

Castles miniature sheet Marking the 50th



Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé
Security Print

Process Intaglio (recess) and litho (background colour)

Stamp size 41 × 24mm

Sheet size 127 × 73mm

Perforation 14.5 × 14

Phosphor All over on stamps

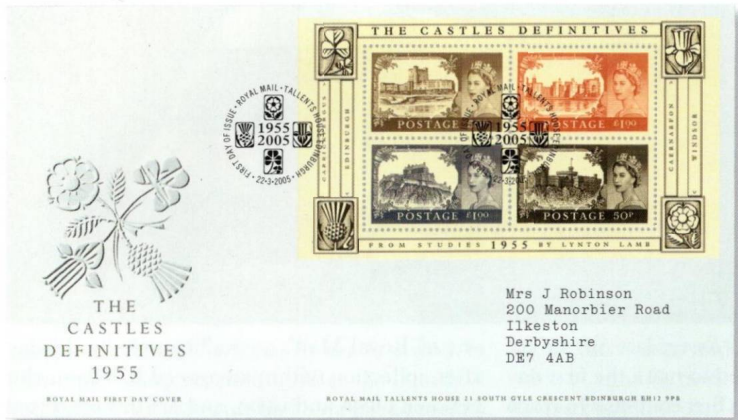
Gum PVA

TO COMMEMORATE the 50th anniversary of the first Castles high values, a miniature sheet bearing the 1955 designs will go on sale from 22 March. The sheet includes two 50p stamps showing Carrickfergus and Windsor Castles and two £1 stamps showing Caernarfon and Edinburgh Castles. The stamps are printed in the same colours (brown, red, blue and black) as the 1955 stamps which were of 2s6d, 5s, 10s, and £1 values and featured respectively Carrickfergus, Caernarfon, Edinburgh, and Windsor Castles. The original stamps were designed by Lynton Lamb (1907-77), and featured the portrait of The Queen by Dorothy Wilding. The miniature sheet includes the national floral emblems of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in the sheet borders. Similar miniature sheets were issued in December 2002 and May 2003 to mark the 50th anniversary of the issue of the Wilding low value definitives.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 22 March, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Windsor must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £3.88 UK or £3.36 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 to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Windsor postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0509' or 'FD0510'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Windsor postmark. For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* •

anniversary of the Castles high value designs



An illustrated pack containing the sheet (shown left, £3.50) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from Talents House, main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack gives details of the designing of the stamps, including illustrations of unadopted designs. There will be five stamp cards, four reproducing the stamps, and one the miniature sheet.