

Diamond Wedding Anniversary A special



Technical details

Printer Cartor

Process Litho

Stamp size 41 × 30mm

Sheets 30 and 60

Perforation 14.5 × 14

Phosphor All-over screen

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

SIX STAMPS, printed in three se-tenant pairs of 1st class, 54p and 78p, will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and at Royal Mail Tallents House on 16 October to mark the diamond (60th) wedding anniversary of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

The stamps feature photographs of the couple: leaving St Paul's Cathedral following a thanksgiving service for her 80th and his 85th birthdays, 2006, and inspecting the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery in Regents Park, 1997 (1st class); at the Garter Ceremony in Windsor, 1980, and at Royal Ascot, 1969 (54p); and at the premier of *The Guns of Navarone*, 1961, and at Clydebank, 1947 (78p).

As the stamps, designed by Studio David Hillman, prominently feature The Queen, the usual silhouette head is not shown. The year '2007' is printed in microtext; the year of the photograph is shown at bottom right.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 30; sheets of 60 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

MINIATURE SHEET Royal Mail's first self-adhesive miniature sheet will accompany the six stamps. It contains a further four stamps: the Royal Family at Balmoral, 1972, and The Queen and Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace, 2007 (1st class); the Royal Family at Windsor Castle, 1965 (69p); and The Queen and Prince Philip with Prince Charles and Princess Anne at Balmoral, 1953 (78p). The 2007 photograph, by Lord Snowdon, was specially commissioned for the stamp issue. The sheet is printed in gravure by Walsall. Two of the stamps measure 41 × 30mm, one 35mm square, and one 27 × 37mm. These stamps have two phosphor bands with the year '2007' reversed out of the phosphor. On the reverse of the sheet are printed images from 1947, of the couple on their engagement day, preparations for the wedding, and wedding-day scenes.

A press sheet containing 12 miniature sheets will also be available. Each press sheet is numbered and has the title of the issue embossed in the top margin.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 16 October, price 30p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial Tallents House or Windsor first

issue to celebrate a special Royal occasion



day postmark must reach Tallents House 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 (for Tallents House postmark, FD0733), or to one of the Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres (Windsor postmark FD0734). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Windsor postmark. The First Day postmarks will be applied in silver ink.

Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. ▶

Diamond Wedding Prices

Set of stamps	£ 3.32
Miniature sheet (MS)	£ 2.15
Presentation pack (stamps & MS)	£ 6.00
Stamp cards (set of 11)	£ 3.30
FDC envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced FDC stamps (UK orders)	£ 4.38
Serviced FDC miniature sheet (UK)	£ 3.00
Serviced FDC stamps (overseas)	£ 3.73
Serviced FDC MS (overseas)	£ 2.56
Press sheet	£34.85

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack, written by Jim Davies and designed by Studio David Hillman, features scenes from the preparations for the wedding in 1947, wedding day photographs, the official programme, souvenir issues of the *Illustrated London News*, *Picture Post* and *Country Life*, and first day covers of the silver and golden wedding issues of 1972 and 1997. Jim Davies, the pack writer, is a published author and columnist whose distinctive brand of cultural commentary has appeared widely in design magazines and national newspapers.

There will be 11 stamp cards, reproducing the 10 stamps and the miniature sheet. Details of a souvenir cover, publication, and coin (16 October), and a coin cover, and commemorative document (20 November) will be published later ●

The first day cover (below) and the presentation pack (bottom), designed by Studio David Hillman. The pack was written by Jim Davies. First day postmarks will be applied in silver ink.

