

40th anniversary of the Machin design

THE MACHIN DEFINITIVES



ARNOLD MACHIN 1911-1999



FIRST MACHIN ISSUED 1967

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

AS MANY *Bulletin* READERS will know, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Machin definitive series which started with three stamps (4d, 1s and 1s9d) on 5 June 1967. To mark the anniversary Royal Mail will issue a miniature sheet, prestige stamp book, a new £1 definitive, and a number of other products on 5 June 2007.

NEW DEFINITIVE A new £1 definitive will be printed in a ruby colour for the 40th (ruby) anniversary, replacing the current mauve colour in use since 1995. Ruby is a new Jeffery Matthews colour. The stamp will be printed by De La Rue in gravure in sheets of 200.

MINIATURE SHEET The anniversary miniature sheet comprises the new and obsolescent £1 stamps, with two new special 1st class stamps (size 35 × 37mm), one showing Arnold Machin, the other the 4d stamp from 1967. The portrait of Arnold Machin was supplied by his son Francis. The stamps are captioned 'ARNOLD MACHIN 1911-1999' and 'FIRST MACHIN ISSUED 1967'. The sheet will be printed by De La Rue in gravure, and measures 127 × 73mm. It was designed by Jeffery Matthews and Together design group. The images of Arnold Machin and the 4d stamp on the two special stamps are embossed, so they stand out from the sheet. It will also be available in a presentation pack, and in a press sheet containing 12 miniature sheets (as printed before guillotining into individual sheets). The pack, written by Arnold Machin's son Francis, was designed by Webb & Webb Design Limited and features many ceramics from the Machin Archives and a photograph of Machin at work in his studio watched by his young son. The pack includes a facsimile of Arnold Machin's signature. ▶

ROYAL MAIL TALLENTS HOUSE EDINBURGH "FIRSDAY OF ISSUE" 5.6.2007 "WINDSOR

"THINGS MEN HAVE MADE WITH WAKENED HANDS" D H LAWRENCE "FIRSDAY OF ISSUE" 5.6.2007"

There will also be a first day postmark for Stoke-on-Trent, Machin's birthplace. Details to follow.

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*. For a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.



GENERIC SHEET A sheet of 20 of the 1st class stamp showing Arnold Machin will be available. Accompanying labels feature the original Machin definitives, from ½d to £1, issued between June 1967 and March 1969. This will make a nostalgic souvenir for collectors who have the original stamps.

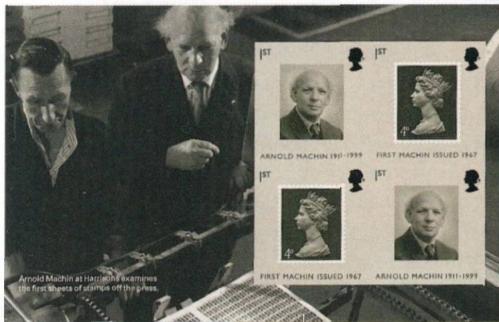
The Machin: The Making of a Masterpiece Stamp panes are:

- 1** Definitives: top and bottom rows 2p, 48p, 2p, middle row 46p, label (Machin head of The Queen wearing tiara), 46p
 - 2** Definitives: top and bottom £1 ruby, separated by a label showing the Machin head as seen through a camera lens
 - 3** Anniversary stamps: top row Arnold Machin, 4d stamp; bottom row 4d stamp, Arnold Machin
 - 4** Definitive stamps: top and bottom rows 1st class 'Large', 2nd class 'Large'; middle row 1st class standard size, label (showing Sir Rowland Hill), 2nd class standard size

Arnold Machin's words from the 1969 Post Office film *From Picture to Post*. It is sure to appeal to all Machin collectors, and we expect a strong demand for it. *The Machin: The Making of a Masterpiece* was written by Douglas Muir and Peyton Skipwith and printed by De La Rue. All the stamps are gravure, on gummed paper. The London 2010 Festival of Stamps logo appears on the back cover, for the first time on a Royal Mail philatelic product.

The definitives pane with central label showing The Queen wearing a tiara will be available on FDC with Tallents House or Windsor postmark.

PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK A new book entitled *The Machin: The Making of a Masterpiece* contains four panes of stamps. The main images on three panes feature Arnold Machin at work, visiting printers and at the National Postal Museum. The book includes many interesting illustrations of Machin at work, with sketches and essays showing how the Machin stamp came about. The images are from the British Postal Museum & Archive, and courtesy of Francis Machin. The book includes



Prestige stamp book From top left: the front cover, and panes 2, 3 and 4. Pane 4 (at left), with Rowland Hill in the central label, also features a quotation by Arnold Machin: 'I wonder what Rowland Hill, the founder of the Penny Post, would have to say about stamp design today.'

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 5 June, price 30p. This can be used for the new £1 definitive, miniature sheet, or panes from the prestige book. Pictorial First day postmarks will be provided for Tallents House and Windsor.

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 one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Windsor postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FDO725' (Tallents House), or 'FDO726' (for Windsor). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Windsor postmark.

OTHER PRODUCTS A number of other products are now in preparation – details will be given nearer the time.

MACHIN LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION We will be publishing a booklet on Machin stamps as no 13 in our Philatelic Bulletin Publications series. This will be sent out free with the May *Bulletin*. The British Postal Museum & Archive will publish a major work, *A Timeless Classic: The Evolution of Machin's Icon*, written by Douglas Muir, BPMA Curator Philately. There will also be a special BPMA exhibition to mark the Machin anniversary •

Machin Anniversary prices

Definitive stamp	£1.00
Miniature sheet	£2.68
Presentation pack (miniature sheet)	£3.20
Press sheet	£64.32
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (sheet, UK customers)	£3.63
Serviced FDC (sheet, overseas)	£3.09
Prestige stamp book	£7.66
Serviced FDC (PSB pane, UK)	£2.78
Serviced FDC (PSB pane, overseas)	£2.37
Generic sheet	£7.35