

## May special issues Airliners: from Comet to



### Technical details

**Printer** De La Rue

**Process** Gravure

**Stamp size** 35mm square

**Sheets** 100

**Miniature sheet size** 120 x 105mm

**Perforation** 14.5

**Phosphor** 2nd class one band, others two bands

**Gum** PVA

**Gutter pairs** Horizontal

### Cylinders and colours

All values 1A greenish yellow  
 ● 1B bright magenta ● 1C new blue  
 ● 1D black ● 1E silver ● Phosphor P15 2nd, P14 1st,  
 P16 others

THERE WILL BE TWO ISSUES of special stamps next month – five stamps and a miniature sheet featuring Airliners go on sale on 2 May and a single 1st class stamp and a miniature sheet commemorate England's participation in the World Cup on 21 May.

THE AIRLINERS STAMPS depict: 2nd class (19p) 2002 Airbus A340-600; 1st class (27p) 1976 Concorde; E rate (37p) 1964 Trident; 45p 1964 VC10; and 65p 1952 Comet. The miniature sheet costs £1.93. The stamps commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first commercial flight by a jet – a Comet from Heathrow to Johannesburg – which heralded the dawn of the jet age in civil aviation. The British were pioneers in jet engine development and for many years led the world. Airliners uses the anniversary to celebrate the technological advancements and achievements in British aviation; from the first jet airliner to the very latest – and longest – Airbus 340/600. This is the second issue in the Transport series which began with Buses in May 2001. The Queen's head is printed in silver at top left, with the value or service indicator in the opposite corner. The names of the airliners are printed at the bottom right of the designs. The stamps are the work of Roundel design group, designers of the £10 Britannia definitive and the 1998 Speed stamps, using photography by Airbus UK, Adrian Meredith, BAE Systems, and Topham Picturepoint.

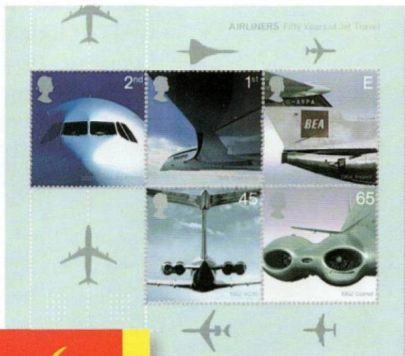
Details of other handstamps for 2 May will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£10 UK and Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

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 2 May, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the five stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Heathrow must reach Royal Mail (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.69 UK (including VAT) or £2.29 overseas (no VAT). State clearly if stamps or miniature sheet required.

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, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (Heathrow postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO211' or 'FDO212' respectively. Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Heathrow postmark.

# Concorde, 50 years of passenger jet aviation



A book containing four 1st class definitives and two 1st class Airliners stamps – all self-adhesive – will be available from 2 May, price £1.62.



A pack containing the five stamps (left, price £2.30) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets.



**Airliners on stamps** This is Britain's first set dedicated to Airliners, although civilian aircraft have featured on a number of earlier issues: 1967 EFTA 1s6d (air freight), 1967 Discoveries 1s6d (Vickers VC10 jet engines), 1969 Concorde, 1974 UPU 10p (Imperial Airways Flying Boat), and 1988 Transport 34p (Imperial Airways Handley Page HP45). The 50th anniversary of the first flight of Sir Frank Whittle's jet engine was commemorated by the 37p stamp in the 1991 Scientific Achievements set. An airliner hugging the Globe, symbolising international air travel, featured on the 20p Travellers' Tale stamp in the Millennium series. The planes of Alcock and Brown and Ross and Keith Smith flown across the Atlantic and from England to Australia in 1919 were shown on stamps in the 1969 Anniversaries set.

The covers of four 50p stamp books, issued October 1989 to June 1991, featured aircraft including a De Havilland Comet 4 and Concorde. A VC10 was shown in the design of the 9d, 4p, 5p, 6p, 8½p and 10½p 'stamps' printed on standard aerogrammes issued from 1968 until 1978 •

