

Royal Society of Arts An anniversary issue



The stamps were designed by Derek Birdsall, RDI.

Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Printers

Process Lithography

Stamp size 41 x 30mm

Sheets 25 and 50

Perforation 14

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Plate numbers and colours

1st & 47p W1 silver ● W1 red ● W1 deep brown ● W1 black

40p W1 silver ● W1 red ● W1 grey-black ● W1 deep brown ● W1 black

43p W1 silver ● W1 light blue ● W1 red ● W1 black

57p & 68p W1 silver ● W1 red ● W1 black

Phosphor W1 all values

SIX STAMPS marking the 250th anniversary of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, more usually referred to simply as the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 10 August. They feature: 1st Penny Black (Sir Rowland Hill was awarded the RSA Albert Medal); 40p William Shipley, founder of the RSA; 43p RSA Commercial Examinations; 47p Apparatus for sweeping chimneys; 57p Eric Gill's famous typeface (he was the RSA's first Royal Designer for Industry); and 68p ZeroWaste, the Society's campaign for policies and lifestyles that eliminate waste.

Stamps will be issued to post offices in sheets of 25; sheets of 50, with gutter margin, will be supplied to Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 10 August, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or London WC2 must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.74 UK or £3.19 overseas. London WC2 was chosen for the alternative postmark as it is location of the RSA's headquarters, in John Adam Street.

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 postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0423' (Tallents House), or 'FD0424' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London postmark.

The RSA is

a registered charity with over 22,000 Fellows which encourages sustainable economic development and the release of human potential through a programme of projects and lectures. To celebrate its 250th year, the RSA has focused on key initiatives for the future

developing a capable society

The RSA pioneered public examinations in the UK in the mid-1800s, and lobbied for a minister for education. Its Opening Minds project encourages schools to build competence-based curriculum materials that support life skills for schoolchildren

moving towards a zero waste society

Early in its history, the RSA planted 50 million trees as a reaction to mass deforestation and later in the 1850s, investigated the problem of smog emissions. This year it continues the fight against waste with Environment Awards: a searchable online database of over 300 environmental awards and grants

encourage enterprise

The RSA has long recognized that the creation and protection of good ideas are crucial to our society. The aim of this challenge is to find fresh ways to stimulate enterprise, entrepreneurship and the development of accountable wealth-creating organizations

fostering resilient communities

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the RSA championed new methods of cultivation in agriculture. Today the Society is examining the role of the countryside from social, economic and environmental perspectives, and creating welcome places that become resilient communities because of the vibrant

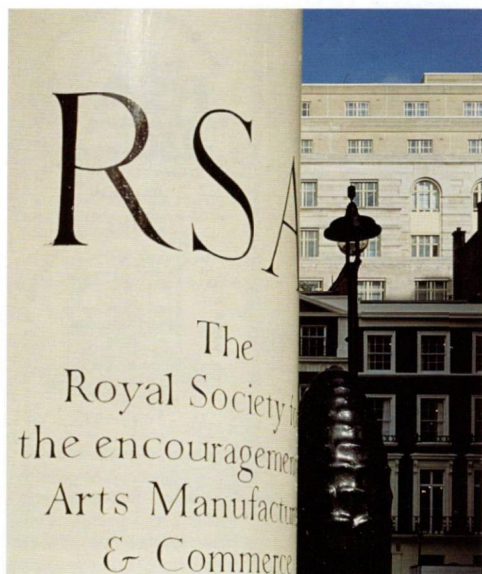
The RSA has always worked on a global scale. For example Captain Bligh was awarded gold medals by the Society for transferring breadfruit from the East to the West Indies. Today the RSA is exploring economic migration and working with multinational companies to develop the policy of best practice



Details of other handstamps for 10 August will be given in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 in UK & Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to the Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1Y 8HQ.



PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the six stamps (price £3.35) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from Tallents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack, designed by Kate Stephens, includes an interesting outline history of the RSA and its work by Jane Austin. Illustrations include William Shipley, the Albert Medal, the Festival of Britain programme, and the 1998 Focus on Food campaign. The inside of the pack is shown above, with the first day cover.

