

Great British Monarchs

The first issue in a



THE FIRST set in a new series of stamps depicting Great British Monarchs goes on sale at Post Office branches and Royal Mail Tallents House on 28 February. The stamps feature: King Henry IV (1399-1413) and Henry V (1413-22), 1st class; Henry VI (1422-61 & 1470-71) and Edward IV (1461-70 & 1471-83), 54p; and Edward V (1483) and Richard III (1483-85), 69p. The stamps were designed by Ian Chilvers of Atelier Works design group, and printed in single sheets by Walsall in litho.

In addition there will be a miniature sheet, entitled 'The Age of Lancaster and York', containing two 1st class and two 78p stamps featuring Owain Glyndwr, the Battle of Agincourt, the Battle of Tewkesbury, and William Caxton.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (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 their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (for Tewkesbury postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO801' or 'FDO802'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Tewkesbury postmark.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centre 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: British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated presentation pack (not shown) gives brief biographies of the six monarchs featured on the stamps, and a history of the Wars of the Roses and the Hundred Years War. The pack's author, historian Bettany Hughes, describes the long dynastic struggle between the House of York (whose symbol was a white rose) and the House of Lancaster (a red rose), and looks at the many fundamental changes taking place in England's society in this period.

The stamp cards reproduce the six sheet stamps, the four from the miniature sheet and the sheet itself, 11 cards in total. ►

new series: the Houses of Lancaster and York



Set of stamps	£ 3.14
Miniature sheet	£ 2.24
Presentation pack (stamps and miniature sheet)	£ 5.90
FDC envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced FDC: stamps (UK customers)	£ 4.17
Serviced FDC: stamps (overseas customers)	£ 3.55
Serviced FDC: miniature sheet (UK customers)	£ 3.11
Serviced FDC: miniature sheet (overseas customers)	£ 2.65
Stamp cards set (11 cards)	£ 3.30
Miniature sheet press sheet	£63.50

THE AGE OF LANCASTER AND YORK

100 YEARS' WAR 1337-1453

WELSH REVOLT 1400-1409

WARS OF THE ROSES 1455-1485

PRINTING IN ENGLAND 1477

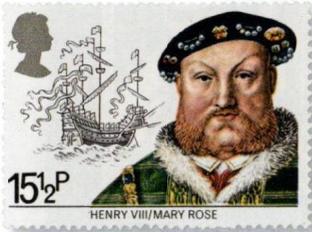
HENRY IV 1399	HENRY V 1415	HENRY VI 1422	EDWARD IV 1461	EDWARD IV 1471 HENRY VI 1470	EDWARD V 1483 RICHARD III 1483-1485
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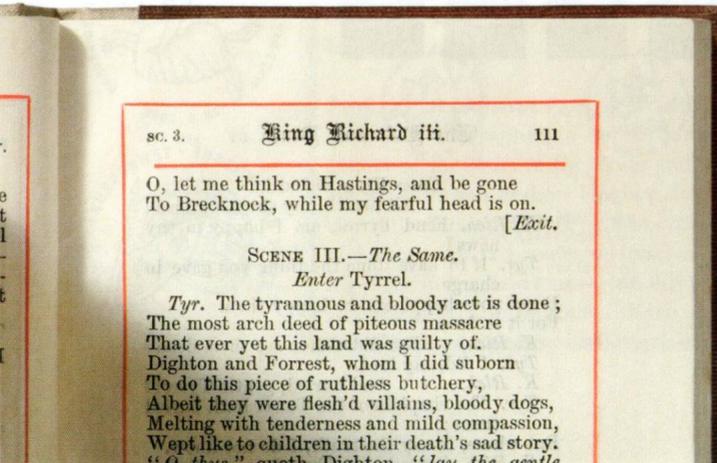
Monarchs on stamps The monarch's head has been featured on all British stamps since the Penny Black, in 1840. A few stamps have depicted earlier monarchs: Elizabeth I (issued 1968); Henry VIII (1982 and 1997), James I (VI of Scotland) (1999) and Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland (1999) •



Below: the murder of the Princes in the Tower, described in Shakespeare's play *Richard III*.



Above: Henry VI on a silver coin from his reign. He inherited the thrones of England and France from his father King Henry V, but the war continued.



sc. 3. **King Richard** *iti.* 111

O, let me think on Hastings, and be gone
To Brecknock, while my fearful head is on.
[Exit.]

SCENE III.—*The Same.*
Enter Tyrrel.

Tyr. The tyrannous and bloody act is done;
The most arch deed of piteous massacre
That ever yet this land was guilty of.
Dighton and Forrest, whom I did suborn
To do this piece of ruthless butchery,
Albeit they were flesh'd villains, bloody dogs,
Melting with tenderness and mild compassion,
Wept like to children in their death's sad story.
"O thus" saith Dighton, "law the gentle

Left: King Henry V winning his most famous victory, at Agincourt, 1415. His father Henry IV, right, was King by force rather than by right.

