

## Olympic Flag Handover Beijing to London



A MINIATURE SHEET containing four 1st class stamps marking the Olympic Flag Handover from Beijing (2008) to London (2012) goes on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and at Royal Mail Tallents House on 22 August. The stamps feature iconic structures in the two cities – Beijing National Stadium, London Eye, Tower of London, and Corner Tower of the Forbidden City, Beijing. The stamps are captioned OLYMPIC GAMES, with the Olympic rings symbol, and bear The Queen's silhouette and 1st printed in silver. They were designed by Why Not Associates and printed in Walsall by litho with the Olympic rings in silk-screened varnish. The issue is a joint one with China Post which will be issuing similar stamps.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Orders for serviced first day covers must reach Tallents House (address given below) by the date 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), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (London £15 postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0819' (Tallents House), or 'FD0820' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London postmark. A non-pictorial London £15 postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres: request 'FD0820 NP'.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see 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, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.



The miniature sheet on the first day cover, left, and in the presentation pack, below. The sheet measures 115 x 76mm. The stamps are a new size, 33mm square.

**Olympic Flag Handover prices**

Miniature sheet	£ 1.44
Presentation pack	£ 1.95
First day cover envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced first day cover (UK customers)	£ 2.17
Serviced first day cover (overseas customers)	£ 1.85
Stamp cards set	£ 2.00



**Olympic Games on stamps** The modern Olympic Games were revived in 1896, and the 4th Games held in London in 1908. This was in the days before British special stamp issues, although souvenir labels were produced. By the next time the Olympic Games came to London, in 1948, special stamps were allowed, and four values and an aerogramme were issued. Two se-tenant 24p stamps were issued in 1992 for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Barcelona, depicting the British Olympic Association logo and the British Paralympic Association symbol. Four years later a strip of five stamps featuring athletes in action marked the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Athens. The successful London bid in 2005 was also philatelically celebrated with amended designs of the 1996 stamps in a miniature sheet. This sheet was inscribed 'LONDON 2012 Host City'.

For details of 1948 Olympic stamps see articles by Bob Wilcock and Douglas Muir in the *Bulletin* November 1988, and February-April 1989 •

