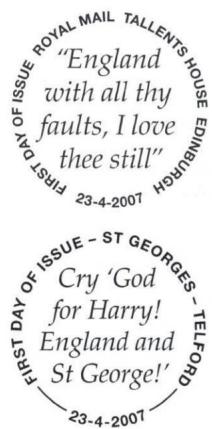


Royal Mail news England miniature sheet

- Ingots • Welsh generic sheet • New covers



England miniature sheet A new miniature sheet goes on sale on St George's Day, 23 April – the second in a series of country sheets. The sheet bears the current 1st class English country stamp (Crowned Lion and shield), and a second 1st class showing the St George's flag (both definitive stamp size) and two special stamp size 72p stamps featuring a representation of St George and a twilight image of the Houses of Parliament. Price £2.08 or £2.60 in presentation pack. The sheet measures 123 × 70mm, the two 72p stamps are 60 × 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 Sedley Place using a sculpture by David Dathan; the new St George's flag stamp illustration is by Peter Crowther. The St George illustration is by Clare Melinsky (designer of the 1997 Saints Columba and Augustine stamps), and the photograph of Parliament by Ed Pritchard. The sheet background is a photograph of Blackmore Vale, Dorset by David Noton.

The colourful presentation pack includes a map of England showing the varied scenery, architecture and culture, surrounded by quotations about the country from Daniel Defoe, Shakespeare, Henry Fielding, Oscar Wilde, Sir W S Gilbert, Lord Macaulay, and Dr Johnson. Other illustrations include images of St George; Sir Laurence Olivier as Henry v; St George's Chapel, Windsor; the annual St George's Day celebrations in Salisbury; and a young English rugby fan. The pack was written by author and journalist Tim Shackleton and printed by Walsall.

The first day cover envelope (30p) features a fictional St George Street with the St George flag and pigeons. Serviced covers with Tallents House or St Georges Telford first day postmark will cost £2.92 (UK customers), £2.49 overseas. Orders for serviced FDCs must be received at Tallents House by the day of issue. The postmarks feature quotations from William Cowper and William Shakespeare. Details of sponsored postmarks will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* •