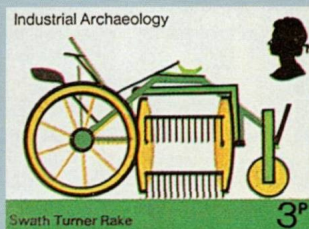
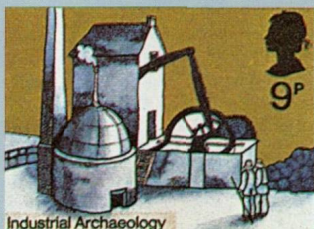
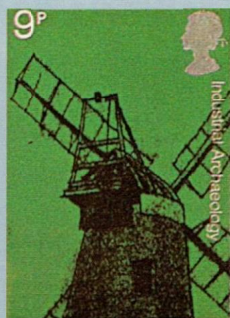
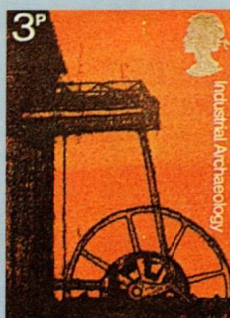
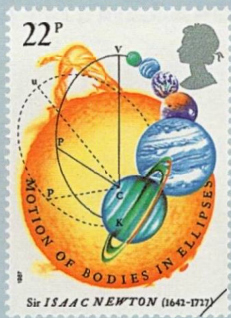
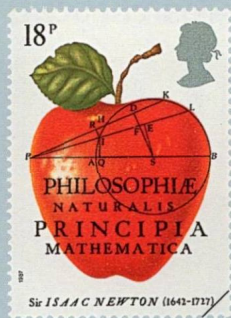


Royal Society of Arts The Society was founded in 1754 by William Shipley, a Northampton drawing master, as the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. Its first meetings were held over a circulating library in Crane Court, Fleet Street, later at Craig's Court, Charing Cross, and Castle Court and Beaufort Buildings in the Strand. In 1760 the Society held the first organised art exhibition in the country when Reynolds, Wilson, Cosway, Morland, Roubiliac and 64 other artists exhibited. In 1774 the Society moved to its present house, which was built for it as part of the Adam brothers' Adelphi development. The impressive lecture hall was decorated with six large murals by James Barry in 1777-83. The Society was granted a royal charter in 1847, during the Presidency of Prince Albert (1843-61).

The Society has played a major role in organising major exhibitions, some of which have philatelic significance as stamps were issued or special postmarks used. These include the Great and International Exhibitions of 1851 and 1862, the South Kensington exhibitions on Fisheries, Health and Education, Inventions and Music, and British Colonies and India (1883-86), and the Festival of Britain of 1951. It arranged the first photographic and educational exhibitions in 1852 and 1854, and in 1856 introduced examinations in 16 subjects for the benefit of the working classes. In 1864 its first Albert Medal was awarded to Rowland Hill; recipients include Faraday (1866), Pasteur (1882), Lister (1894), Bell (1902), Madame Curie (1910), Rutherford (1928), Nuffield (1927) and Fleming (1946). In 1867 the Society put up the first memorial plaque on a London house – Byron's birthplace at 24 Holles Street (this function was assumed by the London County Council in 1901), and in 1876 was instrumental in setting up the National Training School of Music, predecessor of the Royal College of Music. In 1908 Edward VII granted the Society its Royal title, and in 1924 the RSA held its first industrial design awards which paved the way for the student design awards. In 1992, in conjunction with the Royal Shakespeare Company, it launched the Shakespeare in Schools Project. In 1999 Nelson Mandela and Professor Stephen Hawking were made Honorary Fellows.

The Society grants the coveted initials RDI (Royal Designer for Industry) to those of sufficient distinction. These have included a number of noted stamp designers including Abram Games, David Gentleman and Reynolds Stone, and the designer of the RSA 250th Anniversary stamps, Derek Birdsall, who is noted for his Penguin book covers and for the re-design of the Book of Common Prayer. This is his first set of issued stamps although he submitted designs for the Post Office Tower issue of 1965 – his unadopted designs were shown in the *Bulletin* of February 1966.

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From top left: two of Sarah Godwin's winning designs in the 1984 RSA Stamp Design Competition, used for the Isaac Newton stamps of 1987; two of Stewart Cameron's winning designs in the 1971 competition, and 1971 submissions by Kasia Charko, Frank Malinowski and Ian Settle. Left: the Victorian Britain issue of 1987 featured the Crystal Palace of the 1851 Great Exhibition and Prince Albert, RSA President 1843-61.

RSA stamp design competition Each year the RSA holds a Design Bursaries Competition for students at art colleges, sponsored by leading companies including Royal Mail. The competition covers some 15 different areas of design and its aims are to identify and encourage young designers of outstanding promise and to bring them to the attention of industry. Awards take the form of travel bursaries or attachment awards – work experience with a host company. The Postage Stamp section, sponsored by Royal Mail since 1971, has resulted in some good designs, some of which have featured in this *Bulletin*. The first winning designs, depicting industrial archaeology, were shown here in June 1971. More recently students have designed stamps featuring Museums, Sport, Shakespeare, and the Millennium – see *Bulletin* August, October and December 1989, May, July and November 1990, February, August, September and December 1991, and May 1997.

The winning designs from the 1984 competition were later used for the Isaac Newton stamps; the artist, Sarah Godwin, wrote about her work in the *Bulletin* of March 1987. Philippa Shaw, a runner-up in one of the recent competitions to design the RSA 250th Anniversary stamps, undertook work experience in Royal Mail's Stamp Design team as part of her award •