

Coronation anniversary The ceremony and

The Coronation Anniversary stamps are designed by Kate Stephens, who designed last year's Golden Jubilee stamps. They are printed se-tenant in blocks of 10.



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Sheet size 50

Stamp size 35 × 37mm

Perforation 14.5

Watermark '50'

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal
(between strips of stamps)

Cylinder numbers & colours

D1 yellow ● D1 magenta ● D1 cyan (blue) ● D1 grey ● D1 slate ● D1 black ● D1 gold ● D1 phosphor

British Postmark Bulletin

For a sample copy write to:
The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

TEN 1ST CLASS STAMPS featuring scenes of The Queen's Coronation on 2 June 1953 will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 2 June. Five stamps show colour photographs of the Coronation procession and ceremony, and five show, in black and white, scenes from Coronation events and street parties around the UK. The Queen's profile is in gold at top left on all stamps except that reproducing Cecil Beaton's portrait. As with last year's Golden Jubilee stamps, this issue is printed on '50' watermarked paper. Also available from 2 June will be a prestige stamp book entitled *A Perfect Coronation*.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 2 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 London SW1 must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.71 UK or £3.16 overseas.

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 (London SW1 postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO313' (Tallents House), or 'FDO314' (London SW1). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the London postmark. For details of other handstamps for 2 June see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere).

celebration of 1953, recaptured on Royal Mail's new stamps



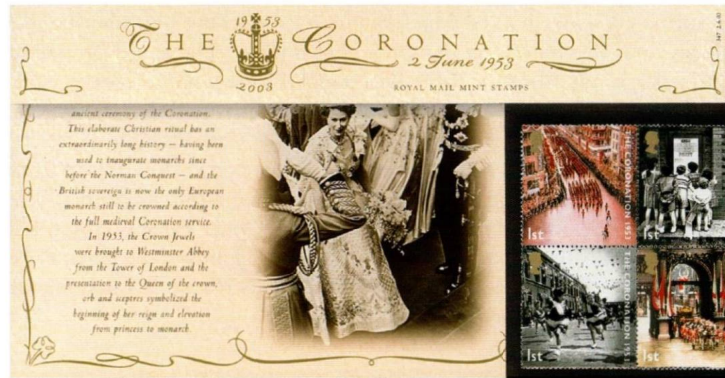
Top row left to right: 1) guardsmen in Coronation procession; 2) East End children reading a notice about Coronation party; 3) The Queen in the Coronation chair, with the Bishops of Durham and Bath & Wells; 4) school children in Plymouth assembling Royal pictures; 5) Cecil Beaton's famous official Coronation portrait.

Bottom row: 6) games at East End street party; 7) the Coronation coach at Marble Arch; 8) children in fancy dress outside house decorated for the Coronation; 9) The Coronation coach returning to Buckingham Palace; 10) children at a London street party.



An illustrated pack containing the stamps (below, £3.15) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Talents House.

The pack illustrations include the crowning of The Queen by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Coronation Chair, the St Edward's and Imperial State crowns, and the Sovereign's Orb and Sceptre with cross.





A Perfect Coronation contains four panes, as follows.

Pane 1 Top and bottom rows Machin 1st, 2nd and 1st class stamps; middle row two Machin 2nd class stamps separated by label showing crown and dates 1953/2003.

Pane 2 Coronation Anniversary stamps nos 1, 8, 6, and 3.

Pane 3 Coronation Anniversary stamps nos 2, 5, 7, and 10.

Pane 4 top row 47p and 68p definitives in Wilding designs (as 1s and 155d stamps); middle row £1 in design of 1953 Coronation 1s3d; bottom row 68p and 47p Wilding definitives.

PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK A new PSB containing Coronation Anniversary special stamps, Wilding and Machin definitives, and a £1 version of the 1953 Coronation 1s3d stamp will be on sale from 2 June, price £7.46. The text of the book recalls the pomp and splendour of Coronation Day. The pane containing Wilding definitives and £1 stamp is printed on uncoated, '50' watermarked paper; the Wildings have elliptical perforations. The two panes of Coronation Anniversary stamps are on

coated, watermarked paper. The Machin pane is on coated paper with elliptical perforations. All panes are printed in gravure by Walsall Security Printers. Specialists will notice differences between this £1 stamp and that in 'Her Majesty's Stamps' miniature sheet of May 2000. As well as being on uncoated, watermarked paper, the new £1 will have phosphor bands; the previous version was on phosphor coated paper. The 1953 Coronation 1s3d was recently voted the third most popular British stamp ever by readers of *Stamp Magazine*, after the Penny Black and 1929 PUG £1 stamp.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES As for sheet stamps – see p272. Any stamp from the prestige book can be used, singly or in combination, for all first day, philatelic and sponsored handstamps in use on 2 June. Tallents House will service covers with the pane containing Machin definitives and label. Price £2.67 UK, £2.28 overseas. Please state if Tallents House or London SW1 postmark required when ordering ●

Coronation covers A range of covers will be available from Tallents House from 2 June. All feature The Queen wearing the Imperial State Crown on Coronation Day. All three are limited editions; early ordering is advised ●



Banknote cover (left): Cecil Beaton's Coronation portrait stamp cancelled by a special London SW1 gold postmark showing Westminster Abbey. Set into the cover is a £5 note and a £5 (crown) Coronation Anniversary coin. £44.95.

Coin cover (below): the full set of 10 Anniversary stamps, cancelled by the Westminster Abbey postmark in gold, with new Coronation Anniversary £5 (crown) coin encapsulated. £15.95.

Ingot cover (below): the five Coronation and procession stamps cancelled by the Westminster Abbey gold postmark and with a silver and gold-plated ingot of the 1953 Coronation 1s3d stamp. £39.95.

Coronation crown & ingot pack (bottom right): the ingot of the 1953 Coronation stamp, the new £5 coin and an original Coronation 5s coin. £49.95. Limited edition of 2003 only.



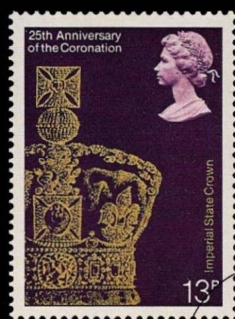
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Coronation stamps The first commemorative stamps for a Royal occasion were issued in 1935 for George v's silver jubilee, and stamps were in preparation for the Coronation of his eldest son as Edward VIII in May 1937 when the King abdicated in December 1936. The Post Office hurriedly produced a new Coronation stamp showing the new king, George VI, and his consort Queen Elizabeth. Designed by Edmund Dulac, it went on sale the day after the Coronation; over 388 million were sold.

George VI died in February 1952 and 16 months later his daughter was crowned as Queen Elizabeth II. Four stamps, covering the main inland and overseas postal rates, were issued (above) – the designs selected from some 75 submissions. The 2½d, 4d and 16d had symbolic designs showing crowns, sceptres and other items of the Royal Regalia, by Edgar Fuller, Michael Goaman, and Michael Farrar Bell. The design of the 16d was repeated for the 6d stamp on the Coronation aerogramme. More distinctive was Dulac's design for the 1½d stamp, featuring a frontal portrait of The Queen in Coronation robes against a tapestry background, said to have been inspired by a portrait of Elizabeth I by Nicholas Hilliard. The design was used again in a miniature sheet for the Stamp Show 2000 exhibition in London, and makes a third appearance in the Coronation Anniversary prestige stamp book. The 1953 Coronation stamps remained on sale until 31 October, the numbers sold ranging from nearly 6 million of the 16d to over 415 million of the 2½d value. The full story of the designing, printing and sale of this issue can be found in *1953 Coronation Issue* by Giles Allen, number 11 in the *Special Stamp History* series, published by the National Postal Museum in 1997 •



The 25th anniversary of the Coronation was marked in 1978 by four bold designs by Jeffery Matthews showing the state coach, St Edward's and Imperial State crowns, and the Sovereign's Orb. Two of the four are shown above.

