

The Abolition of the Slave Trade Marking



Technical details

Designer Howard Brown

Printer Cartor Security Print

Process Litho

Size 27 × 37mm

Sheets PO branches will hold sheets of 30. Sheets of 60, with gutter margin, available from Tallents House and from selected PO philatelic outlets

Perforation 14 (to be confirmed)

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs To be advised

THE SECOND special stamp issue in March comprises six stamps, on sale from 22 March, featuring leading characters in the story of the abolition of the slave trade by the British Parliament. The stamps are printed in set-tenant pairs and depict: William Wilberforce and Olaudah Equiano (1st class); Granville Sharp and Thomas Clarkson (50p); and Hannah More and Ignatius Sancho (72p). Biographical sketches of each of the subjects are included in the presentation pack.

The year (2007) is printed in micro-text near the neck on each of the portraits on the stamps.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES The FDC envelope, designed by Howard Brown, depicts a plan of a slave ship. Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (see address below) by the day of issue. 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 the nearest Special Handstamp Centre (Hull postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0711', or 'FD0712'.

For details of other special postmarks see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe, £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS The presentation pack, written by Tony Tibbles, Curator of the Slavery exhibition at the Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool, tells the story of the long campaign to end the slave trade. It began in 1787 with the founding of the Society for Effecting The Abolition of The African Slave Trade. Finally, in February 1807, Parliament voted for abolition, and the last slave ship sailed from Liverpool in July. Britain then became a major campaigner to end the trade by other nations and the Royal Navy established a West Africa squadron to seize slavers and stamp out the trade. The evocative story is illustrated by some moving images of slaves, slave ships, contemporary posters and a map showing the main slave routes. The slave trade is not amongst the more glorious episodes in British history and it is good that some of those involved in bringing it to an end are honoured on the new stamps •

the 1807 Act of Parliament to end the trade in African slaves

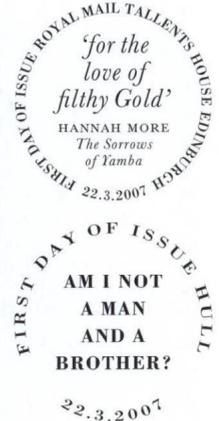
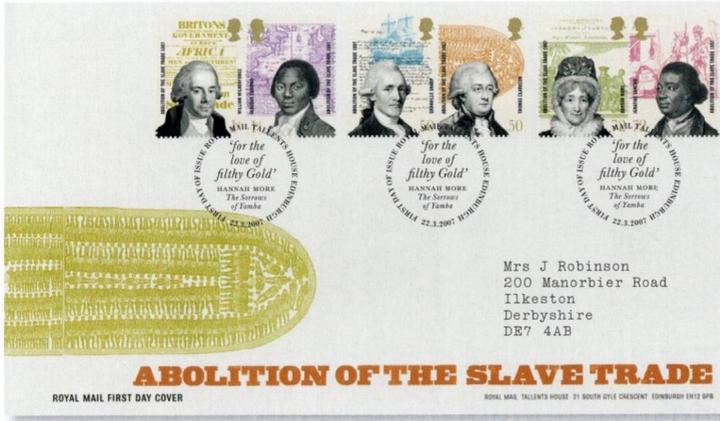


On the stamps Left to right:

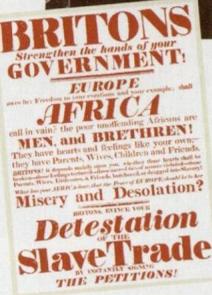
- William Wilberforce (1759-1833)
- Olaudah Equiano (1745-97)
- Granville Sharp (1730-1813)
- Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846)
- Hannah More (1745-1833)
- Ignatius Sancho (1729-80)

Abolition of Slavery prices

Set of stamps	£3.08
Presentation pack	£3.60
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£4.10
Serviced FDC (overseas)	£3.49
Stamp cards set	£1.80



The first day envelope (above left) and presentation pack (left) are designed by Howard Brown. The pack was written by Tony Tibbles, the Curator of the Slavery exhibition at the Merseyside Maritime Museum in Liverpool.



The campaign to abolish the trade began in earnest in 1787 with the founding of the Society for Effecting the Abolition Of The African Slave Trade. Support grew rapidly and the campaigners generated what became the first large-scale humanitarian and political movement of modern times. There were public meetings all over the country, pamphlets were published, people wrote poems, there was huge coverage in the press and in the early 1780s a short-lived boycott of West Indian sugar was widely supported. People also questioned the economic basis of slavery, and the resistance of enslaved Africans themselves, on board ship, through revolts and rebellions was a major factor. A number of African abolitionists like Olaudah Equiano, Ottobah Cugbano and Ignatius Sancho campaigned vigorously and made an important contribution by sharing their experience of slavery with a wide public. The key battleground was in Parliament. Using evidence collected by Thomas Clarkson, William Wilberforce initially made significant

progress in having the trade investigated by the Privy Council and debated in Parliament. But there was much well-organized opposition that succeeded in using formal procedures as delaying tactics. On more than one occasion, victory seemed close only to seep away. Finally in February 1807, Parliament voted in favour of the abolition of the African Slave Trade. The Act was given Royal Assent on 23 March and the last slave ship left Liverpool on 27 July. For the half-century after 1807, Britain became a major campaigner to end the trade by other nations. The Royal Navy's West Africa squadron was established to seize slavers and stamp out the trade. However, over 3 million enslaved Africans were transported during this period. Many abolitionists assumed that slavery would wither once the trade ended, but this was not the case. The emancipation campaign was revived in the early 1820s and slavery was abolished in the British colonies in 1834, but was not effective until 1858. Slavery was officially sustained in many countries for much of the nineteenth century.

Above: Thomas Clarkson addresses a meeting of the Anti-Slavery Society, and a poster calling for the public to sign the petition against the slave trade.
 Above right: Toussaint L'Ouverture, who led a successful slave rebellion in St Domingue, defeating both the French and British armies. Right: An African dealer marches chained and yoked slaves to the coast for sale.



- WILLIAM WILBERFORCE** 1759-1833
 William Wilberforce was the parliamentary leader of the abolitionist campaign. Elected an MP in 1780, he is reputed to have taken up the cause of slavery at the suggestion of the Prime
- OLAUDAH EQUIANO** 1745-1797
 Equiano was a remarkable man. Kidnapped at the age of 11 and shipped into slavery he was eventually able to buy his freedom and establish himself as a much respected figure in
- GRANVILLE SHARP** 1730-1813
 Granville Sharp held a minor government post in the ordnance department. A chance meeting in 1780 with Jonathan Strong, a young slave who had been severely beaten by his
- THOMAS CLARKSON** 1760-1846
 Clarkson's interest in slavery was stimulated while he was studying at Cambridge, where he was an essay competitor on the subject. The essay was published in 1780 and he
- HANNAH MORE** 1745-1833
 Hannah More was probably the most influential female abolitionist in Britain. She was born in Gloucestershire and spent most of her life in Bristol. She initially wrestle plays
- IGNATIUS SANCHO** 1729-1780
 Sancho was recruited into slavery aboard a slave ship off the African coast but was brought to England and taken into domestic service. He worked as a tanner in the household of