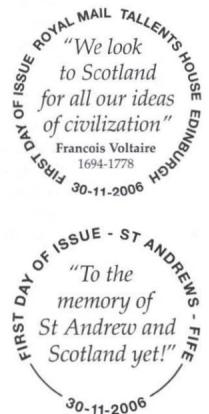
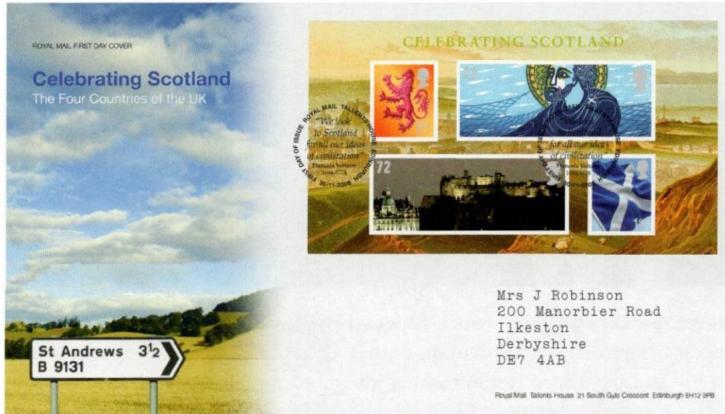


Royal Mail news New issues and products



Celebrating Scotland A new miniature sheet goes on sale on St Andrew's Day, 30 November – the first in a series of country sheets. It bears the current 1st class Scottish country stamp (Lion Rampant), a 1st class with a new Saltire flag image (both at definitive stamp size) and two special stamp size 72p stamps featuring an illustration of St Andrew and a night view of Edinburgh Castle. Price £2.08 or £2.60 in presentation pack. The sheet size is 123 x 70mm, the two 72p stamps are 60 x 24mm; it was designed by Silk Pearce and printed in gravure by De La Rue Security Print. The 1st class Lion stamp was designed by Tayburn using a sculpture by Frank Pottinger, and the new Saltire stamp illustration is by Peter Crowther. The St Andrew stamp illustration is by Clare Melinsky (designer of the 1997 Saints Columba and Augustine stamps) and the photograph of Edinburgh Castle is from Corbis. The sheet background features an antique print of Edinburgh.

The presentation pack includes a map of Scotland depicting its scenery, architecture and industries, surrounded by quotations about the country by Voltaire, Andrew Carnegie, Sir Walter Scott, Hugh MacDiarmid, Alexander Gray and Dr Louis B Wright. Other illustrations include St Andrews Cathedral, the David Hume monument in Edinburgh, and a young rugby fan. The pack was written by Alexandra Morgan and printed by Walsall.

The first day envelope (30p) features a view of the countryside near St Andrews. Serviced covers with Tallents House or St Andrews first day postmark will cost £2.92 (UK customers), or £2.49 overseas. Orders for serviced FDCs must be received at Tallents House by the day of issue. The postmarks feature a quotation from Voltaire and a traditional toast •

The Beatles stamps The announcement in September of our forthcoming Beatles stamps (9 January) was widely reported by the press, both in the UK and across Europe, many newspapers prominently featuring the designs of the stamps. We are expecting unprecedented demand for the stamps, pack, miniature sheet and stamp cards from Beatles fans as well as stamp collectors. Early ordering is advised to avoid disappointment •