacy was a star graduate from the Royal College of Art in 1990 and within a year had established his own business. Commissions from Karl Lagerfeld at Chanel were quickly followed by others from Versace and Valentino. He handles all materials with ease, particularly feathers which he transforms into rigid, angular structures or lyrical shapes that move in a beguiling manner. He excels at bold, mask-like hats and frequently teams flamboyant hats with startling makeup.

**45p** 'Top hat' by Stephen Jones, whose eccentric and quirky hats utilize a wealth of ingredients. He is particularly adept at creating small, gem-like hats to perch coquettishly on the head.

**65p** Spiral hat by Philip Treacy, who examines the sculptural possibilities of millinery, with streamlined works notable for their daring concepts and perfect balance, from lofty spirals to nodding mobiles.

#### Cylinders and colours

1st 1A yellow ● 1B magenta ●  
1C blue ● 2D black ● 1E silver

**E, 45p & 65p** 1A yellow ● 1B  
magenta ● 1C blue ● 1D black  
● 1E silver

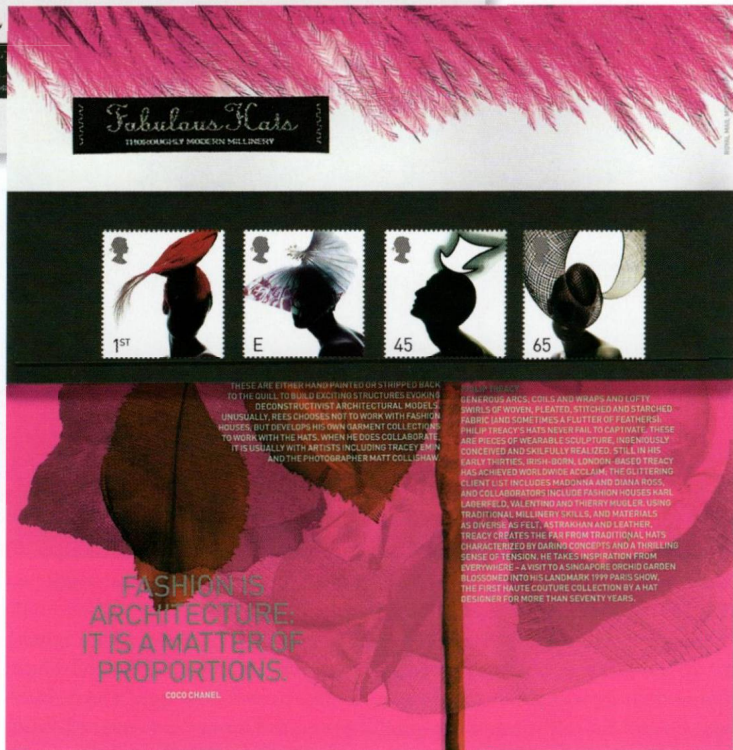
The phosphor cylinder is 1F  
for all values





**Thoroughly Modern Millinery**  
 FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ASCOT 19-06-2001 FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

A well-illustrated presentation pack (right, price £2.10) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack, designed by Rose Design, contains the stamps, and includes an article by Fay Sweet and photography by Paul Zak.



The *British Postmark Bulletin* is available on subscription from Royal Mail, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (£1UK/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 19 June, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the four stamps or cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Ascot must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.45 UK (including VAT) or £2.09 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Ascot postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0113' (Tallents House), or 'FD0114' (Ascot). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Ascot postmark. Other handstamps for 19 June will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* (see left for details) ●

Hat p275-273 © Victoria & Albert Museum Photography p275 by Geoff Dann