

Jane Eyre Charlotte Brontë's immortal novel



An exhibition of the work of Paula Rego, whose paintings feature on these stamps, is on at Tate Britain, London SW1 until 2 January. Enquiries: 020 7887 8000.

SIX STAMPS and a miniature sheet featuring characters from Charlotte Brontë's novel *Jane Eyre* go on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 24 February. Please note the change of issue date; the issue was originally scheduled for 3 March. There will also be a prestige book (see p114). The stamps, designed by Peter Willberg, feature illustrations by Paula Rego. 2nd class: Mr Rochester, the master of Thornfield who Jane falls in love with only to discover he is already married. 1st class: Come to Me – Jane receives a telepathic plea for help from Rochester. 40p: In the Comfort of her Bonnet – as the new governess to Rochester's daughter, Jane arrives at the George Inn at Millcote, where she is beset with doubts and fears. 57p: La Ligne des Rats – Adele (Rochester's daughter) recites *La Ligne des Rats: fable de la Fontain* to Jane. 68p: Refectory – at Lowton School the young Jane is subjected to a starvation diet. £1.12: Inspection – the sadistic head of Lowton school Rev Brocklehurst has Jane placed upon a stool so that he can get a look at her.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 24 February, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps/miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Haworth, Keighley must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £4.25 UK or £3.62 overseas. Please state if stamps or miniature sheet required.

Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Printers

Process Lithography

Stamp size 27 × 37mm

Sheet size 25 and 50

Miniature sheet size 120 × 115mm

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal



A well-illustrated presentation pack (above, price £3.80) and seven stamp cards (30p each) will be available from main Post Offices and philatelic outlets. The cards feature the six stamps and miniature sheet.

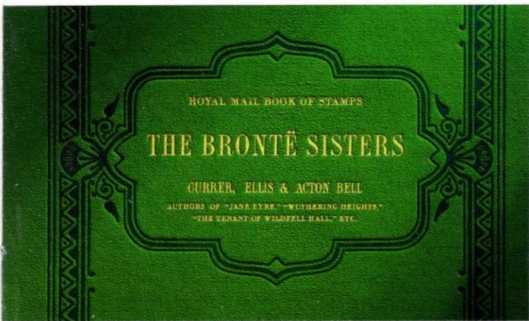
Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – see page 111 for subscription details.

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 to any of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Haworth postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0505' or 'FD0506'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Haworth postmark.

PRESTIGE BOOK The first of the 2005 prestige books, entitled *The Brontë Sisters*, will be available from 24 February, price £7.44. This contains four stamp panes as shown on the opposite page.

The book, written by Lucasta Miller and designed by Morgan Radcliffe, tells the story of the Brontë sisters, their novels, and the subsequent Brontë Cult. The novels – particularly *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* (by Emily Brontë) – have inspired a huge range of response by poets and playwrights, artists and novelists, as well as biographers and critics. This ranges from bizarre films such as the Hollywood biopic *Devotion* (1940s), to more meaningful responses such as Jean Rhys's novel *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966). Written by three determined, ambitious and sophisticated women who were brave enough to challenge what was expected of Victorian female writers, the Brontës' novels, which so shocked their contemporaries, are today enshrined as some of the greatest works in English literature.

The book is being printed by Walsall; the panes of Machin and country stamps in gravure, and the panes of Jane Eyre stamps in litho. A first day cover will be offered bearing the Machin stamps pane with label. This can be ordered from Tallents House, price £3.31 UK/£2.82 overseas. Please state if Tallents House or Howarth postmark required ●



The Brontë Sisters The PSB contains four stamp panes

- 1 Machin definitives: top and bottom rows 2nd class, 42p, 2nd class; middle row 39p, label with Brontë Museum marking, 39p.
- 2 Country stamps: top row England 40p, 2nd class; middle row label showing Victorian characters; bottom row England 2nd, 40p.
- 3 Jane Eyre stamps: top row 1st, 2nd; bottom row 2nd, 1st.
- 4 Jane Eyre stamps: top row 40p, 57p; bottom row 68p and £1.12.



The Brontës These are not the first British stamps featuring the Brontës and their works. The 12p and 15p values of the Famous Authoresses set of 1980 depicted Charlotte and Emily with characters from *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*. The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway (which runs near their Haworth home) has issued two railway letter stamps with a Brontë connection. The first, in 1980, depicted their brother Branwell who for a while worked on the railway. In 1985 the Railway issued a stamp featuring the three sisters, Anne, Charlotte and Emily, with the front and nameplate of locomotive *The Brontës of Haworth*. An article on the Brontë sisters will be published in the February *Bulletin* ●

