

Post Boxes An issue to celebrate 200 years

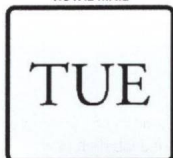
POST BOXES

The earliest known surviving posting slot was placed in the wall of Wakefield Post Office in 1809. Britain's first roadside pillar boxes appeared in the early 1850s but, in more remote and less populated areas, a cheaper and more practical alternative was needed, resulting in the development of smaller post boxes. Initially, they were installed in walls, buildings or brick pillars; later designs were also attached to lamp posts.

EARLY POSTING SLOT
WAKEFIELD

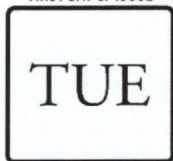


FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
ROYAL MAIL



TALLENTS HOUSE
EDINBURGH 18.8.2009

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



WAKEFIELD, W. YORKSHIRE
18.8.2009

A MINIATURE SHEET featuring posting boxes will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 18 August. The stamps feature: George V Type B wall box at Cookham Rise, 1st class; Edward VII Ludlow box at Bodiam PO, 56p; Victorian lamp box at Burmarsh Road, Hythe, Kent, 81p; and Elizabeth II type A box at Slaithwaite Postmans Sorting Office, 90p. In the top right corner of the sheet is an image of an early posting slot (dated 1809), formerly at the Wakefield Post Office in Wood Street. This iron box is believed to have been designed and fitted by the Postmaster's Clerk, Jonas Ward. When the building was demolished in 1964, the box was transferred to the Wakefield Museum; it is the earliest known surviving posting slot.

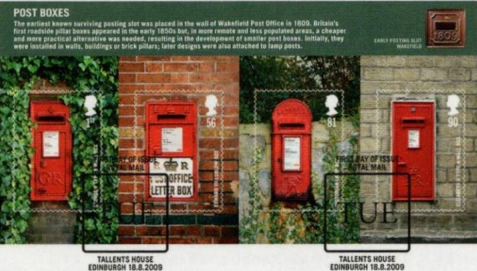
The stamps and sheet were designed by Elmwood design group of Leeds using photographs of the boxes by Peter Marlow. The consultant on the project was *Bulletin* contributor Martin Robinson, the author of *Old Letter Boxes*, published by Shire Publications. Martin will be writing about wall and lamp boxes in the August *Bulletin*. The sheet is printed by Cartor in lithography, and measures 146 × 74mm. The stamps are 27 × 37mm, perforation gauge 14, with 'all-over' phosphor.

For sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres, see the *British Postmark Bulletin*. For a free sample, write to: The Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. See p227 for subscription rates.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs 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), or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres (Wakefield postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0919' or 'FD0920'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Wakefield postmark.



Royal Mail First Day Cover
POST BOXES



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GENERIC SHEET The sheet contains 20 of the 1st class stamp from the miniature sheet, with labels featuring some attractive and unusual post boxes, historic images, and royal ciphers from boxes. The sheet is printed in litho by Cartor on gummed paper, and designed by Elmwood using images supplied by Martin Robinson. Price £8.35.

PRESENTATION PACK The pack, written by Martin Robinson, includes a post box 'timeline', from the Wakefield Box of 1809 to the Pedestal Box of 1995, a history of post boxes, and images of boxes in current use and from archive photographs. Production of wall boxes ceased in 1980, and in 1995 new pedestal boxes were introduced. Today there are some 100,000 post boxes in use in the UK. Readers interested in studying letter boxes are recommended to join the Letter Box Study Group – see www.lbsg.org for details, and Glenn Morgan's article on page 248 of this *Bulletin* •

The generic sheet, above, includes labels featuring 20 different posting boxes. The FDC envelope, left, features a George V wall box in a dry-stone wall near Monsal Head in Derbyshire.

Post Boxes prices

Miniature sheet	£ 2.66
Presentation pack	£ 3.20
Press sheet	£55.32
Generic sheet	£ 8.35
FDC envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£ 3.53
Serviced FDC (overseas)	£ 3.07
Stamp cards (set of five)	£ 1.95