

London Bridges Five new stamps trace the



Technical details

Printer House of Questa

Process Lithography (see Stamp Book, opposite)

Stamp size 41 x 30mm

Perforation 15 x 14

Phosphor 2nd class one band, others two bands

Gum PVA

Sheets 100

Gutter pairs Vertical

Plate numbers and colours

2nd Q1 yellow ● Q1 magenta ● Q1 blue ● Q1 black

1st Q1 sepia ● Q1 black ● Q1 chocolate brown ● Q1 flesh

E Q1 yellow ● Q1 magenta ● Q1 blue ● Q1 black ● Q1 chocolate brown

47p Q1 yellow ● Q1 magenta ● Q1 blue ● Q1 black

68p Q1 yellow ● Q1 magenta ● Q1 blue ● Q1 black ● Q1 chocolate brown

Phosphor Q1 all values

FIVE STAMPS featuring London bridges will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 10 September. The stamps show: 2nd class Millennium Bridge, 1st class Tower Bridge, E Westminster Bridge, 47p Blackfriars Bridge, and 68p London Bridge. All the bridges are depicted in contemporary photographs or illustrations; three of the values show existing bridges, and two show structures which have since been replaced on the same site. The Queen's silhouette and value/service indicator are shown in white at the top right of each design. The name of the bridge is printed at top left. The stamps are the work of the design partnership Robert Maude and Sarah Davies; Robert designed the 1998 Endangered Species stamps, and is the designer of this *Bulletin*. Robert will be writing about the bridges and the stamps in next month's *Bulletin*.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 10 September, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or London SE1 must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.74 UK (including VAT) or £2.34 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, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB, marking the outer envelope 'FDO2 17' (Tallents House), or 'FDO2 18' (London SE1). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London SE1 postmark. Details of other handstamps for 10 September will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

STAMP BOOK A book containing four 1st class definitives (printed in gold) and two 1st class Tower Bridge stamps will be available from Tallents House and philatelic outlets from 10 September, price £1.62. All stamps will be self-adhesive, printed by The House of Questa in gravure. Note: the Tower Bridge stamp in sheets of 100 is printed in lithography.

vibrant history of the capital's river crossings



The stamps are the work of the design partnership Robert Maude and Sarah Davies. The bridges are all represented by contemporary images: Millennium, Tower and Westminster are the bridges existing today; Blackfriars and London Bridges are earlier structures which have since been replaced by new crossings on the same sites.

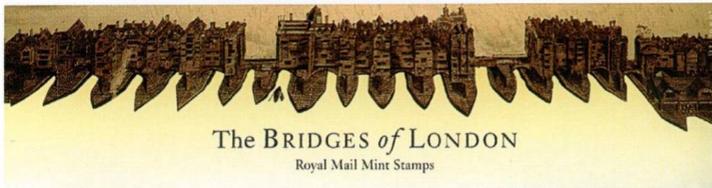
The BRIDGES of LONDON
Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail, Talents House, 9, South City Centre, Edinburgh EH3 9JH

ROYAL MAIL TALLENTS HOUSE EDINBURGH
 'Praise the BRIDGE that carried you over'
 GEORGE COLMAN
 10-9-2002

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
 'The THAMES is liquid history'
 JOHN BURNS
 10-9-2002



The pleasing lack of symmetry in its structure and the picturesque buildings attracted artists like *Canaletto* and *Turner*. At one time there were 138 shops and homes, as well as the exquisite Gothic chapel of St Thomas à Becket, and a drawbridge where the formidable 'Traitors' Gate was bedecked with as many as thirty-five severed heads. During the Renaissance, when the bridge was at its peak of beauty, this gate was replaced by the astonishingly decorated Nonesuch House ('none such like it'), which was prefabricated in Holland and held together with pegs for almost 300 years.

2 THE CHURCH OF ST MARGARET THE MARTYR STILL STANDS ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE CITY AND THE NARROW BRIDGE STREET WAS INTENDED TO BE THE MAIN AND TO HAVE CONSIDERED THIS IS WHERE 'MAY TO THE LEFT' ORIGINATED. BEFORE THIS OLD BRIDGE (LEFT) WAS DEMOLISHED AFTER RENNIE'S BRIDGE HAD BEEN BUILT ALONGSIDE, TODAY A FEW STONES FROM THE BRIDGE REMAIN IN THE CIRCULARS.

3 ON THE WALL OF THE KING'S ARMS IN NEWINGTON STREET, SOUTH WARK, IS THE OLD BRICK STONE CASE OF AN EARLY GEORGE II VEHICLE (STATED BY GEORGE III) ONCE IN PLACE ABOVE THE GREAT STONE GATE OF THE BRIDGE.

4 water was diverted to flow into the appeal of a bridge at London for so long was because it had administrative organization *Bridge House*. Money, property endowments accumulated the well-loved bridge have been carefully nurtured for hundreds of years and when the majestic Tower Bridge was opened in 1894, funds amassed from Old London Bridge paid for it in full. Remarkably, these funds today still support the present London Bridge as well as Tower, Southwark and Blackfriars Bridges and indeed contributed to London's newest bridge, the Millennium footbridge.

5 IN THE REVAL STONES OF OLD LONDON BRIDGE (1807-1825) THERE WERE RECLAMERS AND SEVEN HANDSOME ACCENTS FOR THE RIVER. DICKENS REFERS TO THEM IN *Great Expectations*: 'My favourite imaginary place was Old London Bridge, where I was taken to all in any of the other rivers NEW BRIDGE IN GUY'S HEAD ISLAND YET CALLED PARS, ITALIANA.'

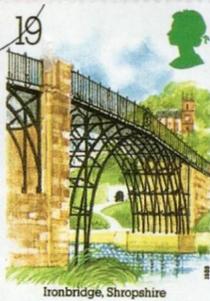
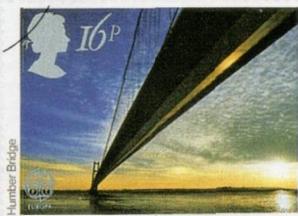
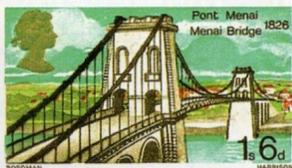
A presentation pack containing the five stamps (left, price £2.35) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets.



Below: *Disembarkation of the Lord Mayor at Blackfriars Bridge* c1830, by Thomas Allom. This bridge, the third to cross the Thames, is the structure shown on the new 47p stamp. It was replaced by the current wrought-iron bridge in 1860-69.

London bridges on stamps These are the first Royal Mail stamps dedicated to the subject of London Bridges, although some have featured on a number of earlier issues, beginning with the M4 motorway viaduct in London on a 19gd Bridges stamp of 1968 (right). Westminster Bridge (new E stamp) features on the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference stamp of 1975, and Tower Bridge (new 1st class stamp) can be seen in Jeffery Matthews' 50p London 1980 stamp and on the 41p Picture Postcards stamp of 1994.





British bridges on stamps also include Forth Road, 1964 (top left); Tarr Steps, Aberfeldy Bridge and Menai Bridge (above), 1968; Humber Bridge, 1983 (far left); Ironbridge (left) and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, 1989; and Millennium Bridge, Gateshead and Tyne Bridge, 2000. A steam-hauled train crosses a bridge on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal on the 41p of the 1994 Age of Steam set; other railway bridges can be seen on the 43p Travellers' Tale and 26p Workers' Tale Millennium stamps.

